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Last of 'Daisy'

It's the final weekend for Barefoot Productions' presentation of "Driving Miss Daisy," with former Michigan Made & More owner Sandy Marulis in the lead.

In addition to Marulis, the production features Calvin Carson of Southfield and David Fedewa of Plymouth.

The production runs Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Barefoot Productions Theater on Main near the railroad tracks.

Tickets are \$16 for general admission, \$14 for students and seniors, and are available by calling the Barefoot Productions box office at (734) 560-1493.

United Way support

AT&T Foundation, continuing a legacy of support for United Way, made a contribution of \$3,000 to Plymouth Community United Way. In 2012 alone, AT&T gave \$5.77 million to 574 local United Ways across the country.

"We are thankful to AT&T and their employees for their generous donations," said Marie Morrow, president of the Plymouth Community United Way.

A day of honor

Plymouth ceremony salutes veterans

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

World War II veteran William Neu hadn't really given much thought to the idea his war's participants are now the oldest living veterans when he attended Sunday's Veterans Day ceremony in downtown Plymouth, a fact that apparently became true when the last living World War I veteran died earlier this year in England.

Neu, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-46, was just glad to see the couple of hundred people who filled Veterans Memorial Park to say thank you.

"It's gratifying to see there are people who do want to remember, and who do want to say thank you," said Neu, who has lived in Plymouth Township more than 50 years.

That was, as always, the idea behind the ceremony: Thanking veterans for their years of service. The ceremony was put together by VFW Posts 528 and 6695 (and the 6695 Auxiliary), and American Legion Posts 391 and 112 (along with 112's Auxiliary) and emceed by retired Marine Lt. Col. Steve Monaghan.

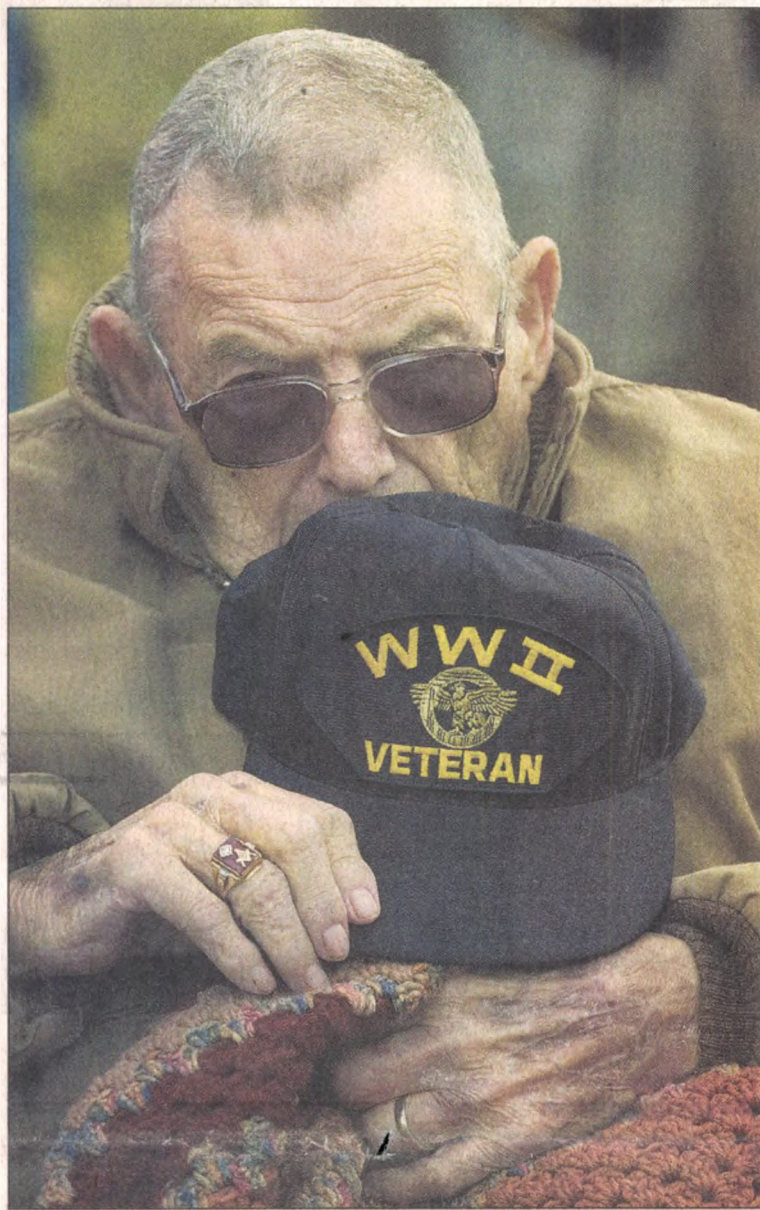
Monaghan, who also emceeds the Memorial Day tribute, generally gives young people a "homework" assignment at that ceremony, to learn what they can about the military and to thank a veteran for his service.

