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COMMUNITY LIFE, B7

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Santa letters

While Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus, he always makes time to read letters from children.

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa. Santa Claus has given the Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 22, issue.

Letters should be e-mailed to bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a JPEG photo of your child, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Friday, Dec. 16.

Detroit Lions tickets

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the Detroit Lions take on the Minnesota Vikings on Dec. 11 at Ford Field. Our website, Hometownlife.com, is giving away two prime tickets to the game but you must act fast as the deadline for entries is midnight Dec. 8. To enter, visit us on Facebook and click on the sweepstakes tab, or go to Hometownlife.com, and click on the Detroit Lion helmet in our Don't Miss module. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra chance to win if they also enter the contest. The winner will be selected at random Dec. 9.

Heise bill

State Rep. Kurt Heise celebrated with Gov. Rick Snyder after Snyder signed a House bill sponsored by Heise into law.

The bill, paired with a Senate bill, moves school elections to November of even-numbered years. Heise and Snyder believe the law will save school districts millions of dollars by moving them to the same years as the traditional elections.

The law is effective next year. Plymouth-Canton's next election had been scheduled for 2013; under the new law, it's moved to November 2014, extending the terms of three Board of Education trustees.

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Group wins ruling in petition case

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A citizens group cleared a legal hurdle Thursday in its bid for a Plymouth Township voter referendum on a special assessment district that, if approved, would raise money to support the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

But Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wendy Baxter, who ruled that petition signatures gathered by the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township were sufficient to apparently trigger a vote on a township-wide special assessment district, also threw the issue

back to the township Board of Trustees, which is expected to take it up at a special meeting on Tuesday.

The judge agreed with Township Attorney Timothy Cronin's argument that CAG, in asking the court to force a special assessment district election, hadn't shown that the board had neglected its duty regarding the petition drive.

"Has the township board failed to perform a ministerial act?" Baxter said at the end of a hearing that lasted well into the afternoon Thursday. "The answer is no."

Please see COURT, A2



Attorneys Timothy Cronin (left), representing Plymouth Township, and Marvin Stempien, representing the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township, argued in Wayne County Circuit Court Thursday over whether the group's petition drive requires township officials to place a special assessment question before voters.

On the air
Cable show tackles district's issues

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

In an age of high-tech, multimedia diversity, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are adding a cable television show to their list of communication tools.

The first show, taped last week and highlighting the district's Student Code of Conduct, airs daily through December on Comcast Channel 19 and WOW

Channel 18. It will also air Dec. 7 at noon and Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. on WSDP, and will be available on-demand on the district's website (www.pccs.k12.mi.us).

Community Focus 2.0 is designed to tackle issues and highlight programs within the district, and officials hope the shows will educate the public about the district.

"We're always trying to do as much as

Please see CABLE, A3



Veteran broadcaster and former Observer staffer Tony Bruscato hosts the district's new cable show, "Community Focus 2.0."



Host Tony Bruscato interviews Plymouth High School Associate Principal Cheri Steckel about the Student Code of Conduct for the district's new show, Community Focus 2.0.

Improved school budget still faces '12 deficit

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Tuesday's Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meeting was the last for now-former finance chief Jim Larson-Shidler, and he left on a higher note than it looked like he might.

Larson-Shidler, who left Thursday for a job in the Wayne-Westland district, presented budget numbers for this year and next that were far more positive than they were even four months ago.

It isn't great news — the district faces an estimated deficit

"When we looked at the budget at the beginning of last year, it looked so bleak, and it was bleak."

JUDY MARDIGIAN
Board Treasurer

somewhere between \$5.5 million and \$8.3 million — but it's better than September, when Larson-Shidler put the projected 2012-13 deficit somewhere between \$10 million and \$15 million.

That's after the district erased an \$18 million deficit for the current school year.

"When we looked at the budget at the beginning of last year, it looked so bleak, and it was bleak," said board Treasurer Judy Mardigian. "We faced a big challenge, but we met it."

The depth of the deficit could depend largely on whether district officials decide to implement an all-day kindergar-

ten program. Language in the state aid act for 2012-13 currently says districts who use a half-day kindergarten will have their funding for those students slashed in half. That would mean a loss of more than \$2 million to Plymouth-Canton.

The district has benefited from concessions from its unions, including teachers who agreed to begin an 80/20 split on health care costs in September, rather than waiting until the state-mandated deadline after the first of the year. There were also some 300 employees

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COURT

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Wait and see

Attorney Marvin Stempien, arguing for CAG, called the judge's ruling a victory. "Let them have the rope that they need to hang themselves," he said in the courtroom. "We may be surprised and the township board may do a marvelous job." Outside the courtroom,

Stempien said if CAG isn't satisfied with the board's action, the parties will be back in court on Wednesday. Baxter had scheduled a tentative hearing for 11 a.m. Wednesday.

"You've got to see what it is," if the board drafts ballot language, before pursuing further court action, said Stempien, a retired county judge.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume contended the language on

the CAG petitions was misleading. The petitions called for a 1-mill tax, for five years, in the proposed special assessment district, but according to Reaume, special assessments for public safety purposes are limited to 10 mills for equipment purchases, and unlimited for operations and maintenance, and have no time limit.

"I'm actually disappointed the judge couldn't see this was

a bait-and-switch petition," Reaume said after the hearing.

Township: Petition tainted

Cronin had raised the same issue in his argument before Baxter, suggesting that some people who signed the CAG petitions may not have done so had they known any assessment would not be limited to the 1-mill, five-year tax described in the petitions.

"This ballot language issue taints the whole process," Cronin said.

Stempien, however, framed the fate of the petition drive as an election issue, not a tax issue.

"This is a constitutional right of the people who are in the citizens group to petition their government for the redress of grievances," he told Baxter. "They want to have some input into their service for fire protection and emergency medical service."

Reaume indicated the board's approval of a special assessment district election won't be automatic on Tuesday. "I think our board will have questions about the petitions, the legality," he said.

In addition, the supervisor said, should a special assessment district be approved, it would be the board's responsibility to draw up an annual budget for money collected through the district, and to determine annually how much millage to levy in the district. Further, he said, even if a district is approved by voters, no tax money collected through it would be available until 2013, meaning such an assessment wouldn't make up, during 2012, for the rev-

enue shortfall that will come when the city of Plymouth leaves the shared department.

Less money, work

Plymouth, in a cost-cutting move, is partnering with the Northville Fire Department for fire protection and emergency medical runs beginning in January, and also creating a bigger role for Huron Valley Ambulance in responding to medical emergencies.

Plymouth's departure from the PCFD means the loss of more than \$900,000 a year in department revenue, and township officials have said the shortfall could mean firefighter layoffs in the 23-member department. The PCFD's workload will also be reduced, with the loss of the city from the department's coverage area, by between 25 percent and 30 percent.

Meanwhile, the township and the firefighters, represented by the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1496, have been negotiating intensely for more than two weeks, and are in the midst of an arbitration process that is being overseen by the state. Firefighters have agreed to some concessions, amounting to about \$350,000 in annual savings, but township officials have characterized the concessions as too little, too late.

CAG is calling for the assessment district question to be put on the ballot for the Tuesday, Feb. 28, primary election, but Reaume said that wouldn't make any tax money available, should a district be approved, any earlier than having the election during the August or the November election.

Calculation issue

Baxter's ruling came after township Clerk Joe Bridgman testified about how he and his staff calculated the amount of property in the proposed special assessment district that was represented by property owners who signed the petitions.

Bridgman said they checked the signers' names against assessment records and sometimes relied on affidavits and information from the county register of deeds office. They then used a computer mapping program to calculate that 10.9 percent of the taxable property in the township was represented by signers of the petition. The state law governing special assessment elections for public safety purposes says that an election will be held if a minimum of 10 percent of the property is represented by petition-signers.

Bridgman did not, however, include tax-exempt property, such as roadways, churches and schools, in the calculations, and some township officials suggest whether tax-exempt property should have been included is still an open question. Cronin also argued that determining whether the 10-percent threshold has been met is the entire board's responsibility, not solely the clerk's.

The parties were first in court on Nov. 22, when Judge Michael Sapala ruled he didn't have enough evidence showing the 10-percent threshold had been met.

A 1-mill tax would raise an estimated \$1.6 million a year and would cost \$75 a year for the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$75,000.

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BUDGET

Continued from page A1

who opted out of the district's health plan, providing savings to the district.

The deficit will also depend on whether the state continues the \$100-per-pupil foundation increase for districts who meet shared-services and other state criteria. Larson-Shidler said that funding was initially designated one-time funding, but said it's possible districts will get it again next year.

Larson-Shidler also presented the final budget amendment for 2011, and it includes a balance and a fund balance of some \$8.9 million.

And, while a deficit of some \$8 million for next year obviously presents a challenge, trustees pointed out it wasn't as bad as some people were making it out to be, particularly during the election.

"We started with a \$15 million deficit that Lansing handed us, and through the efforts of everybody here, we're in the black," Trustee Steven Sneiderman said. "So even with all the talk during the (school board) election about a \$28 million deficit, we're actually in better shape. I don't want that to be glossed over."

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House panel supports I-275 project

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

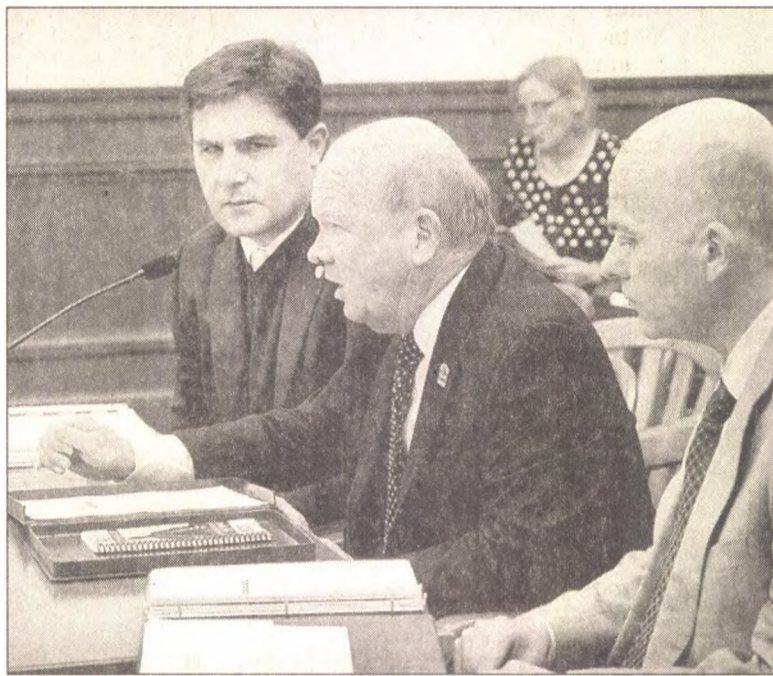
Canton has moved closer to winning full support from the Michigan Legislature for a long-sought project to reshape the I-275/Ford Road interchange and ease traffic congestion around one of the state's most accident-prone areas.

The state House could potentially vote as early as this week to endorse the project after the 17-member House Transportation Committee gave sweeping approval Wednesday to a resolution already passed in the Senate.

"What we have now is, we are well on our way to having the full Michigan Legislature recognize the huge (traffic) problem there," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "This is huge. I feel very good about the direction we took trying to get the state legislature involved in this."

The legislative support doesn't come with any guarantee of funding. However, Canton officials hailed the bipartisan support from state lawmakers as critical for two reasons:

- It could potentially boost the project's chances of securing \$20.3 million from a third-round federal grant program dubbed TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. Federal officials have twice rejected the I-275/Ford proposal.
- If federal authorities snub the project a third time, the burgeoning support from the Michigan Legislature could become a state priority list for road work.



State Sen. Pat Colbeck (left), Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and township municipal services director Tim Faas testify before the state House transportation committee.

The supportive vote by the House Transportation Committee came Wednesday after LaJoy, Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, testified before the panel about the need to improve the I-275/Ford interchange. Michigan Department of Transportation officials also spoke in favor of the project.

"I really got a sense that everyone really believed what we were presenting and that this has to become a high priority for the state," Faas said, adding that the hearing "went great. We're very happy."

The House Transportation

Committee-approved measure was one of two resolutions introduced by Colbeck. Officials hope both measures could sway federal officials as they weigh the TIGER proposals.

Faas acknowledged that competition is fierce. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has announced that federal officials received \$14.1 billion in TIGER requests — or 27 times more than the \$527 million allocated by the U.S. Congress.

"The tremendous demand for these grants clearly shows that communities across the country can't wait any longer for crucial upgrades to the roads, bridges, rail lines and bus routes they

rely on every day," LaHood wrote on his blog. "These vital investments will put American's backs on job sites building transportation systems that badly need attention."

Canton officials have tried to sell the I-275/Ford project by saying it will create some 200 jobs and improve dangerous roads. A stretch of Ford Road near the interstate is among the state's most accident-prone.

The project calls for adding two ramps, or slips, allowing motorists on the southbound I-275 exit ramp to access northbound or southbound Haggerty without using Ford Road. It also suggests a service drive along the east side of the interstate from Cherry Hill to north of Ford Road.

Officials say the measures would ease the traffic burden along Ford.

Already, Faas said, Canton and MDOT officials have visited the interchange area to begin deciding what would be needed in a pre-construction environmental impact study. The site visit came as officials hope to get the project included as the Southwestern Michigan Council of Governments, or SEMCOG, considers in March a series of amendments to its regional transportation plan.

Canton officials have drawn support from neighboring communities such as Westland, Plymouth Township and Livonia in their efforts to improve the interchange. Officials have called the project regional in scope.

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CABLE

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we can to help the public understand the schools and give them a good idea of the things happening in our classrooms," said Frank Ruggirello, the district's director of community relations. "We haven't had the budget or the means to do video in the past. We are doing it with our own staff people, within our budget, and using staff people from WSDP to help."

The half-hour show will air on the district's cable channel, will be linked to the district's website (www.pccs.k12.mi.us.com) and will also air on the website of WSDP (www.881theescape.com), the district's student-run radio station.

It's all part of an effort to go as multimedia as possible.

"We wanted to get more video content, not only on the district's website, but on ours, as well," said station manager Bill Keith, who noted radio companies nationwide are moving in that direction. "Radio is changing so much. Some radio companies are developing their own video departments. We've toyed with it before, but never jumped fully in. This is our chance."

The move comes as responsibility for the radio station shifts to the community relations department. Ruggirello said the district has developed a media team, which includes Keith, district webmaster Mark Even and others, including several students (Plymouth senior Kyle Linford, Salem senior Natalie Jordan, Salem sophomore Archana Sondor, Salem junior Viv Le and Plymouth sophomore Joe Zylka).

The students worked on the taping of the show, experience that will serve them well out in the real world, according to Keith.

"In a changing media world, people need to be able to communicate in a variety of ways," Keith said.

The team brought in veteran journalist Tony Bruscato to host the program. Bruscato, now the operations director for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, has a bachelor's degree in broadcasting and communications from Indiana University and has had a long career in broadcasting.

"Tony knows the schools, he works and lives here, he's on the radio every day," Ruggirello said. "He loves the community, and he brings a lot of credibility. People trust Tony."

Bruscato covered the school district as a reporter for more than a decade with the *Observer* newspapers.

"I covered, the district, and my kids went through the district," Bruscato said. "It's a way for me to give back."

Ruggirello said he's excited about the new show, because it's more than a soft-peddle hype of the district. For instance, the first show tackles the issue of student behavior at school dances, which has been the subject of much scrutiny lately.

"We're hoping to use it as a tool to help people understand things coming to the Park," Ruggirello said. "The idea is not to be a 'puff' piece on the district. We ask tough questions that are on the minds of people in the community. It's a new area for us ... we're excited about it."

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<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Plastic & Acrylic Beads & Gems</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">50% Off</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings by the Jewelry Shoppe ALSO INCLUDES HYPOALLERGENIC • Czech Glass Beads 	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Jewelry Making Categories Listed</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">50% Off</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditions NATURAL SHELL, FRESHWATER PEARLS, WOOD & STONE BEADS & PENDANTS • Explorer by Traditions PENDANTS, BEADS & RINGS INSPIRED BY WORLD TRAVELS 	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Christmas Fabric 50% Off</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Decor Fabric 30% Off <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">* DOES NOT INCLUDE WHITE, ALWAYS</p>	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Fashion Fabric</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calico Prints & Solids ALSO INCLUDES APPAREL PRINTS ALWAYS 30% Off THE MARKED PRICE • Ribbon, Trim & Tulle Spools DOES NOT INCLUDE BUNCH TRIM & TULLE SOLD BY THE YARD 50% Off 	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Simplicity® Patterns</div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">LIMIT 10 PER CUSTOMER DOES NOT INCLUDE "NEW LOOK" PATTERNS</p> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">99¢</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleece CHOOSE FROM PRINTS, SOLIDS & PICKERBOARD ALWAYS 30% Off THE MARKED PRICE

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WSDP station manager Bill Keith said the recent pledge drive raised more than \$5,000.

Listeners pledge support for station

By Brad Kadrich
 Observer Staff Writer

WSDP, the student-run radio station serving the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, is heavily dependent on fund-raisers to keep itself on the airwaves.

After a pretty successful pledge drive, radio station staffers were happy. The drive, which ended Nov. 12, raised some \$5,000.

"We did pretty well," station manager Bill Keith said. "We more than doubled the number of people we have giving gifts to the station."

The best day of the

drive was the final day, when some 50 pledges came in.

"The phone lights lit up solid," Keith said. "They were pledges of all sizes, from \$5 to several hundred dollars. It was a tremendous day for us."

It's the first in a series of fundraisers designed to keep the radio station's coffers full.

Next up is the big record show, set for the Salem High School cafeteria Feb. 25.

The show features more than 30 dealer tables and attracts more than 200 people. The show features everything from vinyl records

to CDs, T-shirts, posters and more.

"It's everything you can think of, music-wise," Keith said. "It's really pretty cool."

The annual auction, scheduled for May 19, auctions off items donated by local businesses, alums and others. Keith said staffers have big hopes for this year's auction.

Recent auctions have "leveled off" at some \$9,000, Keith said, but he's hoping to do better this year.

"For several years, we were up over \$10,000," Keith said. "We need to push it back up past that."

A variety of items are generally auctioned off, including sports memorabilia, game tickets, etc. But perhaps the coolest thing that's been offered the last few years is a ride in the original Monkee Mobile from the 1960s television show, "The Monkees."

The car was purchased by a Plymouth-Canton alum, who has been offering it the last couple of years for the auction.

"To me, as someone who grew up watching 'The Monkees,' that's awesome," Keith said.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
 (313) 222-8899

Park chosen for safe driving program

Three high schools in Wayne County — including the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park — are among the first schools in the state to participate in a new, potentially life-saving effort aimed at making teens safer drivers.

Strive For A Safer Drive (S4SD), presented by AAA Michigan, Ford Driving Skills for Life (DSFL) and the Michigan Office of Highway

Safety Planning (OHSP), provides funding and resources to student groups to develop campaigns that educate their peers about safe driving.

The goal of S4SD is to reduce serious traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities among Michigan's most inexperienced drivers.

In addition to P-CEP, S4SD participants Edsel Ford High School and Southgate Anderson High

School will each receive a \$2,000 grant for students to create their own peer-to-peer traffic safety-related campaign focusing on seat belt use, speeding, underage drinking/impaired driving and/or distracted driving.

Following three months of campaign activities, the students will prepare a summary detailing their accomplishments and present the reports

to a group of S4SD representatives. The schools determined to have the top campaigns will be eligible to send students to a free hands-on driving clinic with professional driving instructors, put on by the S4SD partners.

High schools in the top counties for teen traffic fatalities and serious injuries were invited to apply for S4SD. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/s4sd.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Study results

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is conducting a Facility Utilization Study using the services of Plan-te Moran (CRESA) Corporate Real Estate Service Advisors. The study began in November and all of the data collected, and reports presented, are now available on the District's website at www.pccs.k12.mi.us Just click on the Facilities Utilization Study icon on the top left of the District's homepage.

The CRESA study will include evaluating enrollment projections along with current facilities and instructional programs. Preliminary data points to declining enrollment at the elementary school level, leaving many schools well below capacity. At the same time, the middle schools and high schools are operating at or above capacity. As the study moves forward, the district will explore ways to optimize the use of facilities while creating the capacity to enhance programs.

TAG screening

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is now accepting nominations to screen students for admission to its Talented and Gifted program for the 2012-2013 school year. To apply for admission to the program, a student must reside within the P-CCS district boundaries and be in grades two to seven. Screening for the program involves two phases of standardized testing. Nomination forms are available on the TAG website at <http://tag.pccs.k12.mi.us> and must be completed and submitted online by Feb. 6.

New NHS members

On Monday night, 277 students will be inducted into the P-CEP Chapter of the National Honor Society. The new members increase the organization's participants to 542 students. NHS is the leader among organizations and societies that promote and recognize students who demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership and service. Membership is by application and committee review. At the beginning of the school year, juniors and seniors with a career GPA of 3.5 or better received an invitation to

apply to the society; ninety percent of the applicants have been selected to join.

Bosch award

Robert Bosch LLC will award a total of \$25,000 in grant money to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for efforts to increase student awareness about technology that conserves natural resources. The company's BEST (Bosch Energy Science and Technology) Program will distribute \$15,000 (in \$1,000 increments) to teachers who submitted proposals. More than 42 teachers applied. The remaining \$10,000 was contributed directly to the District to support ninth-grade science curriculum at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Big task

Zak Pumphrey is just a junior at Salem High School, but he has taken on a huge commitment. Pumphrey is in the process of planning, supplying, cooking and serving a Christmas meal for 100-150 people who live in the neighborhood around Mack Avenue Community Church in Detroit on Dec. 10.

Inspired by his desire "to give more than he takes from the world," he hopes to bring some holiday cheer to the members of the church and community who desperately need hope and food this time of year. He's making this happen in just a short three weeks of planning, simply out of the goodness of his heart.

Energy improvement

As of December 2011, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools has achieved ENERGY STAR Leader recognition for increasing its energy efficiency by more than 20 percent versus a 2008-2009 baseline. During the past two years, the District has reduced its CO2 gas emissions by more than 14,000 metric tons. That is equivalent to the emissions from more than 2,500 cars for one year or the planting of more than 3,000 acres of trees (almost five square miles). In financial terms this represents a gross savings of approximately \$2.2 million in just over two years.

MILITARY NEWS

Infantry grad

Army Reserve Pfc. Jayson Zapolski has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesies, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and

Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

Zapolski is the son of Eric Zapolski of Plymouth. He is a 2009 graduate of Salem High

School.

Basic training

Air Force Airman Kyle L. Merritt graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

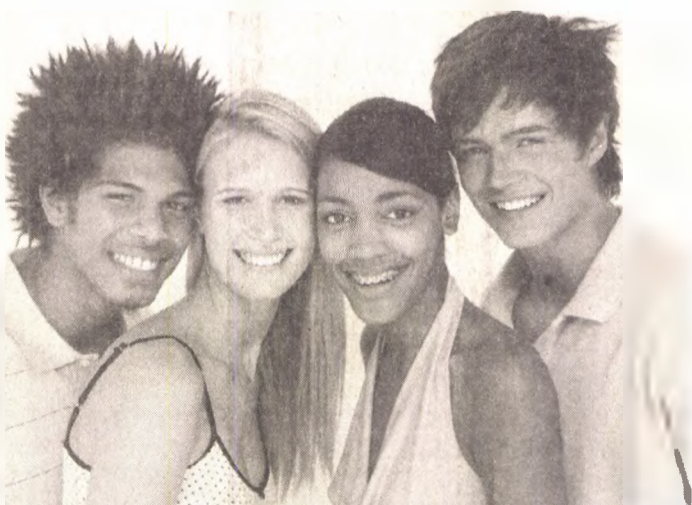
The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, phys-

ical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Merritt is the son of Keith and Debbie Merritt of Canton. He is a 2009 graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland.

John Jacobi, O.D., F.C.O.V.D.* has been serving patients in the surrounding communities for the past 20 years.



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TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (PG-13)
 FRI/MON-TH 11:00, 11:20, 1:35, 1:55, 4:10, 4:30, 6:45, 7:05, 9:20, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:55
SAT/SUN 11:00, 1:35, 1:55, 4:10, 4:30, 6:45, 7:05, 9:20, 9:40
3D HAPPY FEET TWO (PG)
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 11:35, 4:40, 6:55
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 2:05, 9:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:30
IMMORTALS (R)
 FRI/SUN/MON/TH 11:25, 7:10 FRI/SAT LS 12:00
 SAT 7:10 TUE/WED 11:25 AM
TOWER HEIST (PG-13)
 FRI/MON/TUE/TH 2:00, 4:20, 9:45 SAT/SUN 9:45 WED 2:00
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Shoppers go 'Dashin' through downtown stores

By Julie Brown
Observer Staff Writer

Luci Sujkak admired the holiday lights and Christmas tree in Kellogg Park while dining and shopping in downtown Plymouth during Thursday's "Dashing Through the Stores" event.

Sujkak, of Jacksonville, Fla., was with sister Vita Ciemiorek and friend Ann Roberts, both of Ann Arbor, during the inaugural "Dashing" event, sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

"I feel like I'm in fairyland," Sujdak said as she stepped out of Compari's. Stella Delap of Canton, who owns Basket Creations on Forest in Plymouth, said the first-time event drew shop-

pers, though fewer than normal events do.

"I think it's going to be a wonderful event eventually" with additional publicity, said Delap, who noted Thursday's mild weather likely drew in shoppers.

She agreed with larger retailers who are reporting strong Christmas sales.

"We have been doing very well," Delap said. "The day after Thanksgiving was amazing. It has been very good. I think people are shopping a little earlier this year."

Longtime friends Susan Langert of Livonia and Karen Vock of Northville visit Basket Creations when in Plymouth, where Lapeer found stocking stuffers. Vock's friend owns the nearby Candy



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trail, so the women were glad to come to Plymouth for "Dashing Through the Stores."

"We don't dash too fast, but we are moving," Vock said with a smile. "We'd better hit the jewelry store," her friend added.

Nearby at TranquiliTea, Allie Piippo was shopping with sister Katrina Seibert of Salem Township. The women got to sample a number of holiday-

Sarah Barron, of Grand Rapids, and Mary Bodtke, of Westland, started their evening with massage at AGIO Spa. Next on the list is shopping, followed by dinner.

related teas, such as Figgy Pudding Black Tea, Peppermint Bark Black, Christmas Joy Rooibos and Holiday Cheer Green.

"Fun," said Seibert, who found out about the event on-line. "I'm making a wish list because my husband is getting home from Army boot camp two days before Christmas. I do think this is an excellent event."

TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon of Livonia called turnout "pretty good."

Cannon, too, finds sales are strong as she approaches her sixth anniversary in Plymouth. "We've been up so far," she said, noting sales last month were up 15 percent. "They're getting aware that we're around. Events like this are nice because new people find us."

Nearby on Ann Arbor Trail, Creatopia staffer Lauren Fletcher of Livonia was helping customers paint a variety of ceramic pieces. Creatopia had wish lists for what women wanted to paint, along with refreshments and 10-percent off gift cards.

"We've actually been

extremely busy" this holiday season, Fletcher said. "A lot of customers are spending a good amount of money here to make Christmas gifts."

At Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth near the heart of downtown, Allen Park residents Angela Robertson and Dan Horvath were picking up their wedding rings. They're getting married soon, "a Christmas wedding but no Christmas colors," she said.

Horvath has family friends who own Dearborn Jewelers, so the couple travels to Plymouth. "We love it," she said. "We come here for all our jewelry. It's a great place to come."

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Colbeck to talk jobs at breakfast

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, will be a featured speaker at the upcoming Connection Point Breakfast hosted by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Detroit Regional Chamber for program managers, engineers and chief technologists from NASA.

Members of NASA's Goddard Flight Center, Langley Research Center and Glenn Research Center will be exploring partnership opportunities with Michigan companies.

The event begins with Senator Colbeck's speech at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Detroit Regional

Chamber headquarters, located at One Woodward Avenue, Suite 1900 in Detroit.

"Michigan offers excellent partnership opportunities for NASA and other similar organizations," said Colbeck. "We have done much in the Legislature this year to help attract businesses and jobs to our state and this is a great opportunity to show NASA what Michigan has to offer."

"Our state has some of the most cutting-edge technology firms in the world and is leading the nation in tech job growth, according to the latest 2010 TechAmerica report. In addition, just last month Newsweek

ranked Michigan the No. 1 state in job growth. We need to build on this momentum and continue diversifying our economic base in order to create additional jobs for those still seeking employment."

Colbeck graduated with both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan and is also a graduate of the Life Sciences Department at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France. He has worked on systems for the International Space Station and worked with children at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's Space Camp.



State Sen. Patrick Colbeck (right), here with Gov. Rick Snyder at his bill signing, will talk jobs at a breakfast Tuesday in Detroit.



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PEARL HARBOR DAY

Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.

Location: Veterans Memorial Park, in front of Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth

Details: There will be a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony, a co-operative venture of the local veterans military organizations representing Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton, including American Legion Post #391, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #528 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6695. The ceremony will

conclude with the playing of "Taps" and the laying of memorial wreaths.

Contact: Frank Pawelak, fp-masterkc@aol.com

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main (near the railroad tracks) in Plymouth

Details: Plymouth's own Barefoot Productions will keep a holiday tradition going with its third annual production of "A Christmas Carol - A Narrative." This unique and intimate reading of A Christmas Carol is a tribute to the original performances given by Charles Dickens. All proceeds of the night will aid in the production budget for the remainder of Barefoot Productions 2011-

2012 season. All donations are tax-deductible. Barefoot Productions is a 501(c)3 non-profit community theater, Plymouth's only live, adult, Theater for the Community.

Contact: Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made by calling the Barefoot Productions Box office at (734) 560-1493 or order tickets at www.justgobarefoot.com.

FARRAND FAIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Dec. 8, 4-8 p.m.

Location: Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar Lane

Details: Farrand Elementary School hosts its annual vendor/craft fair. Visitors can join organizers for a night of shopping, with lots of vendor items and crafts to choose from. Admission is free.



Cast members (back, from left) Jonathon Wennstrom and Christine Steves and (front, from left) Linda Stanko, Michael Corliss, David Alexander, Elizabeth Whitcomb and Nathan Corliss help Barefoot Productions bring "A Christmas Carol - A Narrative" to the stage Dec. 10.

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Students find elevated nitrate levels

In October 2011, over 500 students monitored the water quality of the Rouge River as a part of the Rouge Education Project, a program facilitated by the Friends of the Rouge.

According to Friends of the Rouge officials, their data doesn't typically present anything too unusual or unexpected for this urban waterway. This year, however, the students from Inter-City Baptist High School of Allen Park and students from a biology class at the University of Michigan-Dearborn found something. Each group did testing at Ford Field in Dearborn off of Michigan Avenue on two separate occasions and in each case, they found a very high reading for nitrate. "Nitrate is naturally occurring in our environment and is usually found in small amounts

in water," said Emily Hughes, Rouge Education Project Manager. "When the students reported their findings, this caused concern and the staff of the Rouge Education Project reported the results to the Wayne County Department of the Public Services."

The WCDPS investigated the students' findings and did follow up testing along the lower branch of the Rouge River. They, too, found high nitrate readings at each location. This led the department to investigate potential sources of the nitrates and they did in fact narrow it down to some industrial sources that discharge into the Rouge River.

These industries, however, were not in violation of any permits because as it turned out, there are no federal regulations on the amount

of nitrates that can be discharged into the river, Hughes pointed out. Generally, an industries National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit specifies what discharges a company can emit into a river.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) was notified of the county and students findings and they are now taking these results into consideration.

"If it were not for the students doing this testing, no one would have known that this condition existed," Hughes said. "This situation exemplifies how student testing is not only educational, but also valuable in keeping our water bodies healthy."

For more information about the Rouge Education Project, you can visit www.therouge.org.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Six U.S. senatorial hopefuls participated in a forum in Milford on Tuesday, sponsored by five tea party groups. Pictured (from left) are Clark Durant, Scotty Boman, Randy Hekman, Peter Konetchy, Gary Glenn and Chuck Marino.

Candidate debate draws hundreds

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Constitutionalism and reining in government spending were the underlying themes at a Republican candidate forum in Milford Nov. 29, where six U.S. Senate hopefuls fielded questions on taxes, illegal immigration, "Obamacare" and more.

A near-capacity crowd of about 400 packed the banquet facility at Bakers of Milford to hear featured candidates Scotty Boman, Clark Durant, Gary Glenn, Randy Hekman, Peter Konetchy and Chuck Marino — each seeking to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow in 2012.

"I'm anxious to see what the candidates have to say," said Lannie Young, Lyon Township supervisor, prior to the start of the event. "This is a chance to hear the candidates firsthand. That's how government is supposed to work — grassroots," he said.

Five local tea party groups sponsored the forum — the Tea Party

Patriots of West Oakland County, Brighton TEA Party, Lakes Area TEA Party, Rattle With Us TEA Party and RetakeOurGov.

"I was happy with the turnout," said Ben DiPonio, founder of TPPWOC and one of the event organizers. "It was very informative, and I've had nothing but positive feedback from everyone who attended."

Sharon Lollo, co-founder of the Plymouth/Canton-based Rattle With Us TEA Party, called the turnout "phenomenal."

"It shows that people are really concerned about the direction of our country, and for every person here there are five more who wished they could have come," Lollo said. "People are paying a lot more attention — endorsements don't always mean a whole lot — they are getting the information on their own."

Though the election is many months away, Highland resident Jackie Rhodes said after attending the forum she's already close to deciding which senatorial candidate

will get her vote.

"I had no idea who these guys were (before)," she said. "This was a way to find out what they stood for, and not just their words but their physical reactions — and the reactions of the audience was great, too. There really was no reason not to be here."

A straw poll following the debate named Durant the winner, with 45.9 percent of the 266 votes cast. Placing second was Glenn, with 36.5 percent of the votes, followed by Konetchy with 7.9 percent of the votes. Immediately before casting her vote, Milford resident Bernadette Walli said she was excited to do so — feeling "inspired" by the candidates.

"Any time you have an open venue that people can attend, that's our American way. That's what we do," Walli said. "I'm absolutely thrilled I came. The more you know, the better vote you have."

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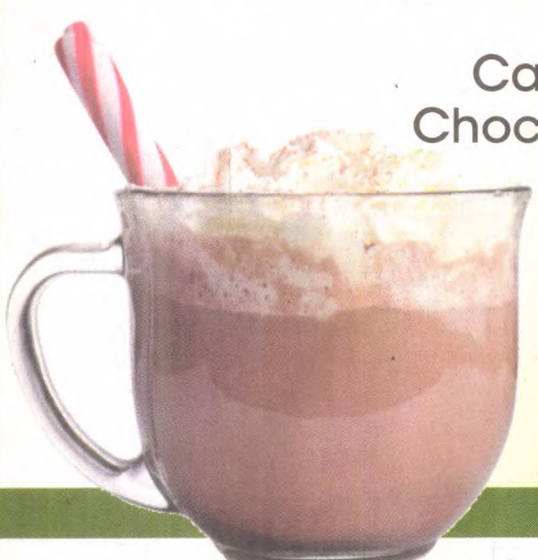
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Many factors to mull in pension vs. lump sum distribution

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I will be retiring in a few weeks from a company where I've worked for over 30 years. It is a small family-owned business. I have a 401(k) and a pension. They have given me the option of a cash settlement on my pension or a traditional pension. What are your thoughts of which I should take? I am conservative and I am single and not concerned about leaving money to anyone. One additional note, if I take the pension, that amount and my Social Security will more than cover all of my living expenses.

A: Congratulations on retiring and on the fact that it appears that you have the resources to be retired and to have a rising income throughout your lifetime. The decision whether to take a pension or a lump



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

sum distribution is two-fold. The first step is to crunch the numbers to determine the present value of your pension and then compare that with the lump sum distribution. The reason is purely financial. You want to know what is worth more in present dollars, your pension or a lump sum.

In doing this calculation, there are a number of assumptions you have to make such as life expectancy. After all, the number will be totally different if you factored that you are going to receive the pension for 10 years vs. 30 years. The number crunching is only one step.

The second consider-

ation is intangible and that is comfort. In other words, what allows you sleep at night? Are you more comfortable knowing that you have a set amount of money coming in every month for the rest of your life, or do you like the idea of being in control of your money and portfolio? Some people assume that taking a pension vs. the lump sum distribution is always the more conservative way of going, but that is not the case.

After all, in a lot of pensions there is no inflation adjustment and, thus, even though the dollar amount of the payout remains the same, the purchasing power goes down year after year. Of course, the offset is that if you take a lump sum distribution and your investments don't pan out, then you could run into difficulty.

Based upon the information that you have provided, which included what your pension would be and what

the lump sum distribution is, along with the balance in your 401(k) plan, it would make sense to take the pension vs. the lump sum distribution. In making my calculations, I made the assumption that you are going to be around for at least another 20 to 25 years.

In making the decision between a lump sum distribution and a pension, one of the more difficult assumptions that you have to make is life expectancy. I recognize what the tables say, however, I always assume a longer life expectancy. My thought is I'd rather be safe than sorry. When it comes to life expectancy, you should always overestimate, not underestimate.

In making the decision between a pension and a lump sum, I was also swayed by the fact that you have money in your 401(k) plan that you plan to roll over into an IRA. Those funds can be invested to

provide some growth in the portfolio. One of the keys to making the determination of whether someone can afford to retire is whether they will be able to have a rising income throughout their lifetime. I have always been a believer that you cannot retire on a fixed income; nor can you retire on a shrinking income. You must have a rising income. I can't think of anyone who believes that five or 10 years down the road it will cost them less to live than it does today. Therefore, I always want to make sure that someone can have a rising income throughout their lifetime.

Those lucky enough to have a pension and who are making the decision between a pension and a lump sum distribution, can also get a bid on an immediate annuity. An immediate annuity is like a pension, however, you purchase it through an insurance company. Immediate annuities have some advantages in the fact that you can design them to fit your situation. You can design them to pay you a set amount for the rest of your life or even

factor in an inflation factor. With immediate annuities you have some flexibility. Therefore, when someone is making the decision between a pension and a lump sum distribution, it may pay to receive a bid from an insurance company for an immediate annuity. Keep in mind that immediate annuities they are irrevocable. So once you make your decision you can't change it. That is why if you are considering an immediate annuity, take your time and don't let the salespeople talk you into one direction or the other.

One last note and that is you have achieved the American dream in the fact that you can retire and have options. I think one of the keys to a good life is the ability to choose between different options as opposed to being in a situation where we have no alternatives at all. 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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Pictures of Hope let children share dreams

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Hope comes in all shapes and sizes. It can be as simple as having furniture, as touching as donating to homeless people and as big as feeding all the people in the world. It can be a hope and dream to go to college or have people pick up the trash so people can walk outside in their socks.

Those were the hopes depicted in photographs taken by a group of children served by the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries for Birmingham photographer Linda Solomon's nationally acclaimed program "Pictures of Hope" Project.

"We had so much fun together, we'll be friends forever," said Solomon, who joined the children in an unveiling of their Picture of Hope cards at a party Tuesday at Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City. "I'm so proud of them, I'm thrilled to see their faces. This builds their self-esteem."

Solomon has been doing her Pictures of Hope Project since 1990 and has reached out to more than 1 million children. She provided the lesson in photography and then gave children one-time use cameras and an assignment to capture photos of hope. She processed the film and selected one photograph for each child and turned them into cards. Five hundred sets of cards were made and are being sold at \$20 each this holiday season to raise money for the DRMM.

"They did a wonderful, wonderful job," said Susan Ianni, general manager of Gordon Chevrolet. "Linda had lots of photos to chose from because the children took fabulous pictures."

Solomon had been partnering with GM on the project since 2006, but this year, she was joined by Chevrolet which asked Ianni in what she would like to be involved.

"Part of our philosophy is charity work, we participate in something every month," she said. "It's been ingrained in this dealership. I think that's probably why GM approached us. It took 30 seconds to say yes. I think they knew we would do it."

"I felt honored to be asked, I felt honored to work with these children," she added.

Dr. Chad Audi, president and CEO of the DRMM, thanked Solomon for selecting "our children" for the project.

"We service people from cradle to grave," he said. "We have been serving the community since 1909. We serve 3,500-4,000 meals a day and provide shelter for 1,400 men, women and children each day. They come to us homeless



Linda Solomon was greeted by Heaven Shepard, one of the children involved in her Pictures of Hope Project at the Detroit Rescue Mission.



Each card contains a child's photograph and what their dream is.

PICTURES OF HOPE

Gordon Chevrolet is joining with the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries in selling 15-card sets of the children's Picture of Hope cards for \$20. All of the money will go to DRMM which provides services ranging from emergency shelter to job training for men, women and children in the Detroit community. Cards can be ordered by calling Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries at (313) 993-4700 or stopping by Gordon Chevrolet at 38150 Ford, west of Merriam in Garden City.



Youngsters pose around the Christmas tree in the showroom of Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City while waiting for the unveiling of their picture cards.



Susan Ianni, general manager of Gordon Chevrolet, tells youngsters they did "a wonderful job" in capturing their hopes and dreams in pictures.



Dr. Chad Audi, the chief executive officer of the Detroit Rescue Mission, thanks Linda Solomon for choosing "our children" for her Pictures of Hope Project.

agers James Schram and Tim Swimea.

"The whole point to putting those cards on those packs is that down the road when you're in school and have a question about a career or want to tell us you tried your best in school, we're here," Ianni told the children. "If you keep in contact, we may be able to help you with your hopes and dreams."