This week, Monaghan got a small indication his hope for an educated younger generation might be coming true.

"My 12-year-old daughter came to me at the breakfast table and, unprompted, gave me a kiss on the forehead and said, 'Thank you for your service,'" Monaghan said proudly. "The kids are getting it."

The American Legion's Frank Pawelak noted the American Legion has some 3 million veteran members, that the total veteran population is "somewhere around 23 million" and that there

Please see VETERANS, A7



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
World War II veteran Bill Clark observed a moment of prayer at the beginning of Sunday's Veterans Day ceremony in Plymouth.



Steve Monaghan salutes Rick Ciaramitaro, who spoke on the 237th anniversary of the United States Marines.

Among the best

Plymouth-Canton's drum majors and guard members accept the award for being the 12th place finalist at Saturday's Bands of America grand national competition in Indianapolis. It's the first such honor for the band since 2008. For more on the accomplishment, please turn to page A10.



TERRI SAENZ

Pair: Church land buy is a bad deal

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Two Plymouth businessmen are urging city officials to put the brakes on a plan to buy church property and turn it into a parking lot for people who work and visit downtown.

Downtown property owner Bob Bake and Scott Lorenz, the owner of the public relations firm Westwind Communications, say the Downtown Development Authority's plan to buy property at First Church of Christ, Scientist, on Ann Arbor Trail west of Harvey, is a bad deal for the city. At \$775,000, the parcel is overpriced, a parking lot there would be too isolated to be of much use and the footprint of the property to be kept by the church would mean an odd lot configuration that would hinder future redevelopment, they argue.

"We believe there needs to be more details brought out on this purchase," Bake told officials at a DDA board meeting last week. Downtown business people, Bake said, are "depending on you for a well-thought out purchase."

"This deal, it doesn't stand scrutiny any kind of scrutiny," Lorenz said.

Adding spaces

Officials, however, defended the plan, which they say would immediately add some 100 parking spaces. The long-term plan is to tear down the church sanctuary and develop a new lot of about 200 spaces.

Please see LAND, A5

Mercury spill forces plant evacuation, cleanup

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Hazardous materials specialists were called in Tuesday after a spill of liquid mercury at a Plymouth Township aerospace manufacturer.

The incident forced the evacuation of Ventura Aerospace, on Port Street east of Beck, and about 10 people in the area of the spill had to be tested for mercury exposure, said Jack Akey, the company's sales director. The shoes of some employees, and the clothing of one worker, had to be disposed of, Akey said.

No illnesses due to the spill were reported.

The incident was reported just before noon Tuesday, said Chief Mark Wendel of the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

"We knew what we were dealing with from the get-go," Wendel said.

Members of the western Wayne County hazardous materials team were called in to contain the spill and test people who may have been exposed to mercury, Wendel said.

Please see SPILL, A5

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Park Players tackle French farce

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Director Paul Bird likes to challenge his Plymouth-Canton Educational Park actors, and he thinks he's found a big one for the troupe's fall play.

The Park Players present the second weekend of performances of the French farce "Hotel Paradiso," by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallieres, Friday and Saturday at the Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School.

It's been described as "a mad French bedroom frolic (which) finds an assortment of refined people stealing through the halls and rooms of a cheap hotel comically

intent on assignments."

It's a genre Bird said the Players have never tackled, and they've handled it well.

"We've never done anything quite like it before," Bird said. "It was time to do something different. I like to challenge my actors, and they always rise to it."

According to Bird, the play centers around a woman (Marcel Cot) who thinks her husband is having an affair (turns out he isn't) and so arranges to have one herself. Eventually, the police raid Hotel Paradiso and the comedy ensues.