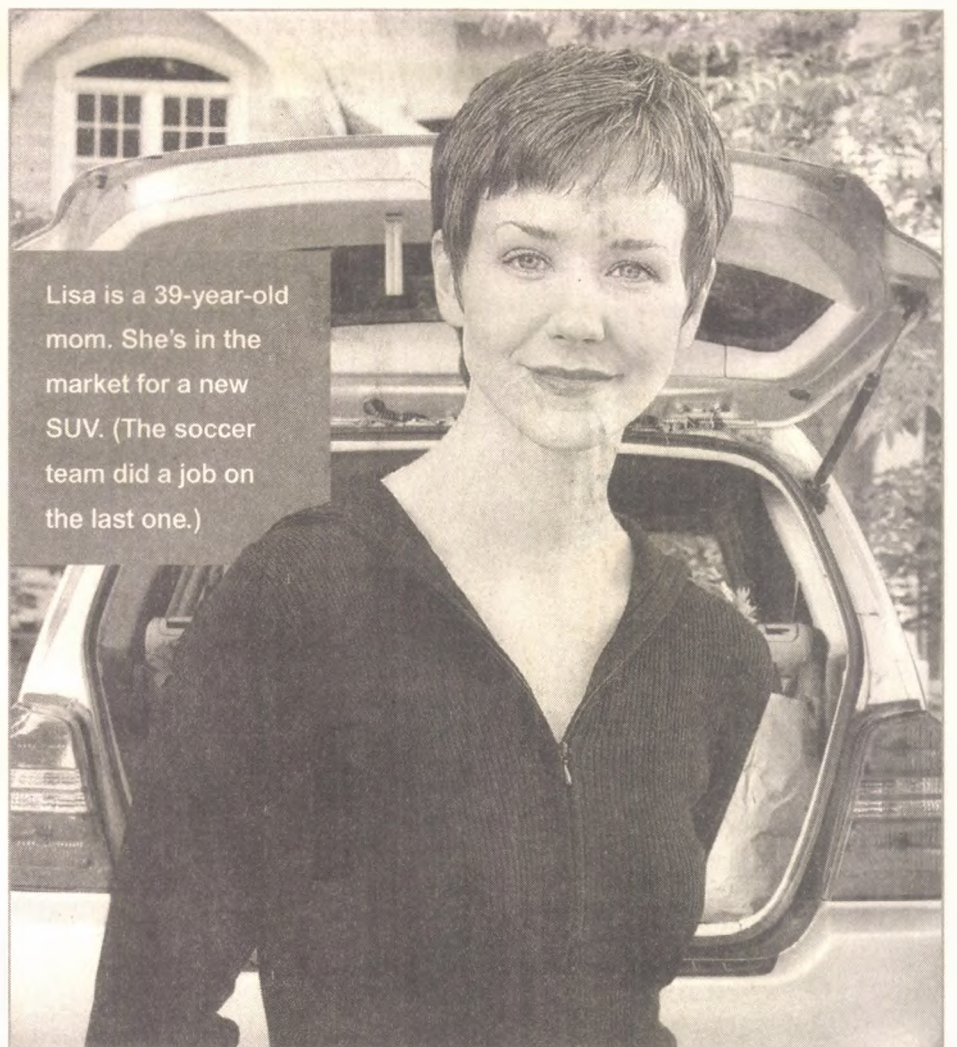
Eleven-year-old Shaloon Knight's hope is that everyone can have a home and not be on the streets. She conveyed her hope in her photograph of a playset. Her mother and her five siblings were sheltered by DRMM, which helped them get a house.

"My dream came true," she said. "I didn't know they we're making them into cards. That makes me feel happy."

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and leave with hope. We could not do it without the support of GM and Chevrolet.

The children each received backpacks filled with goodies including two packs of the Pictures of Hope cards, provided by Gordon Chevrolet. One pack was to open, the other pack was a keepsake and had the business cards of Ianni and man-



Lisa is a 39-year-old mom. She's in the market for a new SUV. (The soccer team did a job on the last one.)

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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 themselves 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.

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100-year-old nuns: Serving God made for a 'beautiful life'

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

At a time when fewer young people are choosing to become priests and nuns, two 100-year-old Felician Sisters say they have no regrets answering God's call to serve Him.

Sisters Mary Jerome Kurczewski and Mary Maximilia Szarnowski, who live at St. Joseph Care Center on the grounds of the Livonia Province of the Felician Sisters and celebrated their 100th birthdays in November, described their vocation as a beautiful life — one full of opportunity.

Sister Maximilia said with all the education she received, she has enough credits for a doctorate degree. "I had to take every course under the sun," she said, adding she was trained to be both a teacher and a nurse.

Sister Jerome, who was a teacher and a librarian, said with all the luxuries young people have today, it's almost impossible for them to want to exchange them for a life of poverty.

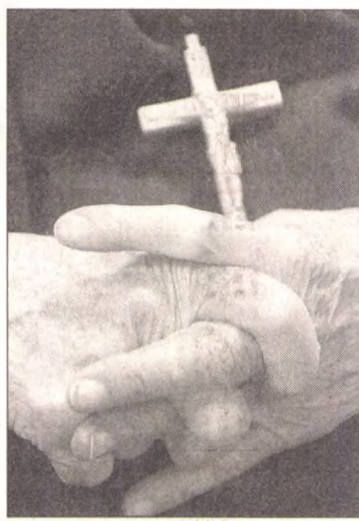
Yet, she said, "If they have God, they have everything."

Sister Maximilia said the shortage of priests makes the problem worse. "The more you present God, the more drawn people are to him," she said.

A duty

Sister Jerome was born in Detroit on Nov. 26, 1911, to Polish immigrants. The second youngest of seven children, she decided to become a nun at age 15. "I just felt pulled to it," she said, adding several family members, including four aunts and an older sister, were nuns. "I felt it was my duty."

Sister Maximilia was born in Cedar near Traverse City on Nov. 12, 1911. Her father was born in Germany, her mother in Milwaukee. There were 16 children in the family; she was the



Sister Mary Maximilia Szarnowski said a life dedicated to serving God meant frequent, unexpected moves. "God puts you where He wants you," she said.

youngest of six girls.

Sister Maximilia decided to become a nun when she was preparing for her First Communion. Her teacher, who was a nun, told the children they would get whatever they asked for on the day of their First Communion, and then gave, as an example, becoming a nun. Sister Maximilia decided to make that what she asked for "because sister said it."

While Sister Maximilia described serving God as a "beautiful life," she said it wasn't always easy.

Like being in the Army, she often was moved from one location to another with little or no notice.

She taught at 24 schools all over Michigan and in South Bend, Ind., — many of them like St. Damian in Westland (1982-83) for just a year at a time.

Always moving

She remembers teaching a class of particularly talented students in Michigan and then being told to get ready, she was

moving to a school in South Bend. "I cried," she said. "The kids cried."

The next class was unruly, yet they also grew to love her and a few students went on to become nuns. "They called me their best teacher," she said.

"God puts you where He wants you," she said, adding she worked until she was nearly 90.

An avid reader, Sister Jerome remembers her older brother pulling her in a wagon to the library when he was 7. He would set her in the children's room and then go check out books for himself, but he would always be sure to get one for her too.

Sister Jerome loves all kinds of books — westerns, history books and biographies — and she rereads them several times. She's currently reading *In the Spirit of St. Francis*, which she said was published in 1954 but is still relevant today.

She worked at 21 Michigan schools, including St. Michael in Livonia and St. Damian in Westland. She often worked in the libraries of the schools. Two of her former students from the Bay City area, Sisters Mary DePaul and Florence Marie, now in their 80s, live with her at the St. Joseph Care Center on the Motherhouse campus.

'God's grace'

She attributes her long life to "God's grace — nothing more." Her advice to those who want to live a long, satisfying life is to "have a daily relationship with God."

They can do that by talking to him, she said, not simply reciting prayers. "He is a person," she said. "He knows what we want, what we need. He is a God of love."

The two sisters are not the oldest to ever live at the Motherhouse. The oldest were Sister Ludmilla Stender, who died at 108, and Sister Regis Burzynski,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sisters Mary Jerome Kurczewski and Mary Maximilia Szarnowski celebrated their 100th birthdays two weeks apart in November. Sister Maximilia, right, is the older one.

who died at 104.

But they are the first two to turn 100 in the same month and year, said Sister Thaddea Meyers, local minister at St. Joseph Care Center.

Their birthday celebrations included visits from former students and relatives, including a niece and her family who came from Cedar as a surprise for Sis-

ter Maximilia.

The two sisters said they don't feel any older after turning 100. "No different than any other day," Sister Jerome said.

Asked how she liked her birthday celebration, Sister Jerome said she wasn't done. "I'm still celebrating," she said.

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Southfield woman remembered as devoted mother

By Steve Kowalski
Eccentric Staff Writer

For Bruce Smith, dinner with Helen Gale meant preparation of the mind as much as the meal.

Smith and his wife, Linda, dined with Gale up to "four or five times per week," according to Linda Smith. Bruce Smith said he couldn't sit down for a meal with Gale without first listening to the national news.

"(Helen) was always up on everything, and I wouldn't know what she was talking about if I didn't listen to 'All Things Considered' (her favorite show) on National Public Radio first," remembered Smith, of Farmington Hills. "I would be embarrassed if I didn't catch up on the very, very latest of what is happening (in current events)."

The Smiths, musicians who knew Gale from the Southfield concert series Gale used to run, say the last time they dined with her was on Thanksgiving, Nov. 24. On Wednesday afternoon, at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department inside the Civic Center, they were among hundreds of people mourning the death of the 81-year-old Gale during a memorial.

Highland Park Police discovered Gale's body in the back of her burning 2005 Honda Accord on Saturday morning, Nov. 26, according to Southfield Police Lt. Nick Loussia.

Someone had gained entry to Gale's home in the 20200 block of Winchester at some point after Gale had spoken over the phone with her daughter, Nancy, at 7:30 p.m. the night before,



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

according to Southfield Police.

Based on evidence inside the home, there had been a struggle, Loussia said.

Gale, who worked part-time in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department for 31 years, was remembered by col-

leagues, friends and family as a devoted mother who was well read and community-oriented. Gale, a widow whose husband Bob died about 10 years ago, is survived by two children and three grandchildren.

"She never judged anybody, accepted everyone,

found humor in everything she touched," said her daughter, Nancy Gale, 48.

Her other daughter, Stephanie Johnson, 53, called her mother an "awesome, awesome person."

"She was the most awesome woman you could ever meet," Johnson said. "She was giving, no barriers between her and anything."

Alisha Love, the city's trainer who works at Beech Woods, a parks and recreation facility, said Gale taught dance lessons to her children, Amanda and Andrew.

"(Helen) was energetic, fun, charismatic, real and beautiful — that sums up Helen," said Love, a Southfield resident.

Barbara Hanchin, a Southfield senior, said she used to be a circulation clerk at the Southfield Public Library, where she met Gale.

"I knew she had nursed her husband through a long illness," Hanchin said. "I've been in shock ever since (hearing about Gale's death)."

"I know a lot of older

women who live by themselves in Southfield and it's very scary to think you can't live in peace without fear for your every move. (With the killer on the loose) it creates a sense of suspicion, a sense of non-community in the neighborhood."

Two of Gale's best friends, Claire Raynes and Jeanne Stockman, described themselves as "book buddies" with Gale.

"I'd do audio books and she'd do regular books and we'd talk, recommend books to each other," Raynes said.

Raynes said Gale liked to work in her yard. Raynes said she worried about Gale's safety at home after Gale told her someone walked in her house and stole her purse while she worked in the yard earlier this fall.

Gale called police but the purse snatcher was never found, Raynes said.

"She was working in her yard one day, picking up leaves," Raynes said. "She noticed the garage door opened and the door to the house open. She never saw anyone walk in, but she walked in and the purse was gone."

Then, just recently, someone stole an extra key to Gale's home from under a pot in the yard, Raynes said Gale told her.

"We told her to change her locks but she never did," Raynes said.

Stockman said Gale wouldn't just let anyone in her home.

"If she didn't know who was knocking on the door she would never open it," Stockman said.

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Pay It Forward: Madonna students combine service with learning

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

When some local Madonna University students signed up for a video editing class in the school's broadcast and cinema arts department, they were looking forward to learning how to use new equipment to make video productions in the school's new state-of-the-art broadcast studios. They never dreamed they would end up learning even more about themselves.

The students, from broadcast department director Chuck Derry's Field Production and Editing II class, were assigned a project that put their newfound skills to the test: make a professional six-minute video for local nonprofits to use in their actual marketing programs.

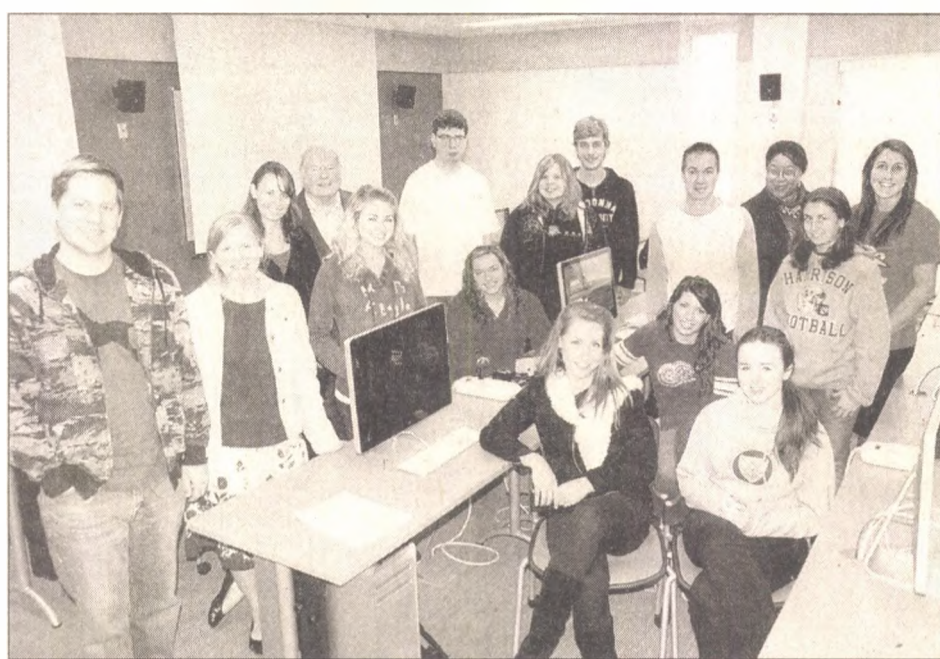
For many of them, the project has been life-changing.

"This project just affirmed that this is my career path: telling stories, editing and filming ... I like to do this; it makes me happy every day," said Mark Radwan, a 20-year-old junior from Livonia.

The project, called Pay It Forward, is part of an emphasis at Madonna to help students discover the value of public service while strengthening their ties to the community. Integrated into four courses at Madonna including sociology, health care, marketing and broadcasting and cinema arts, the program helps students gain insight into how organizations operate in the real world.

Giving back

"Students are gaining real experience that is relevant to their academic learning while addressing community needs. The overall purpose of the Pay It Forward initiative is to introduce or deepen the understanding that our



Students in Chuck Derry's Field Production and Editing II class at Madonna University put their newfound skills to the test: make a professional six-minute video for local nonprofits to use in their actual marketing programs. For many of them, the project has been life changing.

students have around philanthropy and giving," said Olga Martinez, director of Service Learning at Madonna.

According to Derry, local nonprofits were invited by his students to apply to be part of the program in early September. The seven program applicants then visited the class to give a presentation on their organization. Students in his class narrowed the field down to five by voting on the charities they felt were most deserving of their time, Derry said.

"After that process was complete, the students decided which group they would most like to work with and divided into groups to begin the process," he said.

The nonprofit organizations chosen by the students include Detroit Cristo Rey High School, The Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford, Farmington-based S.O.U.L. (Source of Universal Love), Trinity Park Inc. of Livonia and Sweet Dreamzzz of Farmington.

The students then had three weeks to complete their task of creating six-minute DVDs, "a tangi-

ble product that organizations can use to further their goals," Derry said.

Derry said the students were required to work quickly throughout the project, mirroring a real-life timeline.

Great experience

"This is a great world experience for the students ... these are real businesses. The pressure is on and the product has to be delivered and delivered right," said Derry, who developed the broadcast and cinema arts program for Madonna and continues a longtime career in the field on a local and national level.

In addition to creating, filming, interviewing and editing the videos, the students also had the added benefit of making decisions about community partnerships, including how to award \$2,000 in funds from a service grant, Martinez said.

An added bonus for the participating nonprofits is the opportunity to gain up to \$1,000 in funding from Learn and Serve America, a national community service organization underwriting the grant.

"The class got a grant

of \$2,000 and they have decided to award prizes for the top three videos," Derry said. The first-place winner will receive \$1,000, the second place will receive \$600, and the third place will get \$400. The money, in addition to the completed DVD's, will be given to the nonprofits to help further their missions, Derry said.

The project is a win-win for both the students and the organizations, he said.

"Students benefit from working as a team and gain perspective into the real-life working world. They also work on a commercial entity with a company that is interested in a good product that they can use," Derry added.

Although learning the ins and outs of producing professional videos is important, the opportunity to provide assistance also has a great deal for significance for the students.

Madonna junior Hannah Welch of Dearborn was "deeply touched" by the mission of the Methodist Children's Home Society. "This project made a huge impact

on my life. I was really impressed with their tagline, 'When you help a child, you change a life.' It is really powerful," said Welch. Although the message influenced her decision to spend her efforts with this particular group, she was also "very impressed with the fact that they are so well-established. They have been helping kids and families in need in the community for 95 years ... what a great way for us to be able to celebrate their birthday with them," she said.

She said she is excited for the opportunity to present the group with a promotional tool they can actually use to further their cause.

Working on the video for the Methodist Children's group, which provides residential and foster care as well as adoption services, was particularly meaningful for Livonia resident Allison Follbaum, a junior.

"It was very personal for me. I have many friends who were adopted and I had to chance to see it from a different angle. I feel blessed that my friends were adopted into wonderful homes," she said.

She was impressed that although the nonprofits everywhere are struggling, the Methodist Children's group is passionate about its work and continues to shed a positive light on the foster care program.

Adding to Radwan's experience was the opportunity to learn about and help a Catholic high school in Detroit that he also believes is doing great work.

Christo Rey

Detroit Cristo Rey High School is located in southwest Detroit and provides a private college prep education for kids that "wouldn't usually get a private school education," said Director Michael Khoury.

All students in grades

nine-12 spend five-six days per month working in entry-level professional jobs in hospitals, law firms and manufacturing businesses throughout the metropolitan Detroit area and their salaries are used to provide funding for the school, said Khoury.

"This year, students will have earned almost \$1.1 million for the school, he said.

Radwan said he was struck by the positive feeling displayed by students and staff alike at the school.

"It's a really great environment. Every student has to go to a job, so they are getting work experience, too," he said, adding that the school's lofty goal of a 100 percent graduation rate makes the school's mission even more valuable.

Khoury said he is grateful that his school was included in the Pay it Forward program.

"The fact that they could make and talk to us and help other people learn about us ... We think our kids are pretty incredible; this helps us get our story out there. A lot of the news about education in Detroit is not very encouraging; we are a bright spot," said Khoury, adding that it is important for others to learn about the positive strides his students are making.

He said the school would make great use of the video, using it to promote the school at small gatherings and on the school website. He is hopeful that the video will also serve as a way to introduce his student's to potential employers.

"It will be very helpful to us when we are approaching businesses to partner with; you can imagine the typical reaction when I first ask, 'How would you like to hire four kids for \$26,000 for the year?' When they see this video, it will be a whole other story," said Khoury.

H.E.A.T. offers tips to protect shoppers, their vehicle

The race is on! With the holiday season now in full swing, department stores, malls and downtown streets are packed with shoppers looking for great gifts and last-minute deals.

Unfortunately, it's that hustle and bustle of long lists and large crowds that opportunistic criminals are counting on to distract holiday shoppers and make them easy targets for vehicle break-ins, carjacking and other auto theft-related crimes.

According to Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.), law enforcement agencies report an increased number of auto break-ins during the holiday season. H.E.A.T. is Michigan's statewide auto theft prevention program that coordinates citizen action with law enforcement agencies through a confidential toll-free tip line (1-800-

242-HEAT) and website (1800242HEAT.com).

"The holidays are a joyous time of year filled with family gatherings and gift giving," said Terri Miller, director of H.E.A.T. "But, with overflowing parking lots and vehicles filled to the brim with purchases, the holidays are also a dream for car thieves."

The following tips from H.E.A.T. will help you to be more careful and prepared while shopping this holiday season.

- Stay alert and watchful. While walking to your car, take a moment to observe your surroundings. Talking or texting on cell phones, digging for keys or juggling multiple packages can be a distraction, all of which make you an easy target.
- Park in well-lit, high-traffic areas. Try to avoid shopping alone after dark. If possible, avoid

parking near objects that block your view of the surrounding area such as dumpsters, bushes, large vans or trucks.

- Place valuables and purchases in the trunk or out of view. Before leaving your car, make sure anything of value is locked in the trunk or out of sight.
- Remember where your car is parked. Walk directly to your car and do not spend unnecessary time wandering around the parking lot. Walk confidently and with purpose.
- Move your car. If you return to your car in the middle of a shopping trip,

move to another area of the parking lot, even if it means giving up a prime spot. This will deter a thief who may have been watching you unload your purchases and then return to shop.

- If threatened by a carjacker, give up the car. Don't resist or argue. A life is more important than any vehicle, and most carjacking's involve a weapon.
- If you witness an auto theft or carjacking, call the police immediately. If you have any information regarding auto theft, insurance fraud or carjacking, call the 24/7 H.E.A.T. tip reward line

at 1-800-242-H.E.A.T.

H.E.A.T. works with Michigan law enforcement agencies to follow-up on tips. Tipsters are awarded up to \$1,000, if the tip leads to the arrest and prosecution of a suspected car thief or a person suspected of auto theft-related insurance fraud.

Rewards of up to \$10,000 are issued, if a

tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected theft ring or chop shop operators. H.E.A.T. rewards up to \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

The H.E.A.T. tip line is monitored by the Michigan State Police and funded by Michigan's auto insurance companies.

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Dated: 11/30/2011

Publish: December 4, 2011

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Publish: November 27, 2011

Orphaned grizzly cubs arrive at zoo

By Sandra Armbruster
Eccentric Staff Writer

ROYAL OAK — Three orphaned grizzly bear cubs, rescued last month by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, must have felt right at home Friday morning when they arrived at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak.

After all, about an inch of new snow greeted the grizzlies when a Federal Express air craft out of Anchorage touched down at Detroit Metro Airport at around 5:15 a.m. Friday. They arrived at the Detroit Zoo shortly after.

The cubs had traveling companions all the way. "Two members of our animal care staff traveled to Anchorage to accompany the cubs to Detroit. The bears were shipped in crates," said Patricia Mills Janeway, communications director for the zoo. "Three additional animal care staff met the FedEx plane at DTW this morning and transported the cubs in two Detroit Zoological Society vans."

Happy to bring them to their new home was Ron Kagan, Detroit Zoological Society director.

"We're just very excited because the cubs seem to be in good health and they're very busy exploring their new environment," Kagan said.

The cubs are under a strict quarantine for 30 days.

"We are following strict quarantine protocol, so not even our own photographer is allowed in the area where the cubs are spending their 30-day quarantine," Mills Janeway said.

The cubs will remain in quarantine at the Detroit Zoo for 30 days to ensure they have no health issues and to give them



JOHN GOMES | ALASKA ZOO

Three orphaned grizzly cubs arrived in Royal Oak at the Detroit Zoo Friday morning.

time to become acclimated to their new surroundings. Visitors can expect to see them in the bear habitats sometime around New Year's.

The zoo re-issued photos of the cubs taken while they were in Alaska. Clearly, there was plenty of snow on the ground in their native state.

The 11-month-old brothers — named Mike,

Thor and Boo by zoo-keepers at the Alaska Zoo where they were temporarily housed — were orphaned in October when their mother was shot and killed. The cubs are approximately 2½- to 3-foot tall and weigh 100 to 125 pounds. They could grow as tall as 8 feet and weigh 800 pounds at maturity.

After the mother grizzly bear was killed, the

cubs were spotted in residential areas around Anchorage looking for food. The ADFG contacted the Detroit Zoo seeking a home for the trio after determining that the cubs would not survive Alaska's harsh winter on their own. A female grizzly bear typically cares for her young until they reach about 3 years old.

The Detroit Zoo is also

home to two other rescued grizzly bears — 27-year-old female Kintla and 26-year-old Lakota — both of which arrived at the zoo as 2-year-olds.

For many years, the Detroit Zoological Society has helped rescue and provide sanctuary to animals in compromised situations. Among the 316 rescued animals at the Detroit Zoo are a polar bear from a South

American circus, three lions from a junkyard in Kansas and hundreds of animals seized from a Texas exotic animal dealer in the largest animal confiscation in U.S. history.

"We're happy to be able to participate in another animal rescue and provide sanctuary to these cubs," said Kagan.

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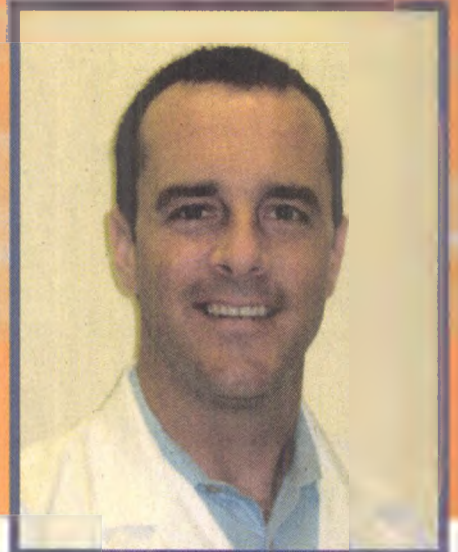
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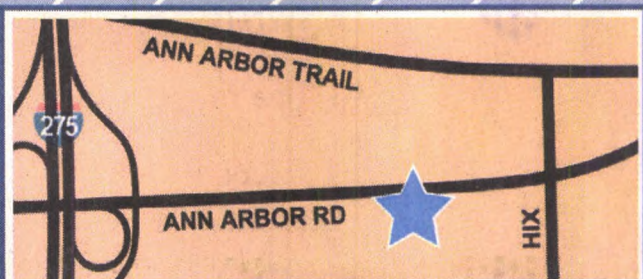
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BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW PT. 1

New-look Chiefs gear up

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Other KLAA teams are very familiar with Canton's Paul Baumgart. The senior is a 6-7 power forward with the ability to go to the rim or hit a trey.

On their radar screen is 6-6 senior center Terrell Sewell, as well as perhaps senior guard Kyle Adams.

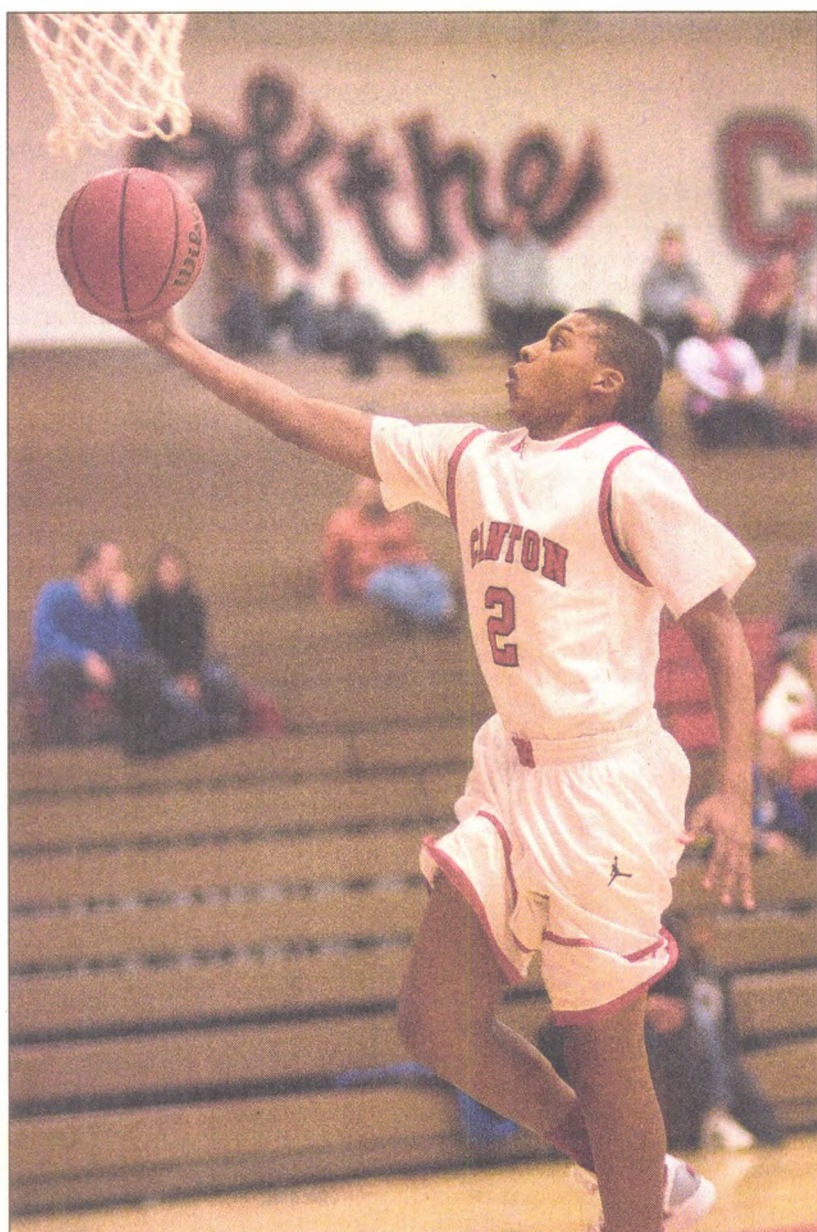
But the rest of Canton's 2011-12 varsity boys basketball team is mostly an unknown quantity, with juniors, sophomores and even a freshman (Greg Williams) learning the varsity game on the fly.

How the rest of the roster performs could tell the tale of whether the Chiefs will be contenders in the KLAA South Division.

"People obviously are going to key on Baumgart, they know who he is, (and) Terrell," said third-year head coach Jimmy Reddy.

In order for the Chiefs to have a potent offense against KLAA South forces such as Westland John Glenn, other players will need to be on target more often than not when opportunities arise.

"They're going to have open shots," Reddy said. "If they make them we'll



Guard Josh Mayberry, shown scoring a basket during his sophomore season, is being counted on to play a key role for Canton in his junior year.

Discovery time

Season full of unknowns awaits Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Last year, Plymouth shared the KLAA South Division crown.

The only thing the 2011-12 Wildcats might divvy up is playing time as third-year head coach Mike Soukup deciphers what he does or doesn't have among a group of largely untested juniors.

Soukup certainly will get to gauge his roster during a stretch of December games, which begins Tuesday at Redford Union.

"It'll be a big time for us," Soukup said. "The first five games are certainly going to have to be a measuring stick for us to figure out where we're at."

"I'm still learning about the boys and the boys are still learning about me. Especially with so many new faces."

Soukup said 11 of his 13 players are new to the varsity.

"They're getting a wake-up call as to how hard they have to play every day at this level," he noted, before a practice last week. Unlike last year, when seniors Brennen Beyer and Mike Nadratowski propelled the Wildcats to a share of the division title (14-7 overall, 9-1 in the KLAA South), Soukup said the '11-12 squad features a group of "interchangeable parts."



FILE PHOTO

Opportunities will abound for players on Plymouth's varsity boys basketball team, promises third-year head coach Mike Soukup.

But that could be a plus when all is said and done.

Mix and match

"What's nice about this lineup is I've got a lot of guys who are similar in size and similar in ability," he said. "A lot of interchangeable parts."

"With last year's group there wasn't an interchangeable part for someone like Brennen Beyer or Mike Nadratowski. They were unique talents. This year's team, you can throw in a lot of different

Please see WILDCATS, B4

WRESTLING PREVIEW PT. 1

'Cats set to emerge

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The Palace of Auburn Hills welcomed Plymouth's Said Youssef in March, as the then-125-pounder became the first Wildcat to ever reach the state meet.

This winter, a number of his teammates will be looking to do the same in what could be a very intriguing season for the Wildcats.

"There are a number of Wildcats who will look to make names for themselves this season and took steps in the off-season by wrestling in multiple tournaments," said Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey, listing Matt Walsh (152), Trey Berry (119), Chase Kallil (125), and Jon Conn (125).

Because of that kind of commitment, and with healthy competition at a number of spots in the lineup, Guernsey is confident Plymouth "will get better as the season progresses and new faces get some much needed mat time."

Of course, he'll bank on another outstanding year from Youssef, who will compete at 135 when Plymouth opens with a home quad meet 5:30 p.m. Wednesday against Salem, Belleville and Dearborn Fordson.

Guernsey said Youssef also will look to build on school



FILE PHOTO

One of the Plymouth wrestlers expected to shine this season is Jon Conn (right), shown competing during a 2010-11 match.

'There are a number of Wildcats who will look to make names for themselves this season.'

QUINN GUERNSEY,
Plymouth coach

records in wins and takedowns. Last season, he finished 46-14 at 125, reaching the first round of the individual finals.

Depth down the line

There is good depth throughout the lineup as the Wildcats look to improve on last season's 1-4 record in the KLAA South Division.

For example, Plymouth will roll out: Mohamed Youssef and Daniel Ahearn at 103; Josh Smith and Brandon Harris at 112.

Berry is locked in at 119 while Kallil and Conn bring skills to the 125 slot.

Splitting duties at 130 are Slat Hacker and Hussein Youssef while at 140 vying for bouts will be DK Kim and John Rubio.

Please see WRESTLING, B4



Battling for the puck Friday night are Salem's Jack Driscoll (No. 28) and Livonia Stevenson's Tim Kelly.

Rocks fall hard, 4-0

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Ryan Ossenmacher didn't mince words after his Salem boys hockey team dropped a 4-0 game Friday night to Livonia Stevenson at Plymouth Cultural Center.

"Tonight it didn't matter who we played," said Ossenmacher, following the KLAA South Division matchup. "We could have played Stevenson, we could have played the Red Wings, we could have played a pee-pee team. If

you're not going to work hard than you're not going to beat anybody, especially in this league."

Ossenmacher said he was disappointed and frustrated that for the first two periods "we had a group of guys that didn't show up and didn't work hard, and before you knew it you're losing 4-0."

Not to fear, the Spartans (5-1-0-0) came out strong and played a complete game, with junior goalie Connor Humitz

Please see ROCKS, B2

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ROCKS

Continued from page B1

only needing to stop 18 shots — eight coming in the third, when the Rocks played their strongest period.

Stevenson then got on the board with 6:57 to play in the first when senior forward Mario Tomei scored the first of his two goals in the contest.

A dump-in by senior forward Nate Sink caromed into the right circle in Salem's end and Tomei cut in with a backhand that sailed over the left shoulder of Rocks' junior netminder Anthony Veresan.

Before the frame ended, Stevenson made it 2-0 on a nifty goal by senior forward Thomas Ross.

Right after the Spartans killed off a penalty, Sink set up Ross who went forehand-backhand before shooting the puck past the extended reach of Veresan.

Taking control

In the second period, Stevenson kicked it up a notch, outshooting Salem 15-4 and scoring two more goals.

With 8:18 left in the stanza, senior blueliner Cody Strauch lugged the puck up ice and fed sophomore forward Devin Kelly with a pass.

Kelly then sent a cross-crease pass to senior forward J.D. Byrne for a one-timer near the left post that Veresan had no chance on,



Salem forward Austin Sartorius (No. 14) fends off a check from Livonia Stevenson's Chris Catalano during Friday night's varsity boys hockey game. In the background for the Rocks is defenseman Colin Pietron (No. 21).

giving Stevenson a 3-0 edge.

Two minutes later, the Rocks (0-2-0-1) got a big scare when senior forward Austin Sartorius collided with a Stevenson player just inside the Spartans blue line.

Sartorius tumbled and hit the ice hard; he eventually skated gingerly to the bench but returned later in the period. Ossenmacher said Sartorius suffered a deep bone bruise on his right leg.

Stevenson then took a 4-0 lead at 10:45, with Tomei's second goal resulting in a

goalie switch from Veresan (19 shots, 15 saves) to sophomore Parker Godfrey (10 saves).

Sink collected his third assist of the night on the play, threading a pass to Tomei in the slot. Tomei snapped a high shot over Veresan's blocker.

"Mario was good for us tonight but we had a lot of guys that were good for us," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "It was a pretty balanced attack."

"The nicest part about that win was the zero and Con-

nor Humitz was good for us in net."

In a case of too-little, too-late, the Rocks played a stronger third period, outshooting the Spartans 8-5.

"We decided to show up in the third period, and it was a 0-0 game in the third," Ossenmacher said. "It's frustrating. ... Give them credit. They made us look bad."

He added that the fact his team has a number of players new to the varsity no longer is an excuse for poor play.

"This is our third game, five if you count scrimmages," Ossenmacher said. "And the inexperience card only works for so long."

"The reality was two of our better players tonight, (sophomores) Jack Driscoll and Jason Newel, are new guys. Far and away they were our best forwards tonight."

PLYMOUTH 3, FRANKLIN 2: Freshman goalie Matt Monendo stopped 33-of-36 shots, but it wasn't enough Wednesday as the Wildcats (2-3, 1-1) held off host Livonia Franklin (1-1, 0-1) in a KLA South Division encounter at Edgar Arena.

Matt Goertz, Zach Gambrell (power play) and John VanDenBeurgery tallied goals for Plymouth.

Matt Vanhulle scored for the Patriots from Josh Dudek to cut the deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

Franklin pulled Monendo in the final minute and scored on Tyler Satkowiak's goal from Danny Donahue and Brian Roulier.

Wildcat netminder Rich Guglielmi had to make only 11 saves.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Early goal blitz powers Penguins

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Scoring on the very first shift Tuesday night proved to be a good omen for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins.

The combined girls hockey team needed just 12 seconds to put a puck into the Walled Lake Wild net and 21 more to go up 2-0.

With Nicole Natelborg registering three goals in the first period, PCS cruised to a convincing 7-2 victory at Canton Arctic Edge Arena.

That improved the Penguins' record to 2-0 in Division 2 of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League entering Saturday's road matchup against D1 Port Huron.

"We have been working on our forecheck in practice the last few weeks and pressuring the puck which really paid off this game," PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson said. "The girls came out fired up and put the pressure on Walled Lake right away."

"We won the opening face off and took it right down the ice and scored."

Mariah Tucker (two goals, two assists) lit the lamp on that opening shift, with Emily Bullock and Jackie Lough setting up the goal.

Lough enjoyed a six-point game with two goals and four assists.

The game was only 33 seconds old when Natelborg scored her first of the period. Assisting on that tally were Lough and Tucker.

PCS scored three more times before the horn sounded.

Natelborg's unassisted goal was followed by Lough's marker (from Tucker and Natelborg).

With just 57 seconds to play in the first, Natelborg completed her hat trick. Earning helpers on that goal were Tucker and Bullock.

Completing the PCS onslaught were Lough and Tucker, scoring in the second and third periods, respectively.

Cortny McAdoo assisted on Lough's tally with Lough collecting the assist on Tucker's second of the night.

Playing well to earn the win for the Penguins was goaltender Becky Lough, in her first start of the season.

The only Walled Lake player able to score was Emma Crone, with one of her goals set up by Jordan Maynard.

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Garrett Meurs rescues Whalers in OT

Just over a half-minute away from losing a third-straight game, the Plymouth Whalers' Garrett Meurs scored late in regulation to send Friday's game against Sault Ste. Marie to overtime — and he then won it 4-3 with a goal in the extra session.

About 2,100 fans at Compuware Arena were treated to the thrilling conclusion of the Ontario Hockey League matchup, which lifted the Whalers' record to 18-8-2-1 in the West Division (first place).

After the Greyhounds built a 3-1 lead after 40 minutes, the Whalers started chipping away when Mitchell Heard scored at 4:39 against Soo goalie Jack Campbell (33 saves). Assisting were Meurs and Stefan Noesen.

But that's how the game stayed for the next 15 minutes, until Meurs struck for the equalizer at 19:27 with Plymouth netminder Scott Wedgewood (32 saves) pulled for the extra attacker.

Setting up the goal was Rickard Rakell.

Meurs followed up with the winning goal (his 12th of the season) at 1:19 of overtime, with assists going to Heard and Dario Trutmann.

The visitors went up 1-0 after one period but forward Jamie Devane evened things up in the second period (with an assist to Cody Payne).

But Nick Cousins scored two straight goals for the Greyhounds (14-11-2-1 in the West Division) to take a 3-1 lead after 40 minutes.

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There's a lot to dig about this volleyball team

FIRST TEAM

Maddy Doyle, Sr., OH, Mercy: The 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter received the highest honor possible for a high school player when she was named the 2011 winner of the Miss Volleyball Award.

Doyle was a fixture in the Mercy varsity lineup her entire prep career and is best known for her powerful spikes. But she's a solid, all-around player who excels in every aspect of the game. Doyle was an obvious choice for the Class A all-state first team, and she is a repeat member of the All-Observer team. She has a scholarship to play at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

"Where do I begin?" coach Loretta Vogel said. "Maddy was a four-year starter at Mercy. She was instrumental in leading the Mercy program to back-to-back Final Fours, including the 2010 MHSAA final appearance. Maddy's career was highlighted by a 32-kill performance versus Temperance Bedford in the 2010 semifinal."