Bird likes the play not only for its acting challenge, but it's acting opportunities. There are

ON STAGE

What: Park Players production of *Hotel Paradiso*

When: 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16-17

Where: Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School

Cost: \$10

15 members of the cast.

"It's a larger cast than we've been using lately," Bird said. "It was a chance for more kids to get on stage."

The troupe started rehearsing the play in September and put it on stage for the first time last weekend. They're hoping to draw — and entertain — large crowds



The cast of 'Hotel Paradiso' includes (front, from left) Plymouth High School senior Anna Hua (Angeliq) and Canton High School sophomore Miki Somers (Marcel), along with (back, from left) Canton High School senior Paul Hofmann-Wellenhof (Boniface), Salem junior Paul DiNicola (Martin) and Canton senior Matt Whitehead (Henri Cot).

in the final two performances this weekend.

A big part of the responsibility for that falls to Canton High School sophomore Miki Somers, who plays Marcel. She said conveying the emotions Marcel is feeling has been the biggest challenge.

"I had to make sense of what (Marcel) wants to do," Somers, last on stage in the Spotlight Players' production of "Cheap-

er by the Dozen." "She loves her husband, but she's angry with him, too. I had to think about what she would be feeling and make that show (in her performance)."

Austrian exchange student Paul Hofmann-Wellenhof is playing Boniface, the best friend of Marcel's husband, Henri.

"My character hates his wife, loves his best friend's wife ... it's hard," Hofmann-Wellenhof said. "There are a lot of lines, and everything moves

very fast."

Bird said the plot line and the genre are going to be different from what audiences are used to getting from the Park Players.

"It's a style modern audiences aren't necessarily familiar with," Bird said. "It's difficult for teenagers to grasp, but they've done a good job of it."

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(313) 222-8899

Supply drive to aid superstorm victims

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth community is mobilizing to help those on the East Coast who are cleaning up in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, which caused widespread devastation late last month.

The First United Methodist Church in Plymouth Township and the National Honor Society at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are spearheading a drive to gather cleaning products to be delivered to Sandy victims next week through UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The goal is to round up 500 five-gallon buckets filled with cleaners, work gloves, scouring pads, air fresheners, dish soap, detergent and other supplies that will help people clean their homes and businesses. A collection center has been opened in an empty storefront

at the CVS Plaza, on the northwest corner of Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon, and will be accepting donations through Sunday. The hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Saturday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Organizers are looking for the following items for each cleanup kit:

- 1 scrub brush.
- 7 dust masks.
- 50 clothespins.
- 5 sponges (no cellulose).
- 2 pairs disposable waterproof gloves.
- 1 air freshener (aerosol or pump).
- Work gloves (cotton or leather with leather palms).
- 50-ounce bottle liquid laundry detergent.
- Liquid household cleaner, 12 to 16 ounces (no glass bottles).
- Antibacterial dish soap, 16 to 28 ounces.
- 24 heavy-duty plastic trash bags, 30 to 45 gallons in capacity.
- Clean 5-gallon bucket

with resealable lid. Bucket should not have contained paint or chemicals.

- 5 plastic scouring pads.
- 18 reusable wipes.
- 100 feet of clothesline.
- Insect repellent (aerosol or pump, 6 to 14 ounces).

The supplies are to be delivered to a UMCOR office in Pennsylvania next week and from there distributed to those who need them.

Monetary donations are also being accepted to defray the cost of shipping; checks should be written to:

First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, Plymouth, MI 48170. Attn: Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Fund.

For more information on the supply drive, e-mail Carrie Wood at the church at woodcarrie5@gmail.com, or Beth Savalox at the PCEP NHS at beth.savalox@pccsmail.net.

CORRECTION

Due to incorrect information given to the *Observer*, a story in Sunday's edition indicated the city of Plymouth charges a 1-percent administrative fee on its tax bills. It does not.

Plymouth Canton
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GRAND OPENING

Thursday, November 15



Joos Produce is opening their bakery facility so you can experience the freshness of our hometown bakery

Pastry chef Teresa Summers, head baker Bob Carter and bakery chef Kenneth Ilich will be mixing and stirring up fresh flavors daily. Our fresh breads will be coming out of our ovens just prior to the store's opening at 7am daily. All of our items are made from scratch using the finest ingredients and without preservatives. To compliment our freshly baked breads, we are offering a wide selection of sweet and savory pastries, olive oils, jams, soups and sandwiches.