Alaina Turner, Sr., OH, Canton: The senior co-captain crushed the ball and opponents with her offensive firepower at the net. She tallied 623 kills and chipped in with 38 blocks, 67 aces and 403 digs.

Turner's outstanding season, which helped the Chiefs reach the Class A regional final for the first time in school history, garnered several impressive honors.

At the top of that list was selection to the All-State first team. She also earned spots on the all-KLAA and all-region teams and received a full-ride scholarship to play volleyball at the University of Dayton.

"Alaina was a huge part of our success," coach Mary Kryaska said, "and was a pleasure to coach. Her drive to get better each day was something everyone looked up to her for."

"She was a go-to player in the front row and a closer."

Lindsey Lerg, Sr., OH, Mercy: Lerg was another regional standout for the Marlins, who were ranked No. 1 in the state during the regular season and finished with a 64-4 record. The 5-foot-7 senior was Mercy's right-side hitter and a complement to Doyle in the front court. She also excelled at serving, digging and passing. A three-year starter, Lerg is a repeat member of the All-Observer first team and was named to the Class A all-state third team.

"Like Maddy, Lindsey was instrumental in leading the Mercy program to back-to-back Final Fours, including the 2010 MHSAA state final," coach Vogel said. "Lindsey is one of the best liberos in the state. At Mercy, she is an outside hitter for us. This just shows how athletic Lindsey really is."

Kristen Muir, Sr., OH, Canton: Another player instrumental to Canton's 42-10 season, Muir tallied 374 kills as part of a lethal offense. The co-captain contributed 91 aces and 551 digs, showing her proficiency at the serving stripe and on defense.

For her efforts, she was named to the all-state third team, as well as all-KLAA and all-region squads.

"Her leadership is something that will be very hard to replace," Kryaska said. "Her dominant attitude kept our team together. She was very mentally tough and it was contagious to the other players."

"She was so smart with all her plays and she would rather get us a



Maddy Doyle
Mercy



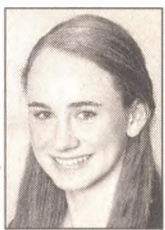
Alaina Turner
Canton



Lindsey Lerg
Mercy



Kristen Muir
Canton



Katie Tomasic
Stevenson



Kenzie Kettner
Ladywood



Kelli Young
Farmington



Jenny Rhodes
Ladywood



Erica den Boer
Canton



Katie Horton
Wayne



Kristin Malcolm
Plymouth
Christian



Emily Norscia
Churchill



Haley Schneider
Farmington



K. Schoeppner
N. Farmington



Elena Lamping
Mercy



Kelly Vellucci
Stevenson



Lindsay Stemberger
Plymouth



Mary Kryaska
Canton coach

point than have the glory of a hard hit."

Katie Tomasic, Soph., OH, Stevenson: The 6-foot outside hitter led the Spartans with 587 total kills and 416 digs, along with 66 blocks and 55 aces en route to co-MVP honors.

Tomasic also earned Class A third-team all-state, all-KLAA and all-region honors as Stevenson finished 39-12-2 overall and reached the state quarterfinals.

"When I saw Katie the first time walk into the gym for summer camp I knew she was going to be a great athlete," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said. "She played with true confidence and had great success as a freshman. From summer team camp to our last match of the season, Katie was a dominant force. She has such a great work ethic, works hard and puts everything into every aspect of the game with 100 percent effort. It was so very exciting to see her play, watch what she was going to do and how she was going to do it. What a great honor to have the opportunity to see what she can do her two remaining years."

Kenzie Kettner, Sr., OH, Ladywood: The 5-7 senior outside hitter averaged four kills per set for the Blazers, who reached the Class B regional finals. Kettner earned all-Catholic league and all-region honors.

"Kenzie was our primary serve receiver and an all-around player," Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. "She was our go-to player and top offensive threat while carry the defensive and passing load as well."

Kelli Young, Sr., OH, Farmington: The 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter excelled in all areas of the game and led the Falcons to a 31-11-6 record. She had 321 kills (three per game) and a kill efficiency rating of .247 with 827 total attacks. Young recorded 46 aces, 44 blocks and 296 digs. She was all-OAA Red first team and all-region.

"Kelli is an all-around athlete," coach Kim Sturm said. "She is solid at hitting many offensive shots — down the line, strong angle, roll shots, etc. — and she also makes some amazing plays defensively."

"She is creative and one of the most focused players I have ever coached. I appreciate Kelli's willingness to be coached and her drive to improve."

Jenny Rhodes, Sr., OH, Ladywood: The 5-8 senior outside hitter repeats as a first-team all-area player after averaging 2.75 kills, one ace and seven digs per set.

Rhodes also earned all-region and all-Catholic League honors.

"Jenny is an all-around player," Craggs said. "She was a top defensive player and serve receiver. She was a great server and was very consistent in all areas of the game. She could, and has, played any position for us."

Erica den Boer, Jr., OH, Canton: The third Canton front-row player on

2011 ALL-OBSERVER VOLLEYBALL TEAMS FIRST TEAM

Maddy Doyle, Sr., OH, F.H. Mercy
Alaina Turner, Sr., OH, Canton
Lindsey Lerg, Sr., OH, F.H. Mercy
Kristen Muir, Sr., OH, Canton
Katie Tomasic, Soph., OH, Liv. Stevenson
Kenzie Kettner, Sr., OH, Liv. Ladywood
Kelli Young, Sr., OH, Farmington
Jenny Rhodes, Sr., OH, Liv. Ladywood
Erica den Boer, Jr., OH, Canton
Katie Horton, Jr., MH, Wayne Memorial
Kristin Malcolm, Sr., MH, Plym. Christian
Emily Norscia, Jr., MH, Liv. Churchill
Haley Schneider, Sr., MH, Farmington
Kaitlyn Schoeppner, Jr., MH, N. Farmington
Elena Lamping, Sr., MH, F.H. Mercy
Kelly Vellucci, Sr., S/OH, Liv. Stevenson
Lindsay Stemberger, Sr., Lib., Plymouth

SECOND TEAM

Maggie Deloy, Sr., OH, Canton
Sarah Gutknecht, Jr., OH, Farmington
Madelyn Betts, Jr., OH, Plymouth
Whitney Fields, Jr., MH, Farm. Harrison
Keri Horton, Sr., MH, Wayne Memorial
Amanda Terrenella, Sr., MH, Luth. Westland
Lauren Martin, Sr., S, Canton
Alex Hines, Sr., S, Liv. Ladywood
Cassie Ford, Sr., Lib., Garden City
Jordan York, Sr., Lib., Liv. Stevenson
Katie Vincent, Sr., Lib., Salem

THIRD TEAM

Minta Whitaker, Jr., OH, Garden City
Arielle Paris, Jr., OH, Red. Thurston
Amy Zinn, Sr., OH, Plym. Christian
Nicolette Busuito, Jr., OH, Red. Union
Cheyenne Woodall, Sr., MH, Liv. Ladywood
Ayanna Buckley, Soph., MH, Clarenceville
Marissa Pomaville, Jr., MH, Liv. Churchill
Erin Menard, Sr., MH, Liv. Churchill
Jessica Scott, Sr., S, Plymouth
Nicole Williamson, Sr., Lib., Liv. Franklin

FOURTH TEAM

Kara Hewett, Sr., OH, Salem
Jamie Coleman, Jr., OH, Farm. Harrison
Sarah Headrick, Sr., OH/DS, West. John Glenn
Lexus Medina, Soph., MH, Huron Valley Luth.
Brooklyn Holbrook, Sr., MH, West. John Glenn
Rachel Pebbles, Sr., S, Red. Thurston
Mary Dulzo, Jr., S, F.H. Mercy
Jenny Malcolm, Soph., S, Plym. Christian
Allie Dest, Sr., Lib./DS, Huron Valley Luth.
Emily Weiss, Sr., Lib., N. Farmington

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mary Kryaska, Canton

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Audrey Durocher, Jackie Tolles, Krystyn Niescier, Franklin; Kelly O'Brien, Andrea Thompson, Rachael Kapchus, Raquel Garza; Stevenson: Allie Koestering, Morgan Copperstone, Holly Mossioian; John Glenn: Jordyn Coniam, Claire Truskowski, Katie McNally; Wayne: Samantha Hershhey, Danielle Robbins; Ladywood: Kristine Aurand, Olivia Quinn; Clarenceville: Ashley Murphy, Tonya Vernier, Angela McAlpine, Jodi Ankie, Nicole Kurdziel; Lutheran Westland: Taylor Wiemer, Erica Killian, Hannah Conley, Marissa Hahn; Huron Valley Lutheran: Paige Schmidt, Madison Dest; Harrison: Sharee Latham, Marissa Cotton; Farmington: Srishti Pilludra, Kendall Maxwell, N. Farmington: Kaitlyn Kendall, Lauren Caverly; Mercy: Jenna Lerg, Molly O'Sullivan, Catherine Morgan, Alexis Schultz, Meghan Cleary, Jaclyn Ruffolo; Canton: Jackie Waite, Rebecca Middleton, Jordan Tubaro, Alex Bryden; Salem: Brooke Berberet, Quinn Fillingier, Katie Heitmeyer; Plymouth: Emilee Beyer, Shayla Smalls, Rachael Hill; Plym. Christian: Sarah Howard, Jessica Rich; Thurston: Kayla Valdez, Ryan Menard; Redford Union: Elizabeth Gazley, Caitlin Scanlon; Garden City: Cayla Bone, Jackie Lagraft.

the All-Observer team, the junior was rewarded for a stellar season with selection to the all-KLAA and all-region teams along with being an all-state honorable mention recipient.

She contributed 293 kills along with 41 aces and 431 digs, joining Turner and Muir for a tough-to-stop front row.

"Erica's a very dynamic player," Kryaska said. "I could count on her in every position without a complaint. She was a player who practiced and competed as hard as she

could 120 percent of the time. I love her dedication, hard work and optimism."

Kryaska said den Boer is intent on playing college volleyball, but has not committed yet.

Katie Horton, Jr., MH, Wayne Memorial: Considered one of the best kept secrets in the state, the 6-1 junior middle hitter earned first-team all-area honors for the second straight year after accumulating a team-best 537 kills, 247 digs and 181 blocks for the Class A district champions.

"When you think of a volleyball player immediately Katie Horton comes to mind," Wayne coach Samantha Dye said. "Katie is an aggressive athlete with the best attitude. She is not only a team player, but a team leader. She would do anything for her teammates."

Horton has committed to play at Ohio University.

"When Katie is on the court you get to watch something magnificent. I have never seen an athlete so excited to be on that court. It's where she belongs and she lets people know that."

Kristin Malcolm, Sr., MH, Ply. Christian: The four-year starter capped an outstanding high school career for Plymouth Christian, leading the Eagles to a 43-7-4 record. PCA earned division, Class D district and regional titles along the way.

Malcolm was her usual powerful self in the front row, with 664 kills (a hitting pctg. of 47.8) and 128 blocks. She added 67 aces and 213 digs to the mix.

Also a team co-captain for three seasons, Malcolm was named for the second straight year to the Class D all-state first team, along with selection to the all-region and all-MIAC teams (on the latter, she was named MVP).

Next year, Malcolm begins her volleyball career at Hillsdale College.

"She is absolutely remarkable to watch on the court," coach Kelly Blackney said. "She has such an innate awareness of the game — and an ability far beyond her years."

"She is definitely ready to compete at the next level."

Emily Norscia, Jr., MH, Churchill: The 6-foot junior outside hitter notched a total of 524 kills and hit a .458 percentage en route to all-KLAA and all-region honors.

The third-year varsity player also served 48 aces.

"Emily was our go-to kid all season and she didn't disappoint," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "We expect her to have a senior season that is second to none. Emily is quietly ranking her self among the Churchill elite and now ranks third all-time with 1,178 career kills."

Haley Schneider, Sr., MH, Farmington: The 6-foot-4 senior middle provided the Falcons with an imposing presence in the

front court for three seasons. Her quality of play earned her a scholarship to Kent State University. Schneider had 287 kills and 101 blocks this year. She averaged three kills a game and had a .381 kill percentage with 567 total attacks. Schneider also served 42 aces and had 54 digs. She was all-OAA Red first team and all-region.

"Haley was a valuable player on our team, especially in blocking," coach Kim Sturm said. "She wants to be matched up against the other team's best hitters. She is also a force on offense with her ability to hit a very strong swing attack as well as tough serving."

"Haley's three years of varsity experience made her comfortable with the level of play, and she also enjoyed working with our younger players."

Kaitlyn Schoeppner, Jr., MH, N. Farmington: The 6-foot-3 junior excels as a middle hitter and blocker, but she's a complete player who stays on the floor. A three-year starter, Schoeppner had 527 kills and a .246 efficiency rating; she also had 67 blocks, 43 aces and 281 digs. She was named Maxpreps.com Player of the Week in Michigan and has given a verbal commitment to Mississippi State.

"She's an awesome player," coach Jessica Condeni said. "When she walks into a gym, she commands respect. She has the ability to change the momentum of a game with one big swing. She's a powerful player."

"She doesn't ever settle; she's not content with how good she is right now. She continues to want to get better. She's an all-around, complete player; she's not just an outside hitter. She plays excellent defense and can serve aces."

Elena Lamping, Sr., MH, Mercy: With the 6-foot senior in the middle, the Marlins featured an outstanding front-court trio. Lamping was Mercy's primary blocker, and she provided an effective alternative to the attack as a hitter. Lamping's contributions were crucial to the Marlins winning the Catholic League championship and being regional runners-up. A four-year starter and all-state honorable mention, she plans to play college volleyball but has not made a commitment as yet.

"Elena really came into her own this season," coach Vogel said. "She was able to establish the middle attack and control our offense."

Kelly Vellucci, Sr., S/OH, Stevenson: The versatile 5-11 senior outside hitter and setter was the Spartans' co-MVP after finishing the season with 509 kills, 530 assists, 42 aces, 46 blocks and 340 digs.

The team captain earned second-team Class A all-state honors along with all-region and all-KLAA.

"Kelly is one of those kids that you wish you had every year coming back," Graham said of the four-year varsity player.

"I have always had confidence in her talents, had the confidence knowing she would do anything for her team to be successful and she never gave up on that effort. Kelly loves the game, put forth so much effort and worked hard at practice and was a great leader this past year. She has been a joy to coach. I am thankful to have had her and am also happy that she ended her senior year with as much success as we did."

Lindsay Stemberger, Sr., Libero, Plymouth: The Wildcats' senior co-captain and team MVP sparked the team to a successful season in the very competitive KLAA South Division.

Stemberger, a third-year varsity player and National Honor Society member, was a defensive standout, with 456 digs, 662 receptions and a .922 passing percentage. She augmented that with 52 aces and 32 kills.

She was selected to the all-KLAA and all-region teams and earned MVP honors at the University of Michigan Tournament.

"Lindsay was not only our defensive leader on the floor, but she contributed to the team in ways that other coaches could only wish for," said first-year coach Sarah Marody about the libero. "Lindsay had a determination and drive for the game that was unmatched."

"Above the incredible skill, she had heart for the game which can't be coached. Lindsay left it all on the floor every game, every practice."

COACH OF YEAR

Mary Kryaska, Canton: Early this season, the Canton alum and former varsity player decided her team needed to improve in on-court communication and passing — with the ultimate goal of getting everybody involved in the action.

It didn't take long for the Chiefs to excel in both areas and it helped spark a 42-10 record along with division, conference, district and regional championships.

Canton knocked off No. 1 Farmington Hills Mercy in the Class A regional final to reach the state quarterfinals for the first time ever.

In Game 5 against Clarkston, the Chiefs were one close call short of making the Final Four.

"We made history for Canton volleyball this year," Kryaska said. "Division champs, conference champs, district champs and regional champs."

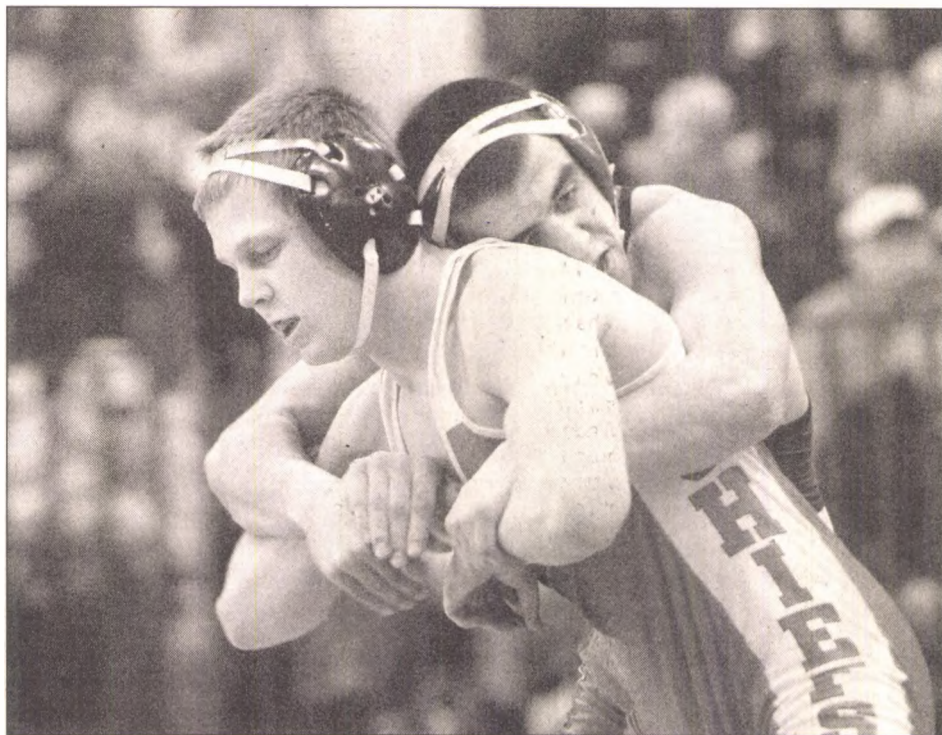
"I absolutely love coaching and I will really miss this team."

She also loves volleyball, and her passion for the sport resonates with the players.

Kryaska is quickly making her mark as head coach, too.

After graduating from Canton in 2001, she joined the Chiefs staff as an assistant coach and took over the helm in 2009.

During that three-year span, the Chiefs have compiled a record of 115-33.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of last season's wrestling mainstays for Canton, D1 state qualifier Zach Marsh, is back to lead the 2011-12 Chiefs.

Eagles can't derail Dexter

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Those dreaded Dreadnaughts were simply too big for Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team Thursday night.

Dexter, a Class A team with two players 6-1 or taller, steamrolled Class D Eagles 55-36 thanks largely to a couple lengthy runs comprised of layups and putbacks.

Scoring 14 and 12 points, respectively, were centers Emma Kill (6-1) and Olivia Cares (6-2). Adding 10 points to the Dexter cause was 5-9 senior forward Sirah Camara.

"They're a great team inside," PCA head coach Carol Gerulis said. "Not only their post players, their guards are great passers into the post. So we weren't able to defend that the way I wanted them to."

"But (the Eagles) worked hard, I thought we did a good job considering our size and our youngness."

Leading host PCA (0-2) with 18 points was sophomore forward Emily Gerulis, who also contributed five rebounds and four steals.

Also in double digits for the Eagles was junior guard Karen Windle, who scored 11 points (and also had four steals). No other PCA player had more than four points.

PCA also could not match the Dreadnaughts' dead-eye shooting from the free throw line. Starting with the second quarter, which began with Dexter up 12-10, the visitors connected on 14 of 16 free throws. (The Eagles only made seven foul shots all night.)

Taking charge

After a close opening frame, Dexter went on a 10-2 run to open up a 22-12 advantage with 2:45 left in the half. Cares made three layups and Kill hit a fourth during that span.

A trey by Gerulis momentarily stopped the bleeding, but it soon was 26-15.

Then the Eagles briefly



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian's Emily Gerulis (No. 10) looks for a teammate to pass the ball to on Thursday night, but it doesn't help having Dexter's Sirah Camara right in her face.

turned things around with a 7-0 spurt in just under a minute. Defensive pressure led to a couple of Dexter turnovers that led to PCA buckets.

Sophomore guard Rachael Fuller scored, and so did Gerulis on a nifty bank shot.

Windle then connected on a shot taken from the side of the key while being knocked to the floor in the process. Her subsequent foul shot made it a three-point play to slice the deficit to four (26-22).

With 15 seconds remaining, PCA missed the front end of a 1-on-1 which could have made it a two-point game. Dexter then scored at the horn for a six-point halftime lead.

The second half started on a promising note for the Eagles, with Gerulis knocking down a triple from the right corner to make it 28-25.