Our new store is located adjacent to Joos Meat & Seafood. Come visit us today and experience a freshness you can taste!

<p><i>Grand Opening Drawing</i> WIN Large Gift Basket <small>with oils, vinegars, bread, jams, butters, dipping oil set and seasonings.</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baguettes • Italian • Honey wheat • Vienna <p>2/\$4</p>	<p><i>Opening Day Gift to our</i> First 150 Customers <small>will receive 16.9 oz. Extra Virgin Olive Oil with a bread purchase</small></p>	<p>Cranberry Walnut or Asiago Bread \$2.99 <small>each</small></p>	<p><i>Grand Opening Drawing</i> WIN Pastry Basket <small>with assorted pastries and jams</small></p>
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Young skaters learn hockey basics in free event



By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A traveling hockey clinic visited Plymouth on a recent Saturday to offer young players some pointers and a little free ice time.

The play-hockey-for-free event drew about four dozen 4- to 9-year-olds — both boys and girls — to the arena at the Plymouth Community Cultural Center, where they were instructed by USA Hockey-certified coach Ron Hayes and members of the junior varsity hockey team at Salem High School.

Steve Anderson, the city's recreation director, said the response was among the biggest of any community in the area.

"When we offer something like this where it's completely free, they come out and just try it," said Hayes. "If we can get over 40 kids it's a success."

Hayes has been taking the free hockey lessons around the state on weekends for a couple of years. He's recently been in Chelsea, Alpena, Grand Rapids and Garden City.

The hour-long lesson in Plymouth offered one-on-one instruction for those who weren't comfortable on the ice, with the Salem players putting the novice skaters through their paces. "The main thing is just to get them moving," Hayes said.

Kids who had obviously been on the ice before, he said, were shown cross-ice skating drills, taught how to hold, pass, shoot and carry the hockey puck, and then got to scrimmage for about 20 minutes.

Equipment was available for use by the skaters, and each participant got to take home a free jersey.

Hayes said he was appreciative of the help from the Salem players.

"These kids do a wonderful job at that," he said. "They're at that age where they want to help the younger child."

Hayes is a former president of the Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association, and has run the association's youth instructional program for 38 years. The course for beginning players meets at the cultural center on Saturday afternoons from September through March.

"Everything is positive," Hayes said. "There is no negative to the programs at all."

Most players in the program, which is called the Mighty Mini Mites instructional program, are ages 4 to 8 or 9, but some have been as young as 3, if they're from a hockey family, or as old as 10, Hayes said.

"Gretzky didn't start skating until he was older, so we don't want to turn anybody away," he said, referring to retired National Hockey League great Wayne Gretzky.

Enrollment for Mighty Mini Mites fell sharply during the recent recession, Hayes said, but is starting to climb back up.

More information about the Mighty Mini Mites instructional program and registration forms are available at the Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association's website, www.pchockey.net.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405

Coach Ron Hayes (above) instructs the kids on the finer points of hockey. Plymouth resident Conlan Voss, 4, (top) takes a break on the team bench during the free hockey fun at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUJOIN



Plymouth resident Adam Vincense brings his son, Adam, onto the ice for the Learn to Play instruction.



Coach Dan Hall encourages 6-year-old Addison Hoover as he runs through the many hockey drills. Hall is part of the Instructional Program in Plymouth.



Jack Saulsberry, an 8-year-old from Canton, listens to volunteer Salem High School hockey player Andy Posa during a visit to the penalty box for a tightening of the skate laces.



Five-year-old J.T. White of Grosse Pointe keeps his eye on the puck as he goes through drills.



Volunteer coach Christi Zink of Canton enjoys a laugh with 4-year-old Emma Trombley of Plymouth.



Learn to play instructor Robert Rais gives encouraging words to Bryce Fletemier.



Eric Lock (Canton) keeps a close eye on 5 year old Leah Alarie, who is on skates for the first time.

Benefit concert to help 18-year ALS survivor

Friends and supporters of Dr. Craig Oster are putting out the call for people to attend a benefit concert being held this weekend in Westland.