Downhill fast

But that's when the wheels fell off. Dexter scored the next 12 points of the stanza (going up 40-25 after three), helped along by PCA suddenly not being able to hit their outside jumpers.

"I thought the third quarter is what killed us," coach Gerulis said. "We only scored three points. ... Can't win if you don't score."

Dexter opened the fourth with a 7-3 surge to build a 49-28 lead and the spread hovered around 20 points the rest of the game.

The lone highlights for PCA during the final stages of the non-conference tilt were treys by sophomore center Jenny Malcolm and Windle.

On Tuesday at Ida, the Eagles fell 55-22 with Gerulis and sophomore forward Rachel Smith each registering seven points.

Despite the tough opening week, coach Gerulis said her team should benefit from playing two strong teams from other conferences.

"Our conference (Michigan Independent Athletics Conference) is tough," she emphasized. "We have teams like Liggett in there. And I want (PCA) to compete and play better. I love to play better teams."

"... It's better if you play someone who's better than you because then you have to rise your level of play and that's how you get better."

The Eagles next host Franklin Road Christian on Monday and visit Southfield Christian on Dec. 13 in the first division matchup.

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Transition awaits Chiefs

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Division 1 state champion Anthony Abro left an incredible legacy at Canton.

But Abro graduated, as did a number of other key Chiefs from the 2010-11 team that went 5-0 to win the KLAA South Division (and 24-5 overall).

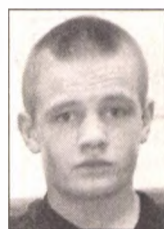
That means a season of change for Canton's varsity wrestling team and head coach Cory Mancuso.

But he is looking forward to whatever unfolds.

"We have a really young team this season," Mancuso said. "We only have three seniors on the team. It will be interesting to see how this team comes together and performs at the end of the season, because growing pains are going to be inevitable."

Those three seniors are pretty good, however, providing part of a still-impressive nucleus.

State qualifier Zach Marsh is one of those returning seniors, and he



Griffin

will handle duties at 152. Last year, he tallied a 42-10 record in the 140-pound class, falling in the state quarter-

finals. The other seniors are Keshav Patel (130) and Sean O'Keefe (189). Both will start in their weight classes.

Canton's other All-State performer in 2010-11 was Ben Griffin, owner of a 56-3 record at 103. He reached the state quarters.

Moving up

This winter, Griffin — like Marsh — is moving up on the latter. He'll be at 112, but is expected to not miss a beat.

Mancuso has several other returnees who were point getters last season.

Those include juniors Richard DeMarois (39-7 at 112) and Marc Przyblyski (21-15 at 130). They'll open at 119 and 145, respectively.



Pantaleo

Add to that list sophomore 140-pounder Alec Pantaleo, who made the D1 regional quarterfinals in the 112-

pound weight class in 2010-11. He went 48-4.

"We still have some studs throughout our lineup that we will be able to lean on throughout the season," Mancuso said.

Two newcomers to watch include freshman Isaiah Johnson (starting at 103) and Ty Jasmann (backing up Pantaleo at 140).

Rounding out the Canton lineup are juniors Austin Pilmer (125), Ryan Siegler (135), Ryan Graczyk (160), Allan Beckman (285) and sophomores Jevon Hill (171) and KJ Wooley (215).

Canton opens up Wednesday in a quad meet at Walled Lake Northern.

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WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

Slotted for the 145 weight are Prince Pamimi and Tarek Tamimi. Handling duties in the 152 weight class will be Walsh and Chris Novasky with

Joey Shaver penciled in for 160.

Moving to the higher weight classes, Plymouth's lineup includes either Matt Ayoub or Cody Hunley at 171; Mark McCormick or Freddie Dunbar at 189; CJ Mullins at 215 and Adam Dulong in the heavyweight spot.

"The team will get better as the season progresses and new faces get some much needed mat time," Guernsey added. "This is a team that will be much better in February than it is in November."

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WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

guys and not lose anything."

Soukup added that one player who definitely stands out is senior point guard Marcus Oden, who brings a mix of poise, consistency and good court sense. But Oden starts the season still sidelined by a knee injury.

"I expect Marcus when he gets healthy to have a big year," Soukup said. "He's going to have to have a big year for us to be really successful."

Regardless of when Oden returns, the Wildcats backcourt probably also will include juniors Jake Divens and Brendan Swanson, who both are excellent outside shooters.

"Brendan Swanson and Jake Divens will provide shooting and steady guard play from the wings," said Soukup, adding that junior guard Ryan Karr is another player who will make his share of shots from the perimeter.

Soukup is really looking forward to finding out how junior guard Josh Priebe fits in the lineup. Priebe split last year between the varsity and JV.

"I'm looking for him to have a good season this year and really build on some of the things he started last year," said Soukup about Priebe.

Adding a different look will be senior guard-forward Donte Fox, the football standout who did not play basketball as a junior.

"We're certainly blessed to have someone of his athletic caliber," Soukup said. "He also brings a certain edge and toughness from the football field that we really, really needed."

Fox (5-10) will help the cause along the perimeter as well as in the paint when

"It's invigorating, scary and nerve-racking all at the same time."

MIKE SOUKUP

Plymouth varsity head coach

needed.

Meanwhile, Soukup is expecting contributions up front from junior forwards Sid Acharya (6-3), Brian Schmid (6-1) and Shane Clark (6-4).

Committee work

Because most of the team hovers around the 6-foot mark, however, the Wildcats are "going to have to rebound by committee. We don't have a guy who can really wipe the glass clean by himself. It's going to be a big key for our season."

Junior guards Matt Carravallah, Tyler Gamblin, Michael Kennedy and senior guard Jalen Eason (all 6-foot) complete the roster.

But Soukup said they could all make their presence felt, with "toughness and energy minutes."

"All those guys are about the same size," Soukup said. "So if someone is having an off night, there will be plenty of opportunities out there for guys to earn minutes every single day."

The various scenarios that could play out this winter mean anything could happen as Soukup and the Wildcats figure out what kind of team it will be.

"It's invigorating, scary and nerve-racking all at the same time," he said with a grin of anticipation.

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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

be hard to guard."

Season of change

That inside-out approach is a change from the first two years of the Reddy regime, which featured spectacular point guard Dietrich Lever II.

"It's really an entirely different team, an entirely different identity," said Reddy, whose 2010-11 team finished 16-6 to share the division title with Plymouth. "We're still trying to find that identity. But it's going to be different than last year."

"It's still early, but we're going to play a lot more inside-out than we did last year."

That new game plan will be on display 7 p.m. Tuesday in the season opener at Canton against Berkley of the Oakland Activities Association.

Of course, most of the fans will be watching Baumgart and Sewell (each are co-captains, along with Adams and senior guard Miles Felton).

"He (Baumgart) is our most talented player," Reddy noted. "He's become more of a vocal guy. We're asking him to do a lot of things and he's got to step up big for us if we're going to be successful."

As for Sewell, who started most of last season and had much success, the coach is looking for consistency and may-

be even double-double results.

"Last year he started 20-21 games for us and did well," Reddy said. "But we need him to do more this year for us if we're going to be good. I'm expecting a really good year from Terrell. I just want him to be consistent player this year for us."

Defense won't rest

Adams and Felton (the latter still vying for a starting spot) will be called upon to defend, defend and defend some more. And if a shot is open, hopefully knock it down.

"Kyle and Miles are both really good perimeter defenders, they were last year," Reddy said. "We need them to be our best two defenders this year. Miles does a great job guarding the ball and Kyle does a better job of guarding people on the wing, in the perimeter. "And Kyle's got to be able to make an open three for us this year. He's definitely going to get opportunities."

So will junior guard Marty Peck, who split time last season between the JV and varsity. "He (Peck) made some big shots for us last year. We expect him to come in and shoot the ball."

The second starting guard is returning junior Josh Mayberry, who the coach said "is going to bring the ball up for us a little bit this year."

Felton and Peck probably will either start or see significant minutes off the bench at the third

guard position.

Freshman phenom?

Other guards who might push them for playing time include junior Ryan Planey ("he can shoot it") and Williams.

"Greg Williams, a ninth-grader, I really like his ability to play basketball at both ends," Reddy said. "He's working his way in, I expect him to play and give us some things."

"(He's a) good passer, he can make an open three. I'm excited about his future."

Reddy added that it is rare to give keys to the Canton car to a freshman.

"There haven't been too many freshmen on the varsity in Canton history," Reddy said. "He's going to be in the mix, that's why he's up here."

Baumgart and Sewell will need to play major minutes because 6-7 sophomore forward Jordan Nobles is sidelined until January with a broken ankle.

But Reddy likes what junior forwards Scott Gring (6-4) and Adnan Baez (5-9) bring to the party.

Gring, on last year's varsity, can hit shots from the outside and Baez is merely the team's hardest worker, according to Reddy.

"I love the way he (Baez) competes right now," Reddy said. "He's that kind of energy guy. He pursues the ball really hard and he's got a high motor."

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Trial offers free cataract surgery

Patients participating in a clinical trial of a new multifocal lens will receive free cataract surgery, eye drops and pre-and post-surgical office visits at the Coburn-Kleinfeldt Eye Clinic, which has offices in Livonia and Dearborn.

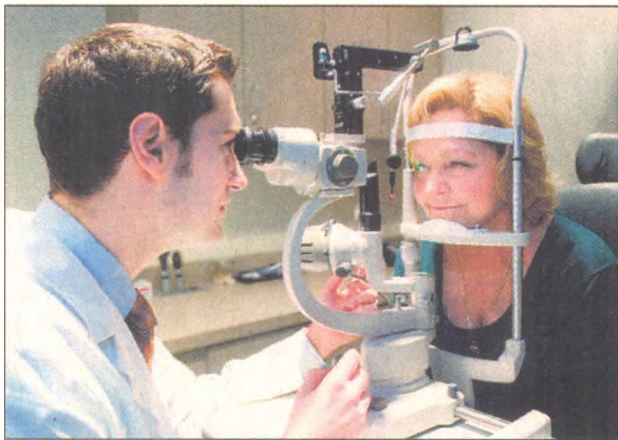
The lens, by Alcon, is designed to improve vision after cataract surgery. Alcon will cover costs associated with the surgery and provide a stipend for patients who complete all required office visits.

The clinical trial is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Half of the patients will receive the new multifocal lens and half will receive a

lens which is currently approved for use after cataract surgery. A multifocal lens, which reduces the need for glasses after cataract surgery, usually costs about \$2,000 and typically is not covered by insurance.

The Coburn-Kleinfeldt Eye Clinic is one of only 16 sites nationwide for the Alcon multifocal lens clinical trial. Patients will be examined at the Coburn-Kleinfeldt Eye Clinic at 33400 W. Six Mile, Livonia or at the Dearborn Office, 24800 Michigan Avenue. Cataract surgery will be performed by board-certified ophthalmologists.

The clinical trial requires that patients



Dr. Nate Kleinfeldt examines a patient.

are over 18 years of age, need cataract surgery in both eyes and meet specific vision criteria. Individuals who have had previous eye surgery, dry eyes or retinopathy are not eligible. Enrollment

continues through February 2012.

For information about qualifying for the clinical trial, call (734) 421-2020 during business hours.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

December

ST. MARY MERCY

• Kevin Moore, director of rehabilitation and wound care services at St. Mary Mercy Hospital will talk about fall prevention at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7 in the hospital auditorium. The hospital is located on Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Participants will learn to recognize fall risks and develop strategies to minimize the prospect of serious injury. This presentation will focus on impaired vision, medications, physical fitness, osteoporosis and the environment. It's free, but registration is required. To register visit stmarymercy.org and click on "classes & events" or call (734) 655-8950.

• Dr. Harmesh R. Naik, an oncologist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will give a presentation, "Nutrition, Medication and Treatment of Breast Cancer," from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13 in the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Atrium at the hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. Call St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162 for more information or visit stmarymercy.org.

INTERACTIVE SEMINAR

Dr. Tina Schuster, co-director of DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital's Robotic Surgery Program, will discuss prostate health, cancer and the latest treatments for urologic problems, including robotic surgery, during a free, online seminar, noon-1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9. Participants will be able to submit questions and receive responses from Schuster by e-mail through an online "chat" format. Participants can join the online live discussion by logging onto www.hvsh.org/prostatehealthchat. Advance registration is not required but individuals may sign up in advance for an e-mail reminder.

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.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP

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

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina at (734) 837-7700 with questions.

Get advice on fibromyalgia support

Helping Our Pain and Exhaustion (H.O.P.E.), a fibromyalgia education and support group in Farmington Hills, is offering kits designed to help recipients start and maintain their own fibromyalgia support groups.

"Support groups are critical tools that tell our friends, family and neighbors suffering with fibromyalgia that they are not alone," stated Sharon Ostalecki, H.O.P.E. executive director. "Twenty years ago, my own life changed completely when I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia. At that time, information was scarce and help was hard to find. With the help of other fibromyalgia sufferers I learned to understand my condition and discovered how to manage my own pain."

"These kits are our free gift this holiday season to fibromyalgia sufferers across Michigan, so they can learn to better manage their pain, find relief and know that they are not alone."

The organization is offering the kits, which contain educational and training materials, in response to requests from individuals who are



Fibromyalgia support group kits are available from Help Our Pain and Exhaustion.

interested in starting support groups and learning about the support available in their communities.

Fibromyalgia is a disease primarily afflicting women. Patients experience long-term, body-wide pain and tender points in the joints, muscles, tendons, and other soft tissues. In addition to pain, fatigue and problems with sleep are seen in almost all patients with fibromyalgia. Many

complain that they can't get to sleep or stay asleep, and they feel tired when they wake up. The disease has also been linked to headaches, depression, anxiety, and other symptoms.

The author of numerous books, Ostalecki graduated from Eastern University with a bachelor's of science degree and a master's degree in physical science. She holds a Ph.D. in nutrition and specializes in fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue. Her practice is in Novi.

H.O.P.E. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to develop and execute programs dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with fibromyalgia. The Michigan-based organization's vision is focused on raising fibromyalgia awareness and providing advocacy for chronic pain patients and their families.

A small shipping charge may apply to the kits. For more information about fibromyalgia and H.O.P.E. or to obtain a support kit, call (248) 344-0896 or visit www.hffcf.org.

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Wednesday, December 7, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD
Thursday, January 5, 6 p.m.
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **Keeping Your New Year's Resolution**
Be successful at keeping your exercise and nutrition goals.
Guest speaker Kevin Moore, OTR, MSA, WCC
Thursday, January 19, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.
Location: Bailey Center in Westland
- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**
Guest speaker David Mendelson, MD
Thursday, January 26, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD
Thursday, February 2, 6 p.m.
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **"Stay Awake" Series: Insomnia and Sleep Hygiene**
Guest speaker Punitha Vijayakumar, MD
Neurologist and Board Certified Sleep Specialist
Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-4640 to register or for more information.

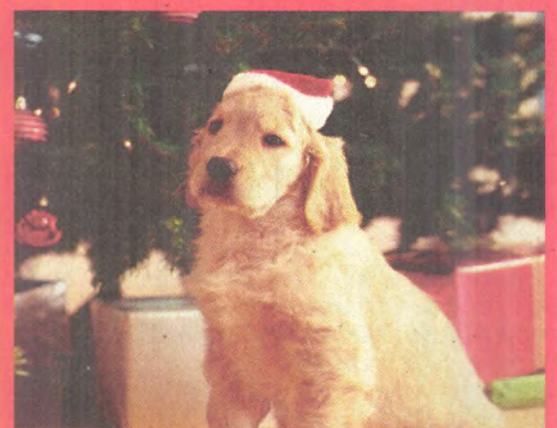
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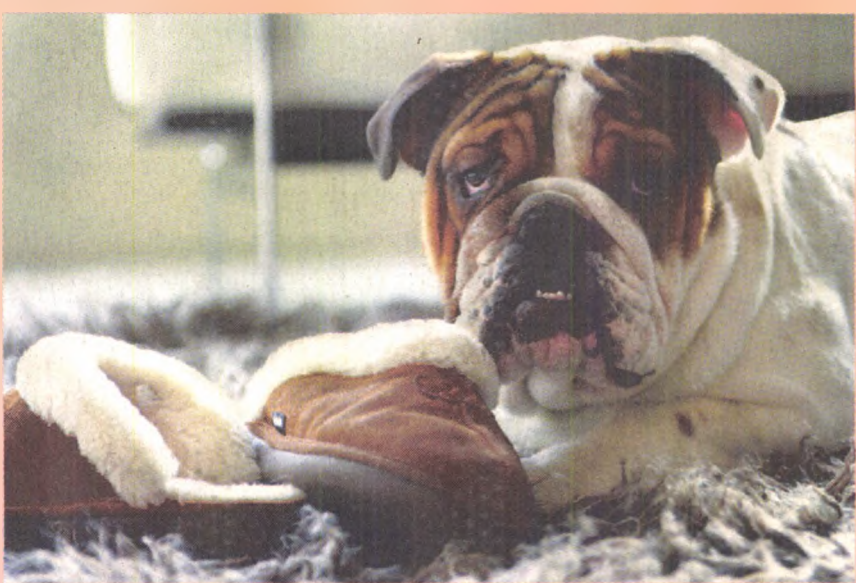
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Making a difference

Say 'Happy Holidays' while helping animal rescues

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Batty Koda was left for dead on the side of the road.

Ginger nearly succumbed to a fatal disease.

Barkley lost his family. They're among 17 dogs whose stories — all with happy endings — and smiling faces grace the pages of a 2012 wall calendar designed to raise funds for Foster Rescue, in Livonia. The piece was designed by Aileen Klebba, a graphics design student at the College for Creative Studies and a Last Day member, also raises awareness about homeless animals, fostering and volunteering with the group.

"I thought, what better way to get our name out there than in a calendar," Klebba said. "We got a photographer (Jessica Yeager) who donated her time to us. Every penny goes to the rescue."

"The pictures are so darn cute. I love doing it because we have all sorts of dogs."

Last Day Dog Rescue, which saves animals from high-kill shelters, as well as strays and owner-surrendered pets, sells the calendar for \$12. Buy five and the sixth one is free.

They're available by contacting Klebba at aklebba@comcast.net and can be mailed in time for holiday gift-giving or picked up at a Last Day adoption event. See the group's Web site at www.lastdaydogrescue.org for a list of locations. Proceeds help pay

for food, vet bills and continuing the group's work.

"We pride ourselves in taking in all breeds and all ages no matter what kind of shape they are in," Last Day president, Pam Peterson, wrote in the calendar. "There is not a cat or dog too old or too homely we will not take in to find them a home."

Although most animal welfare organizations say their priority needs are volunteers and monetary donations, merchandise sales also help defray their expenses and market their cause. Many of the items they sell make perfect holiday gifts for pet lovers. Here's a sampling of other local groups with items for sale:

• Better Life Canine Center

The group takes mostly owner-surrendered dogs and trains them in obedience before sending them to permanent homes. Founder Brenda Woody, along with volunteers, instructs the dogs at her Westland home.

The T-shirt the group sells includes the group's logo and the message that "there are no problem breeds, just problem owners."

"There is a scripture from proverbs about the shirt, too. It's about having wisdom," Woody said. "Gaining understanding and having wisdom is what we're about."

Shirts sell for \$15 and are available at the group's adoption events. Visit www.betterlifecaninecenter.org



Last Day Dog Rescue's 2012 includes stories and photos of canines that have found new homes through the organization.



Better Life Canine Center's T-shirt sports its logo on the front and saying on the back.

more information.

Woody also accepts monetary donations on behalf of gift-givers. Donate to the group in a loved one's name and she'll send a specialty letter confirming the gift on their behalf.

"You can't have bake do to raise money and do this kind of rescue," Woody said. "We had five dogs come in with heartworm. The medicine cost us \$600-\$1,000 for each dog."

• New Beginnings Animal Rescue (NBAR)

The group's navy blue T-shirts sport the word "adopt" in bold letters along with a colorful illustration of a cat or dog. Shirts cost \$12.

For \$40, pet lovers can commission one of the organization's adoptable cats to paint on canvass.

Jennifer Fritz, a Garden City resident and NBAR vice president, said she and NBAR founder, Lisa Hill, of Royal Oak, came up with the cat painting idea after visiting Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah.

"We watched pot-belly pigs paint and thought,



Jennifer Fritz, a Garden City resident and board vice president of New Beginnings Animal Rescue, wears the group's "Adopt" T-shirt. A cat version also is available.

if pigs can do it, our cats can, too," Fritz wrote in an e-mail.

Customers pick the paint colors and the cat

or let NBAR choose the feline artist.