The sixth annual benefit concert for Dr. Craig will be held 4-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at Bumpers Bar and Grill, 8631 Newburgh, just south of Joy Road. The event will help raise money to cover health expenses related to caregiving for Oster, a former Plymouth resident, who has Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as "Lou Gehrig's disease."

The benefit will feature music by the Flying Crowbars with special guests Paul Wiley and Joe LaBeau, food, auction and raffles and a preview of Oster's video, "The Healers." Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Advanced tickets are available online at The Healers website at healingwith-



A benefit concert is being held in Westland for former Plymouth resident Dr. Craig Oster, an 18-year survivor of ALS.

drccraig.com/donate/.

"The four-hour celebration party ought to be a fantastic time with first rate Detroit musicians performing," said Oster. "I am prayerful that the event will raise enough money for my special needs trust to meet my basic needs for a good number of months."

Oster is an 18-year survivor

of ALS. He was diagnosed with the disease in 1994 at the age of 30. ALS is a degenerative neuromuscular disease in which the body slowly loses all muscle function until the person afflicted becomes completely muscularly paralyzed, yet is still able to see and hear. Failure of the respiratory muscles is usually the cause of death.

Most people affected with ALS die within three-five years after receiving the diagnosis. Not so with Oster who works out in a rehab gym three times weekly, is organizing a national holistic health campaign, working with Hollywood producers to develop a holistic healing television series, inspiring people daily on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter and preparing to conduct scientific research with ALS patients.

He entered hospice in late 2008, after he had lost over

45 pounds of muscle and was requiring breathing machines to make it through the night. When the hospice physician encouraged him to try morphine to lessen the sensation of suffocation, Oster told the physician that he had the vision of improving, being discharged from hospice, and becoming their living legend. He did and was "kicked out" of hospice on May 30, 2009.

The benefit will help pay for the 24/7 caregiving he requires as well as health expenses which are not covered by insurance. Every year he needs to raise about \$1,500 for every month to remain out of a Medicaid nursing home.

"My goal is to use my life as an 18-year ALS survivor to inspire great numbers of people, advance ALS holistic scientific research, and to earn enough money to support

myself with all of my 24/7 caregiving and other health expenses," said Oster. "I am prayerful that the event will raise enough money for my special needs trust to meet my basic needs for a good number of months."

Oster describes himself as a metaphorical turtle. He types on an online virtual keyboard with one finger. Sometimes, the pace is maddeningly and frustratingly slow, he said, adding that "my spirit felt more at home in the body of a marathon-running body builder."

"I feel that I must give everything I can to serve humanity, and, for the time being, to live my life as a single-legged turtle," he said.

People unable to attend the event can make a donation online at www.healingwithdr-craig.com, or mail them to The Craig Oster Trust, P.O. Box 1259, Grand Rapids, MI, 49501-1259.

AROUND PLYMOUTH



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tree time

Four-year-old Marleigh Hammond meets Santa Claus at the grand opening of the Plymouth ACO's Children's Hospital Festival Of Trees store. ACO is the main sponsor of that charity. Marleigh and her mom, Jessica Hammond, are from Plymouth. Santa Claus, of course, is from the North Pole.

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

HEISE COFFEE

Date/Time: Friday, Nov. 16, 7:30-9 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread, 400 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally. No appointment is necessary. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REP-KURT or e-mail kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

EUCHE TOURNNEY

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 24, 6 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Salem Wrestling Boosters is hosting their annual Fall Euchre Tournament. The cost is \$25 per player and you must be at least 21 years old to participate. Awards will be given to the top 3 players with the highest scores. There will also be raffles and great prizes. Complimentary food and cash bar is also available. Walk-ins welcome but seating is limited.

Contact: E-mail rkddox@aol.com or call (734) 981-7913 or (313) 706-3282 for more information.

FARRAND FAIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Nov. 29, 4-8 p.m.

Location: Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar Lane, Plymouth

Details: Farrand Elementary hosts its fifth annual Craft & Vendor Fair. Find that last minute gift, or something unique and special for someone on your holiday shopping list. Admission is free. Raffle items, jewelry, candles, health & wellness, skin care, hair accessories and much, much more. Need a little bit of extra cash to shop? South Lyon Jewelers will be there paying you cash for your gold. Go through your jewelry boxes and find broken or unwanted gold to sell at this event. Babysitting will be provided from 4-6 p.m. in the school media center. Children will have the opportunity to watch a movie and make a craft.

BLOOD DRIVES

Date/Time: Various

Location: Various

Details: The American Red Cross has scheduled a variety of blood drives around the community: Sunday, Nov. 18, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty in Plymouth; Monday, Nov. 19, 1-6:45 p.m., St. John Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth, and 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Community Financial Credit Union, 500 S. Harvey in Plymouth; Friday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Summit on the Park in Canton; and Thursday, Nov. 29, 1:30-7:15 p.m., St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

Contact: To make an appt for any of these drives, call Diane at (313) 549-7052 or email diane.risko@redcross.org

MIXED MUSINGS

Date/Time: Through November

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Peggy Kerwin will kick off the 2012-2013 solo exhibit season with her exhibit titled "mixed musings." Her colorful artworks will be displayed for the month of November in the main gallery. Admission is free and open to the public. An artist reception takes place Saturday, Nov. 17, from 2-4 p.m. Meet the artist, supporters, and members of the PCAC. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Contact: Call (734) 416-4278 or visit www.plymoutharts.com for more information.

LAND

Continued from page A1

"We did not go into this with our eyes closed," said DDA board chairman Phil Pursell, a former mayor. The chief complaint from downtown business owners, Pursell said, is the parking situation, and the DDA and the city are trying to address it.

The deal, announced earlier this year, has been fleshed out between city and church officials in recent months. Closing awaits Wayne County's approval of a proposed lot split that would have Christian Science church members retaining a parcel of about 9,000 square feet — a small plaza

fronting Ann Arbor Trail and, behind it, the current church annex building — and the city taking on the rest of the site, about two acres.

In the longer term, the city would raze the current church building and redevelop the site as a parking lot with drive-ways, lighting, signage and a required retention basin for stormwater runoff. The lot would be intended for use by people who work downtown or plan to spend more than two or three hours there; that, officials say, would free up shorter-term parking spots for shorter-term visitors.

The total cost of redevelopment, which officials say is likely five years or more away, is estimated at \$2 million.

Pricey property

Bake, who owns a share of an office property adjacent to the church, said the \$775,000 price tag for the church parcel is \$300,000 to \$400,000 too high given the market and the cost of redeveloping the site. "This is too big of a price to pay," he said.

The site, he also said, has too little visual and physical linkage to downtown to attract many motorists. And Bake and Lorenz also pointed out that about two dozen parking spaces at the western end of the current church lot are regularly used by people who live, work or visit Tonquish Creek Manor, the senior citizen housing complex on Sheri-

dan. Unless that practice ends, they said, the parking-spot yield expected from the purchase won't be realized.

DDA officials acknowledged some apparent down sides to the plan, but said it comes after years of study and debate over downtown parking alternatives.

"I stand by this purchase. I think it's in the best interests of Plymouth," said Mayor Dan Dwyer, also a DDA board member.

Bake said he and Lorenz would attempt to interest other downtown business people in looking at the deal and weighing in on it.

"If they all buy into this, I'll make peace with it somehow," Bake told the DDA board.

SPILL

Continued from page A1

"It's not something you want to drag home," he said.

Akey said the spill involved two to three ounces of mercury that had been used in a manometer, a device that measures pressures. Ventura was intending to safely dispose of the mercury in favor of newer manometer technology, he said.

Wendel said the hazmat team cleared the scene just after 3 p.m. The spill was left to an environmental cleanup company.

"Everybody left for the day and they just cleaned up last night, and this morning they're pretty much done," Akey said.

Close to 40 people work at Ventura, which makes hydraulic and fuel-control

components for jet engines. Mercury poisoning is

linked to several diseases, and its effects can

include brain, kidney and lung damage.

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

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

After hours

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Northville Chamber of Commerce get together for a combined after-hours mixer 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28.

The Plymouth Community Chamber members will be joining our neighbors from the Northville Chamber for the November After Hours at CJ's Brewery. This event will provide the opportunity to expand a network of professionals from business people in the neighboring communities and with many chamber members at the same time.

There is no fee to attend this event. RSVP by noon Nov. 27 to teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. Members who attend will have the familiar green "Plymouth Rocks" guitar on their name tag to let everyone know which chamber they're from.