"Little known fact is

Please see RESCUE, B8

2011 CHRISTMAS TREE GUIDE

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Mutch's HIDDEN PINES LLC 303 W. Newark Rd. Lapeer (1/2 mile east of M-24)

Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce

- Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate and more!
- Wagon rides • Visit with Santa from 10am to 4pm Sat. & Sun. only
- Cut your own & pre-cuts
- Free Shaking, Bailing and Drilling

Business Hours:
Friday, November 25, 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday's Dec. 2, 9, 16, 12:00pm-5:00pm
Saturdays & Sundays, Nov. 26-Dec 18, 9:00am-5:00pm

810-667-2711 www.mutchshiddenpines.com

CHRISTMAS TREES Middle Road Tree Farm
248-887-1494 Cell: 248-891-2135
Concolor • Fraser • Balsam • Canaan • Blue Spruce

OPEN 7 DAYS Nov 19th to Dec 23rd

ALL U-CUT TREES \$40

US-23	Fraser Fir	4235 Mixed	Concolor Spruce	Blue Spruce	White Pine
US-23	Fraser Fir	4235 Mixed	Concolor Spruce	Blue Spruce	White Pine

PRE CUT TREES Starting At \$8/ft.

Senior Discount with ID • Expires 12/23/11

10% OFF

www.middleroadtreefarm.com

The Ho Ho Ho Company
www.HoHoHoCo.net
Celebrating 20 years on Woodward

FRASER FIRS
Outstanding Needle Retention

WE DELIVER

Weekly iPod (Nano) Giveaway
Coloring contest 1st, 2nd & 3rd place
Guess the Holiday word of the day and receive 50% off purchase!

We fresh cut, bail & load on your car
Nice thick, fresh Mixed Wreaths & Mixed Garland

31786 Woodward Ave
Next to Pier 1 Imports, 13 1/2 Eastside

North Star Premium Christmas Trees

3ft-12ft Trees:

- Douglas, Fraser & Concolor Firs
- Scotch & White Pine
- Blue & White Spruce

• Potted trees • Tree stands • Wreaths
• Roping • Grave Blankets

10% OFF WITH AD!

Bring in your stand we will fresh cut, prune & fit your tree to your stand!

7300 N Wayne Rd • Westland N of Warren, next to McDonalds
(734) 578-7038
Open 7-days a week

HOWELL CONFERENCE & NATURE CENTER
Christmas Tree Sales

Open Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting November 25

1005 Triangle Lake Road, Howell
1 Mile West of D-19 (Pinckney Road),
6 Miles South of Howell

HUGE SELECTION OF FRESH-CUT FRASER, DOUGLAS, AND CONCOLOR FIR. POINSETTIAS, WREATHS, & ROPING ALSO AVAILABLE.

Featuring Michigan Snowfresh Trees

Tree shaking & wrapping.
Wildlife display and refreshments on the weekends.

Sales support the Nature Center's Wildlife Programs

howellnaturecenter.org — 517-546-0249

U-CUT-FIR, PINE and SPRUCE
Open 7 days, 10AM 'til DUSK
CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY

HOLTZ CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION

9381 Day Road near Maybee, MI
734-587-3155

Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall)

SPECIALS

Directions: SOUTH on US-23 to exit 25. Right on Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd., turn left 3 miles to farm P. Holtz Est. 1947

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All trees shaken, wrapped and drilled for free!

HOUSE TREES UP TO 19 FT. • WREATHS

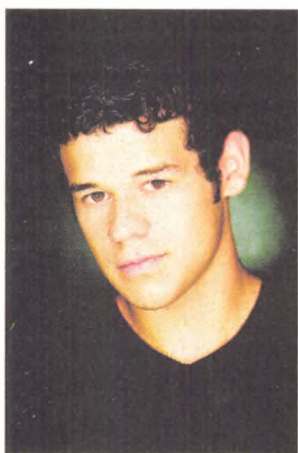
Open Fri. Sat. & Sun
9am till Dark

3090 Dutcher Road - Howell
Take D-19 (at I-96 exit 137) South to Coon Lake Road. West to Dutcher Road, follow the signs.

HOMEMADE Donuts, Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Cider and a Gift Shop in our warm barn.

(517) 546-3890 For more information and a map www.Waldocktreefarms.com

Event aids health, arts organizations



Joey Catalano of Livonia will perform in a comedy skit at an event benefitting the Alzheimer's Association and The Actor's Workshop.

Performarama, a mix of song, comedy and acting, will benefit the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Michigan and The Actor's Workshop, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, at The Magic Bag theater, just north of Nine Mile in Ferndale.

Joey Catalano, a Livonia resident, is among the actors from The Actor's Workshop, who will perform in "The Uranus Players Theater presents Nick Danger - Third Eye," a comedy radio skit originally performed by Firesign Theater.

Other featured performers will include actor-singer Jeff Caponigro and recording art-

ists Stewart Francke and L'Stubbs. Blaine Fowler of WDVD-FM 96.3's morning show, "Blaine and Allyson" will emcee the event, which is presented by film and state director Brian Lawrence and producer Aida Munoz.

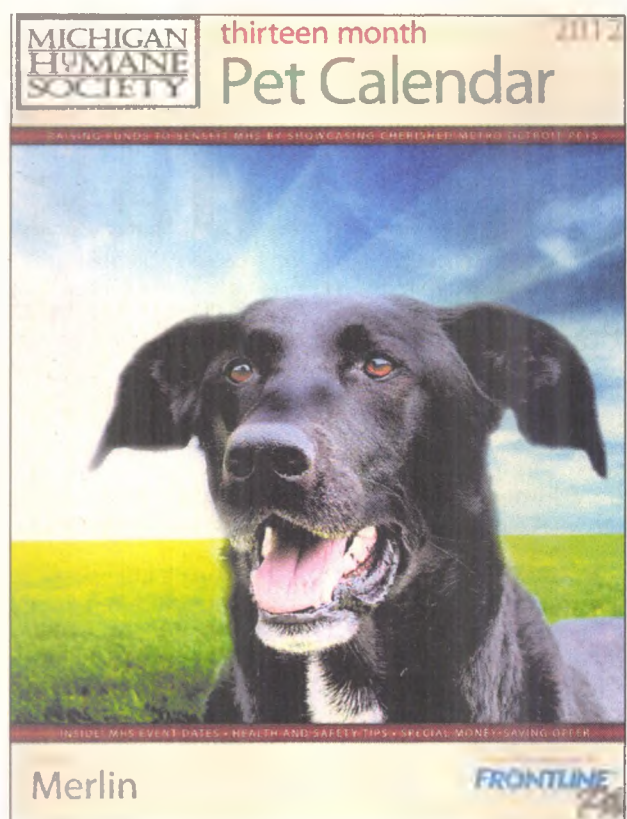
Lawrence also founded and directs The Actor's Workshop in Royal Oak.

Kerby's Coney Island, the event's food sponsor, will provide free food to attendees. A cash bar also will be available. Individuals must be at least 21 years old to attend the show.

"Considering the steep prices of concerts and other forms of enter-

tainment these days, for only \$25 someone can support both a major health concern and Michigan arts; experience a most unusual show of world-class entertainers; see Detroit-radio star Blaine Fowler in person; and, get free food from Kerby's Coney Island," stated Marc Berke of the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter.

Advance tickets are \$25 and available by calling the Alzheimer's Association at (248) 996-1060 or by visiting www.performarama.eventbrite.com. Tickets at the door are \$30.



The Michigan Humane Society calendar features local pets.

Keep the holidays safe with these tips

Christmas Trees

• Always buy a fresh cut, healthy tree. You can check by looking and feeling. The tree must be green, the bark moist and green, and the needles should bend and not break.



Lon Grossman

• Run your hand down a branch. If the tree is fresh, some needles will fall off but only a few.

• Tug on a few needles; they should be difficult to pull off.

• Bend a few branches; if they snap off or crack, the tree is too dry and won't last.

• When you get the tree home, cut a few inches off the bottom of the trunk at an angle so the tree can absorb more water.

• Set the tree in a sturdy tree stand. Make sure the base or legs are sturdy to keep the tree stable so that it will not tip over, which can pose a danger to children and small pets.

• The stand should be able to hold a lot of water and the water should be checked and maintained. A six-foot tree requires approximately one-gallon of water every other day.

• Do not place the tree next to, or close to fireplaces, heaters, radiators, heat registers or candles.

• Never place the tree in front of

a doorway or in the path of any exit source in case of an emergency.

• If you use, or are planning on buying an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant.

• Install a smoke/fire detector as well as an ABC fire extinguisher in the room with the tree.

• Ribbons and tinsel are a big temptation for small children, cats and dogs. It can wreak havoc in the pet's intestines or stomach. Small children also love the shiny tinsel and bows on presents and need to be supervised or the tree needs to be barricaded.

Holiday plants

• Poinsettias are a common household Christmas plant, but toxic to little ones and pets. The sap from the leaves may cause vomiting and skin irritation. Avoid placing it where pets and children may reach it.

• Christmas Mistletoe is also a favorite to hang where people can kiss under it. Hanging it high up is best as the berries from this plant are highly toxic for children and pets. Remove the berries for the best safety precautions.

Lights

• Only use UL listed labeled lights and cords.

• Never use electrical lights on a metal tree.

• Before using any and all holiday lights, inspect all connections and cords. Look for cracked, brittle or frayed wiring or cords.

• Do not coil or tie extension cords when in use. They could overheat.

• Inspect all lights for broken or damaged sockets.

• Make sure the bulbs work and are not loose or missing.

• Never use indoor extension cords, outdoors.

• Never lay cords under carpets or across walks or steps.

• Outdoor light sets should be marked "waterproof."

• Never shorten or splice light sets.

• Make sure all outside lights are plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (G.F.C.I.) outlet.

• Do not overload electrical outlets. If you are trying to use dozens of light sets, plug them into different outlets on different circuits.

• Turn off, or better yet, unplug all tree lights and decorations when going to bed or leaving the house.

Lon Grossman is president of Technihome Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdiy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website www.technihome.com. Follow Lon's Blog at <http://drdiy.wordpress.com/>.

RESCUE

Continued from page B7

that every cat is a great painter. People who have gotten the paintings just think they're cool and unique."

NBAR maintains a pet food pantry for South Oakland County residents and adopts cats and dogs out to "forever" homes in the tri-country area. For more information, or to buy shirts or cat paintings, visit www.nbar-michigan.org. Payment also can be sent to NBAR, P.O. Box 298, Garden City, MI 48135.

Humane Society of Huron Valley

A small gift shop sells logo items, such as T-shirts, as well as pet-related goods, at the shelter, located at 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Dexter. Buy the 2012 shelter calendar, featuring

photos of animals that have been in the organization's care, inspirational quotes and pet care information, for \$15 at the shelter or online at www.hshv.org. Holiday cards and gift certificates also are available. (734) 662-5585

The Michigan Humane Society

The organization, that maintains shelters in Westland, Detroit and Rochester Hills, sells apparel, mugs, games, pet items, and more through its online store at www.ShopMichiganHumane.org. Its 2012 pet calendar costs \$15 and features photos contributed by area pet owners. The organization also sells holiday greeting cards. Buy the calendar and cards online or visit the Berman Center for Animal Care at 900 N. Newburgh, in Westland; (734) 721-7300.

Home Not Comfortable?

These are the usual suspects:

IDC

Heating • Cooling • Plumbing

734-727-0223 | www.idchvac.com

Fully Licensed & Insured

Furnace Clean & Safety Check

\$69

(Reg. value \$99)

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From plumbing to heating and air conditioning, we provide all of the home services necessary to ensure your family stays comfortable. So don't risk your peace of mind - just call us!

<p>Furnace Safety Check</p> <h1>\$69</h1> <p>With coupon • Expires 12-31-11</p>	<p>40 Gallon Hot Water Tank Installed</p> <h1>\$699</h1> <p>With coupon • Expires 12-31-11</p>	<p>1/2 Horsepower Garbage Disposal Installed</p> <h1>\$299</h1> <p>With coupon • Expires 12-31-11</p>
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- Games • Gags • Adult Balloons
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- Adult Gift Wrap & Greeting Cards

35592 Warren • Westland • Next to Westland Mall • 734-762-2000

21354 Hall Road • Clinton Township • 586-465-4688

Hours: Mon. Sat. 10 am - 9 pm; Sun. Noon - 5 pm

Keep appliances in shape for holiday season

I know there are readers who self-cleaned their kitchen range the day before a holiday and then needed immediate service because it stopped working after it self-cleaned. Following the self-clean cycle is the most common occurrence of range failure. I know you want the inside of the stove to look nice when company is walking around

the kitchen but a dirty range is better than no range at all. Clean it after the family has gone home.

Your garbage disposer may take quite a beating when others are putting everything in there to be chewed up. Egg shells, potato peelings, bones etc. are only going to give you plumbing problems real quick. Let the water run for one minute after you shut off the disposer. If you have an inexpen-

sive disposer it will not chew up the food products as fine as an expensive one. Horizontal drain lines under the sink are more prone to plug up and many times need the services of a plumber to clear them. To get the stink out of your disposer, fill it with ice cubes and let them sit for an hour and then turn it on. Add some lemon or orange peels to give it a holiday smell. Keep in mind that there is more bacteria in the kitchen sink than many other places in a home. It's a good practice to clean the disposer with ice cubes on a weekly basis.

Don't forget to clean out the dishwasher using the Tang treatment. If you need to know the formula drop me a line at my e-mail address. If your dishwasher is not cleaning properly, the glasses are all smoky, the silverware is streaked, it could be caused by the lack of phosphates in your detergent. Add some Lemi-Shine to your detergent which is available at some major grocery stores.

My wife had the Knit-

wits (a knitting group) over the other night and a lady named Patti asked me an appliance question. "My dishwasher is 12 years old and not cleaning very well. What kind should I go out and purchase?" When I was done explaining this phosphate problem, I had saved her the cost of a new dishwasher. It's a nationwide problem with only a few giving out the solution.

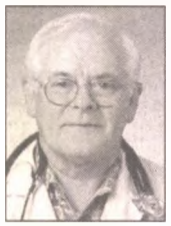
The leftovers in a refrigerator can be the cause of some serious health problems which are not mentioned enough. Because refrigerator temperatures are not as cold as they used to be, food should not be stored for more than three to four days. The U.S. Health Department says that more food poisoning occurs from home cooking than from the restaurant industry and refrigerator temperatures are to blame.

To measure the temperature in your refrigerator, use a probe kind of thermometer and insert it into a jar of something that's been in there for a while. Only then will you

know the true temperature inside the refrigerator. It is very normal to find temperatures over 40 degrees. Remember the old days when the 1948 refrigerator brought it down to 33 degrees?

My friend David had a service technician come out to his house the other day to check out his clothes dryer which was not drying the clothes. He checked out everything including the vent line, which was clear, and proceeded to take the dryer apart. He reached into the blower housing and removed what looked like 100 black golf balls. They were walnuts which a squirrel was storing for a holiday feast. The critters are all over the place getting ready for winter and you should keep an eye on the vent opening outside for the clothes dryer. Spray a little ammonia on the ground out there. Stay tuned.

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



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

REUNIONS

DETROIT MACKENZIE CLASS OF 1962
Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCDHOO

CLASS OF 1967
Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21, 2012 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75
The classes are joining

together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4, 2012. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. Spread the word to other classmates, too. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962
Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19, 2012. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

Arthritis Today

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



NO PAIN, NO GAIN

We hear the phrase often and usually accept its challenge. No pain, no gain may be an excellent motivator, but it is rare that a physician will use no pain, no gain in a plan of medical care.

The truth is, if you feel pain you should stop trying to attain the gain. One purpose of pain is to call an individual's attention to an activity that needs to cease, often immediately, and almost always, as soon as possible.

What are the exceptions?
When a person wants to strengthen muscles, the exercises done to accomplish that end should be designed to bring one to the point of aching but not too much and not too long. The exercises intended to increase strength and stamina should include days of rest in an orderly manner. For example: doing pulls to increase the biceps muscle size should have a schedule of the exercise being done every other day or only 3x/week. On exercise days it is appropriate to push the repetitions or increase the weight to the point of discomfort.

When a person has fibromyalgia, the physician often needs to bring the person to the point of no pain no gain. The reason is that the widespread pain the patient with fibromyalgia experiences means that pain loses its significance as a marker of strain. Exercise done in a persistent manner is the fundamental therapy in fibromyalgia. In this instance, pain must give away its watchdog role and yield to the necessity of effort.

These two exceptions side, pain means cease and desist, for the body there is no gain with pain.

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Guide to Employment
To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

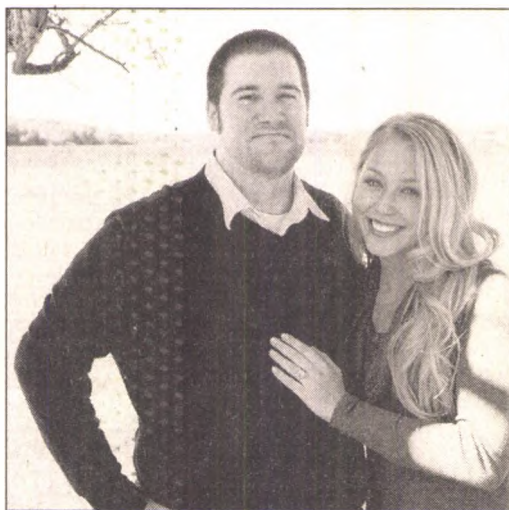
Check out these exciting career opportunities!
For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>ACCOUNTANT/OFFICE COORDINATOR: Go to web site for details: southyln@rstmc.org</p> <p>Activities Aide West Hickory Haven Nursing Center is looking for an energetic team player to fill a position as an activities aide. Position duties include running entertainment programs for residents, as well as assisting certified nurse aids on the floor with resident care. Must be state C.N.A. certified. Apply in person at West Hickory Haven 3310 W. Commerce Rd. Milford, MI 48380</p> <p>AUDIO/VIDEO ALARM TECHNICIAN AVIC Michigan's premier source for AV and Alarm has immediate opportunities available at our Troy location for experienced audio-video technicians and alarm installers. Candidates should have exp. in alarm installation & service, specifically with Ademco, Napco, Moose and DSC panels and exp. in residential or commercial audio-video and/or control systems. For consideration email resume to: postition@avinc.com No phone calls please.</p> <p>AUTO TECH & ASSISTANT MANAGER Exp. d. for extremely busy Oakland City shop. Drivability is a plus. Must have certifications and own tools. Must be motivated. This store has a high earning potential. Apply at Tuffy Auto Service Center of Highland at 2675 S. Milford Rd., Highland, 48357 Call 248-459-2883 or Email resume to: kben-der.kb@gmail.com or fax to: 248-685-9509</p> <p>Take a chance... "It's all about results" 800-579-SELL (7355) www.hometownlife.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>Banking dfcu FINANCIAL Michigan's largest Credit Union Wants you to join their team!</p> <p>FT Mortgage Servicing Rep Minimum 1 yr. mortgage servicing exp and demonstrated understanding of basic real estate functions. Complete job description and locations available at dfcufinancial.com see Mortgage Servicing Rep Applications accepted at all DFCU branches through December 31, 2011 Credit record in good standing required Equal Opportunity Employer.</p> <p>Banking dfcu FINANCIAL Michigan's largest Credit Union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals Now hiring Assistant Branch Manager for the Metro Detroit Area. Minimum qualifications include: 2 yrs. supervision experience in a sales/financial environment. Coaching and customer service exp. Demonstrated professionalism with motivation to attain new skills in a dynamic environment. Complete job description and locations available at dfcufinancial.com See description for Asst. Member Relations Mgr. Accepting applications through Friday, December 30, 2011 Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office. Credit record in good standing required Equal Opportunity Employer.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>Billboard Sign Installer Key Tasks and Responsibilities: *Installing, removing and maintaining billboard structures and advertisements. *Climb ladders and perform job duties at various heights above ground up to 100' *Familiar with the use of power/manual tools, equipment and machinery. *Must attend all safety meetings as required and adhere to all safety regulations Required Skills and Experience: *Should have some billboard or steel erection work experience. *Should have some welding experience *Must be able to lift 75 lbs *CDL B clean driving record *Minor electrical repair *Crane operation helpful Apply in person: Lamar Advertising 6405 N. Hix Rd. Westland, MI 48185 Located btwn Ford & Warren Rds.</p> <p>CLEANERS, Full-Time for area homes. \$10/hr. start. No nights/weekends. Car req. Plymouth. 734-812-5683</p> <p>CLEANING PERSON to clean hallways in apartment complexes. Day work. Located in Livonia. Starting pay \$8.48/hr. Call Mon-Thurs. 8:30-2:30pm. 734-427-4343</p> <p>DAVENPORT SCREW MACHINE OPERATOR Exp d only. Day shift. benefits. Call 313-255-0420</p> <p>Dental Assistant For Birmingham dental office. See full details and apply online at: careerbuilder.com Keyword search: oe08762523</p> <p>DIRECT CARE STAFF Must be trained with valid driver's license. Call btwn. 9:30pm: 734-722-7880</p> <p>DISPATCHER General Office Assistant for concrete products company. 40 hrs/wk. \$12/hr. No benefits. Fax resume: 248-474-5199</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>Dispatcher Part-Time City of Birmingham Seeking energetic, organized & dependable applicants for PT Dispatcher position to handle dispatching of police, fire, EMS operations & related functions. Ideal candidates will be able to deal tactfully w/ a variety of individuals & in diverse and stressful situations. At the time of application, must possess a high school diploma (or equivalent) & min. of 3-4 yrs of prev. work exp. w/ substantial public contact & utilization of a variety of customer service skills. Must be able to work under pressure, exercise good judgment & make sound decisions in emergency situations. Previous related experience, including use of Oakland County CLEMIS & computer aided dispatch systems, preferred. Flexible PT schedule up to 20 hrs/wk starting @ \$14.88/hr. Info & applications at www.bhamgov.org/jobs H.R. Dept. 151 Martin Birmingham, MI 48009. The City of Birmingham is an equal opportunity employer seeking qualified minority and white applicants without regard to race or other protected status.</p> <p>DRIVERS Attention Class A CDL Drivers Exp. Drivers, \$1200 Sign-On Bonus. Exc. miles, home weekly. Orientation Pay. Performance Bonus. or 800-738-7705 x1286</p> <p>Holiday Help \$14.25 base+appt. Call 248-888-9246 or apply online at xmashelp.com</p> <p>HOUSEKEEPER \$20/HOUR Permanent position for a fully experienced, proven trustworthy, reliable, dependable, efficient person who is willing to put in a good days work for a good days pay! Large Bloomfield Hills home with no children, 2 days per week. 6 hours per day. Must have own, reliable car for shopping. Submit resume, including employment history, previous experience as a hired away from home housekeeper, background information and briefly why you are the best person for the job. Police clearance a must! Call: 248-737-4488 or Email: jodib9959@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>Human Resource Manager Canton is now accepting applications for Human Resource Manager Job description with complete qualifications and hiring process are available on the Canton Township website at www.canton-mi.org Application Deadline: 4:00pm 12/16/11 E.O.E.</p> <p>JANITORIAL AREA MANAGERS NEEDED Mon-Fri. from 12pm-8pm. In the Farmington Hills area. \$15/hr. plus paid benefits. Valid driver's license and mgt exp a must. Call: 734-642-0073</p> <p>MACHINE MAINTENANCE Dynamic manufacturer in Plymouth is looking for an experienced individual who has the ability to repair equipment within a plant setting. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter who has experience with CNC equipment. Duties include troubleshooting and system repairs along with other plant duties. Electronics education and background is preferred. Our modern, immaculate manufacturing facility houses the latest in innovative equipment. Competitive wages and a generous benefit package including 401(k). EOE Email resume to: main148170@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>MAINTENANCE/GROUNDS We are looking for a dependable person who will be responsible for the daily maintenance and upkeep of property grounds, facilities and equipment at our Academy/WestPoint Communities. General knowledge of maintenance and minor repair work preferred. Must know how to snow plow. Valid driver's license and good driving record required. We offer competitive pay, medical benefits and 401(k) Plan. Apply online at: CareersAtSunCommunities.com EOE</p> <p>MANUFACTURING ENGINEER/CAD DESIGNER We are looking for a self-starter who is well versed in CAD design with extensive knowledge of AutoCAD and SolidWorks. Exp. in process improvement and automation. We offer excellent pay and benefits. Please fax resume: Wend USA 30975 Century Dr. Wixom MI 48393 Fax 248.926.2525 WENDT E.O.E.</p> <p>Production Workers E.W. Grobbel Sons, Inc. Hiring high energy production workers. \$10-12/hr to start. Open Interviews: Thurs. Dec. 8th 9-11am. Burton Manor 27777 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>SNOWPLOW DRIVER Westland co. min 3 yrs. exp. clean driving record. chauffeur's license. 734-891-8994</p> <p>TECHNICIAN For overhead cranes. Minimum 2 yrs. exp. in industrial electrical control. Benefits & 401(k) Resume to: janek@wolverinecrane.com or fax: 734-467-7105</p> <p>TELEMARKETERS No exp. req. Good pay for good people. Call Sheri. Mon-Fri. 9-3pm. (248) 231-2102</p> <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. Part time office assistant needed. Excl. comm. communication & customer service skills necessary. Visit our website: http://wayne.michib.com to view the full "job posting."</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental</p> <p>PREFERRED PROVIDER DENTISTS We are seeking several licensed dentists who are in good standing and of impeccable quality to provide dental care to residents of nursing homes in exchange for a per diem payment for services rendered. Applicants should be willing to work full time (although part time may be acceptable). Errors and Omission coverage is a must. All equipment and staff will be provided by the Preferred Provider Organization. Please submit a resume during the period of 12/04/11 must be 30 days from publication to 01/02/12 To: Dental Express 23225 Northwestern Hwy Southfield, MI 48075 janep@dentalexpressmobile.com</p> <p>Appointment Desk for Veterinary Practice Seeking full-time (40 hrs), experienced appointment desk pro for busy veterinary hospital. Must have excellent communication, organization and interpersonal skills with ability to multi-task. Looking for a team player who is highly motivated and hard working with commitment to exceptional customer service. Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and evenings. Prior medical/veterinary experience desirable. Full consideration, include cover letter with resume. Email to: jobs@theapracpractice.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical</p> <p>SECRETARY PT (30 hrs) for outpatient clinic in Livonia. M - Th, 3 - 8:30 pm; alternating Fri and Sat 8:30 am - 5 pm. Behavioral health experience desired. Strong customer relations, computer skills. Flexibility required. Resume to: OPCSN_2550_S_Telegraph_Rd_Ste_250_Bloomfield_Hills_MI_48302 Fax: 248-322-0004. Email: snorman@opcpmail.net</p> <p>Veterinary Receptionist & LVT (or equivalent) Part-time at Cherry Hill Animal Clinic in Westland. Includes evenings and Saturday hours. Previous veterinary experience REQUIRED. Send resume by attachment to CHACVET@aol.com Please no calls</p> <p>VETERINARY TECHNICIAN Experienced, full/part-time. Fax resume: 734-326-3234 healthpawsvet4@gmail.com</p> <p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage COOK For assisted living facility. Apply in person: 8121 Lilley, Canton, MI (btwn Joy & Warren)</p> <p>MANAGER Full-time manager at self-serve food establishment in local mall. benefits dependent on experience. Must have experience in food service industry. Reply to: storemgr2011@gmail.com</p> <p>NIGHT LINE COOK 5+ yrs. exp. Must be able to cook all stations. Fast, clean & reliable. Pay based on experience. 734-416-0880</p>
<p>Help Wanted-Dental</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Experienced, self motivated Dental Assistant needed full time for fast-paced office. Implant experience a plus. Fax resume 734-728-1856</p> <p>Help Wanted-Dental PHYSICIAN (Hospitalist) needed to work in Rochester, Michigan One position is open. Employer is Wayne State University Physician Group. Worksite is in Rochester, Michigan. Send resume to John M. Flack, M.D., c/o Kathy Choira, Wayne State University Physician Group, 3800 Woodward Avenue, Suite 212, Detroit, MI 48201. E.O.E.</p> <p>RN Expanding co looking for Disability Triage RNs! Ideal candidate must have an unrestricted RN license w/ min of 2 yrs nursing exp. Preferred background: case mgmt, disability, workers compensation, utilization review, quality management, or independent review. Exc location. No weekends/holidays. hr_mmro@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical</p> <p>Certified Nursing Assistants Exp. in private homes. Plymouth. info@for-hcs.com Fax: 248-443-8343</p> <p>CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT Duties include: clerical work, some billing, taking patients to rooms and learning x-rays. Requires good communication skills, friendly & outgoing personality. Must be mature & responsible & have computer skills. 20 hrs/wk. Mon-Wed-Fri 2:45-7:30PM & Sat. 8:45am-1:30pm. 27527 Joy Rd. Westland. Call mornings Mon-Thurs. Wed. & Fri. 734-522-5501</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Experienced. Part-time for internal medicine office in Livonia. Fax resume: 734-464-9797</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Sales</p> <p>SALES POSITION In the SE area. The ideal candidate shall have a minimum of 2 yrs. exp. selling video surveillance, access control & alarm services in the commercial sector. A majority of your time will be spent creating a new customer base through cold calling. Email resume to: John Henryway (john@securitydesigns.com)</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>Roof Loader/CDL Trainee - \$14/hr Deliver roofing supplies and earn a CDL license! Heavy lifting & roof walking required. Great benefits & overtime! Apply at: Wimsatt Building Materials 36340 Van Born, Wayne</p> <p>Screw Machine Repair/ Set-Up/Operators Master Automatic is seeking Screw Machine Set-Up Technicians and Operators. Potential candidates must have Acme Screw Machine Operator experience. Please complete application or send resume to: Master Automatic, Inc. 40485 Schoolcraft Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170 Fax: 734-459-4598 Attn: Human Resources hr@masterautomatic.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>Recycle This Newspaper</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General</p> <p>TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355</p>

Classifieds Work!

Kaipio-Carden

Amber Kaipio and Mike Carden announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Ron and Kelly Kaipio of Livonia, earned a B.B.A. in marketing in 2010 from Walsh College and is a marketing coordinator for Eisbrenner Public Relations. Her fiancé, son of Tim and Mary Carden of Livonia, earned a BSBIT degree in 2010 from Walsh College. He is employed as a support technician for Real Green Systems. A June 2012 wedding is planned in Plymouth.



Milestones

Yeakel-Camann

Beth Yeakel and Robbie Camann were married July 16, 2011, at Piney River Ranch in Vail, Colo. The bride is the daughter of Doug and Cece Yeakel of Leadville, Colo. She graduated from Denison University in 2007 and is a student at University of Colorado Physician Assistant School. The groom is the son of Rick and Sue Camann of Plymouth. He graduated from Salem High School in 2001, the University of Colorado in 2005 and Cal Poly in 2010. He is



employed as a Structural Engineer with Next Generation Energy in Lafayette, Colo. The bride's attendants were Jenna Yeakel as maid of honor, Brittany Dedman as matron of honor, and bridesmaids Megan Camanocha, Chelsea Dawson, Kim Free-

man, Shelly Wazyniak, and Maggie Wertz. The groom's attendants were Kent Sutton as best man, and groomsmen Justin Yeakel, Jeff Coffin, Ugo Okwumabua, Andrew Maxwell, Chad Siderius, and Chase Carter. Rhys and Ronan Gibson were their ring bearers and Ellen McIntyre was their flower girl. After the ceremony, a reception was held at Donovan Pavilion in Vail, Colo. The couple took a honeymoon trip to St. Lucia and currently reside in Denver, Colo.

Passages
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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BOSKER (PAGEL) CATHERINE C.

84, of Lake City, MI. formerly of Plymouth, MI. November 27, 2011. See online obituary at www.youngfuneral.com

CASADAY, ANNABELLE CATHERINE (COGUT)

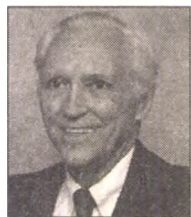
November 18, 2011. Age 81. Beloved wife of the late William. Dearest mother of Patrick Louis and Anita Louise. Grandmother of Douglas Ryan Ziembowicz and Bryan David Ziembowicz. Sister of Theodore (Marie), Delores Gary (Jesse), Angie Newman Pierce (the late Bob & Charles), Joseph (Sally), Larry (Vicki), the late Virginia Martin (Keith), Carolyn and William. Survived by 23 nieces and nephews. Sister-in-law of Patricia. Visitation Monday 2-8pm at the Funeral Home. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery. www.sajewskifh.com

DALE, ROSALIE E.

Age 83, passed away November 25, 2011. She was born on August 21, 1928, in South Lyon, daughter of the late Harold and Evelyn Darling. Rosalie was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother. She could often be found working on her favorite crossword puzzles, watching golf, curling or football. She is survived by her beloved daughters: Sandy McDaniels and Audra (Mike) Renner; her grandchildren: George, Leigh, Tim, Melissa, Michael, Gracie; her great grandchildren, Jonathan, David, Jackie, Jasmine, Jesse, Siena, Jimmy, Zach and Melissa. She is also survived by one great-grandchild Preston and her sister Bonnie and her brother Don. She was preceded in death by her husband Lewis and four children. Visitation was held on Tuesday, November 29 with funeral services Wednesday, November 30, at 1:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to Cystic Fibrosis. Online Guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

LEHMAN, ROBERT E.

Livonia, MI Age 94. Loving father of Janet (Doug) Simpson, grandfather of 4, great grandfather of 7. Preceded in death by his wife Daisy and his son Robert. Visit, Saturday from 5-8 PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. Funeral at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sun., Dec. 3, 2011. Gathering at 12:30 PM with service 1:30 PM. Memorial contributions in Robert's name are suggested to Daisy's Food Pantry at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Robert's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.



O'HARA, JOHN P., JR.

Of Bloomfield Hills, died peacefully November 27, 2011, at Woodward Hills Nursing Center in Bloomfield Hills. He was 93 years old. Mr. O'Hara was born May 4, 1918, in Detroit, to Otilia (nee Leuchtweis) and John O'Hara. A 1935 graduate of U of D Jesuit High School, Mr. O'Hara went on to receive his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Michigan. During the Second World War, he proudly served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy. Professionally, Mr. O'Hara was a deeply respected attorney who enjoyed over 60 years practicing law in the state of Michigan. Admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court, U.S. Tax Court, and all Michigan Courts, Mr. O'Hara was also a candidate for Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court in 1966. In addition to his many legal accolades, Mr. O'Hara also served as a director of the Michigan Humane Society for 34 years. He was also a director of Associates of American Wing, Founders Society, Oakland Hills Country Club, and the DIA. Mr. O'Hara was also on the advisory boards of Providence Hospital, St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Home for Children, and Marillac Hall. A founding member of the Brother Rice High Community, he was a recipient of the Edmund Ignatius Rice Award for Distinguished Service. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend to all, Mr. O'Hara was a man of a great integrity who impacted his community in the best possible ways. He was deeply loved and will be sorely missed. He is survived by his children, Dr. Jack (Randy) O'Hara III, Dr. Ellen O'Hara, Brian (Kathie) O'Hara, and Ann (Ken) Calvert. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Casey, Maureen, Amy, Riley, Nolan, and Evan. John is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Genevieve and brothers, Richard F. O'Hara and Paul R. O'Hara. Services have been held. Memorials appreciated to the charity of the donor's choice. Offer condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com



LEISTRA, NANCY J. (nee Buursema)

November 29, 2011, Age 62. Resident of Troy, MI. Born and raised in Chicago, IL. Long time active member of North Hills Christian Reformed Church. Loving wife of the late Philip W. Leistra, Jr. Beloved mother of Philip III (Andrea) and Jessica. Devoted grandmother of Paige and Brady. Daughter of the late George and Martha Buursema. Sister of the late George Buursema (Joan) and Arlene Bandstra (Arnold). Memorial Service Friday (Dec. 9) 7 p.m. at North Hills Christian Reformed Church, 3150 North Adams, Troy. Gathering at church begins 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes to the church. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 362-2500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



LOGIE, JR. ROBERT G.

85 yrs. old, died November 27, 2011. A devoted husband to Marjorie (deceased) and loving father to Cherie (Gary) Van Vliet, he is also survived by his sisters Jessie Clemens and Helen (Jerry) McMillan, and many nephews and nieces. An outdoor memorial ceremony and interment will be held on Monday December 5, 2011 at 10:00a.m., Parkview Memorial Cemetery, 34205 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Donations to charities serving our local communities requested in lieu of flowers.



REDDEMAN, ERNEST A.

Age 68, of Plymouth, passed away on November 30, 2011. Born in Northville to the late Lester and Ernestine (Hartung) Reddeman. Loving husband of 47 years to Katherine. Beloved father of Daniel (Jennifer) Reddeman and Suzanne (Paul) Knickelbein. Preceded in death by his infant son, Matthew. Proud grandfather of Matthew, Rachel, Nathan, Joshua and Rebecca Reddeman, Paul Thomas, Angela, Jonathon, Emily, David, Elizabeth and Abigail Knickelbein. Dear brother of Marjorie (William) Taylor and Robert (Sandra) Reddeman. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Mr. Reddeman devoted his life to his family. The summer home on Bush Lake known as "Oak Cove" became the Reddeman retreat, and many wonderful memories were made there throughout the years. A funeral service will be held on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 11:00am from Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren Rd., Canton. Friends may visit at church beginning at 10:00am. Visitation at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth, Sunday from 1:30-9pm. Interment at Glen Eden Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Grace Lutheran Church or to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com

WINSTON, SANDRA A.

Age 64, of Farmington. Passed away December 1, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

50th wedding anniversary

Elden and Carole (Wittkop) Zang of Grawn, formerly of Plymouth, will mark their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 23. The Rev. Herbert Fehner officiated at their wedding in 1961 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroe. Attendees were Gail Bert, Carol's sister, and Eugene Zang, Elden's brother. Elden and Carole met while teaching at Bird Elementary School, in the Plymouth-Canton school district. Carole taught sixth grade and Elden taught art. They retired from teaching in 1995 and moved to their current home on Duck Lake. Elden enjoys water-color painting, biking and life on the lake. Carole gardens, knits, bikes, enjoys reading and living on Duck Lake. Together they also volunteer at Interlochen Arts Acade-



my and are active in their church. The couple's children are Kristin Dunsmore (Pat) of Sterling Heights; Jennifer Drake (Jeff) of Warren; Heidi Finlay, (Pat) of New Fairfield, Conn. They also have eight grandchildren — Brian, Ericka, Kevin, Michael, Marissa, Nathan, Audrey and Kelsey — and one great-grandchild, Ava.

Their "grand son-in-law" is Aaron. The entire family will be on hand for a private dinner at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City. They'll also attend Christmas Eve services together at Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann, and will spend Christmas Day at the Zangs' Duck Lake home.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Dec. 8-14

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Dec. 4-7

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Dec. 21
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Special worship services
Contact: (248) 553-3380

CAROLFEST

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. church service, 11:45 a.m. brunch, 12:45 p.m., CarolFest, Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: St. Paul's Singers, children, instrumentalists and congregation, will present a plethora of carols — traditional, folk and contemporary — in the church sanctuary; RSVP for the brunch
Contact: (734) 422-1470

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Fort and Third in downtown Detroit

Details: The Fort Street Choral and Chamber Orchestra present Handel's Messiah. Tickets are \$20
Contact: www.fortstreet.org or by calling (313) 961-4533

SOUP & SCRIPTURE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper, followed by service at 7 p.m. Dec. 7, 14 and 21

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Hearty soup and bread supper followed by Advent service
Contact: (734) 427-2290

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville

Details: The church's Christmas concert will feature its chancel choir, children's choir, teen choir, handbells and orchestra. Admission is free
Contact: (248) 374-4740

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers Christmas concert; \$10 general admission; \$7 for senior citizens and students, 12 and older
Contact: detroitlutheransingers.com

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: "Twelve Bells of Christmas," bell concert by the Capital City Ringers of Lansing, directed by Jane C. Wright. Donations accepted for admission
Contact: (734) 459-0013

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11

Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 30th Annual St. Aidan Christmas Concert, featuring the St. Aidan Adult and Children's Choirs, and the St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble. There is a minimum donation of \$5 per person, along with two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go toward food baskets for the needy
Contact: (734) 425-9333

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, will present a holiday choral concert. The concert will be followed by a reception in the church's social hall. Proceeds from ticket sales will support a mission project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, by a team of 10 Newburg Church members who will travel there in April 2012. Tickets are \$12. Sales will be final on Dec. 7.
Contact: (734) 459-5631

COUPLES PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Covenant of Love, a new marriage ministry at the church sponsors "Couples Holy Hour," to help couples prepare their marriage for Christmas. Includes fellowship and refreshments
Contact: For information or to arrange for childcare call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200; www.livoniastmichael.org

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

Details: Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound along with various bake sale items
Contact: (734) 427-2290

CRAFT FAIR

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: Craft/vendor fair with door prize raffles
Contact: Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822

NEW PASTOR

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills

Details: The Rev. John Straub will be installed as the new pastor
Contact: (248) 553-3380

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T3 with 18-55IS + EF55-250	\$549.99	\$299.99	\$200.00	\$649.98
T3i with 18-55IS	\$899.99		\$100.00	\$799.99
T3i with 18-55IS + 55-250	\$899.99	\$299.99	\$250.00	\$949.98
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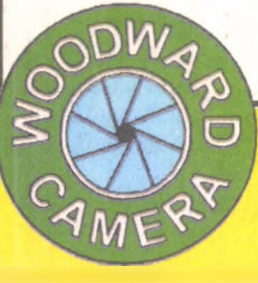
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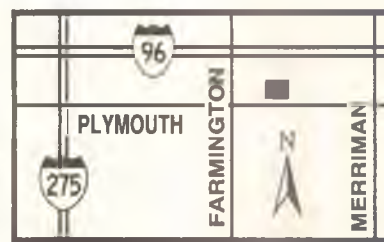
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