The event is sponsored by the Plymouth Whalers. CJ's Brewery is located inside Compuware Arena on Beck between M-14

and 5 Mile in Plymouth.

Santa pet pictures

Jill Andra Young Photography, which specializes in "Pet Photography," is having a special event Saturday, Nov. 17, at her new studio, 502 Forest, in downtown Plymouth. Appointments are a must.

The event will feature two special packages, with a "real" Santa.

For more information contact Jill Young, (734) 455-7787.

Health seminar

The University of Michigan Health System Women's Health Program and Dr. Samar Hassouneh and Dr. Gwen Zirngibl present a seminar about the HPV injection 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth.

The doctors will present the latest advancements concerning HPV, discuss your concerns and answer your questions about HPV and the vaccine.

For more information call the Women's Health Program at (734) 936-8886.



New home

Balance Yoga cuts the ribbon on its new studio in downtown Plymouth. Tricia Kozlowski has opened Balance Yoga, which offers yoga classes, plus mental health and yoga therapy for individual, couples and families. They are located on the second floor at 292 South Main St., Suite 202. Cutting the ribbon is Tricia, her family, clients and the Chamber Ambassadors. To learn more about Balance Yoga go to www.balanceyogatherapy.com.

Holiday shopping is nothing but a giant feeding frenzy

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I read that Walmart announced it is starting holiday sales — not on Black Friday as has become the tradition, but on Thanksgiving night. I have no doubt that other retailers will attempt to one-up Walmart and by the time you read this column, retailers will have already started their holiday sales.

This time of year has become a feeding frenzy as retailers fight for our holiday shopping dollars. Generally, I like when businesses fighting for business because it generally means the consumer will get better deals.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

However, the reality is that all too often the results of this feeding frenzy are that people overspend. During these trying economic times, it is more important than ever that you have a game plan for holiday spending. If you don't have a strategy, I'm afraid you'll be like many Americans who overspend during the holiday season and find that it takes the next year to pay off the purchases.

The result is the holidays become a period of anxiety. Even though retailers will encourage you to buy, buy and buy some more, you have to be smarter than that.

The first thing to do is set a budget for total holiday purchases. Everyone's going to have different amounts of what they can or cannot afford to spend for the holidays. One way to tell if you're overspending is if you charge your purchases and cannot afford to pay the balance in full when the bill arrives.

Charge cards should not be a means of financing a purchase. They should be used as a matter of convenience and to take

advantage of some of the perks. After all, the deals don't look so good if you add 20 percent to the purchase price. Twenty percent is about the average interest you'll pay when you carry a balance on your charge card.

Part of establishing a budget is itemizing how many gifts you're going to buy. After all, if you have to buy 20 gifts you don't want your budget running out after you've only purchased half.

The holidays should not be a time of increased pressure and anxiety. Unfortunately, because of the pressures to buy gifts, it has turned out to be just that. I recommend that family and friends agree that gift giving be limited

to children. It would help reduce the pressure. However, if you can't reduce the number of gifts, then agree to limit the amount you spend on individual gifts. Remember, people should look forward to the holidays so that they can spend time with their loved ones, not dread them because of the pressure it causes. These are difficult economic times and it doesn't appear that they're going to improve anytime soon. It can't be business as usual. We all have to make changes. Most people dread change, however, sometimes change is good. Just imagine if when the holidays roll around you didn't have any economic pressure, you didn't

have to worry about being shown up because someone bought a nicer gift than you. Wouldn't that be nice? Wouldn't it be nice if you actually looked forward to spending time with family and friends without any undercurrent?

There's nothing to say that you can't take the first step now to reach the goal of being able to enjoy the holidays as they were intended. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Fare to Freedom Transportation owners, from left, are Josh Marshbanks and Zac Marshbanks of Canton, Polly Swingle and Charlie Parkhill.

Company offers rides to disabled residents, seniors

Fare to Freedom Transportation, a non-emergency medical transportation company, has opened in Livonia. It was founded by Polly Swingle and Charlie Parkhill, owners of The Recovery Project, along with partners Josh and Zac Marshbanks of Canton.

The Recovery Project provides intensive physical therapy and rehabilitation to those with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries.

Fare to Freedom was created to fill a growing need: door-to-door transportation for therapy and doctor's appointments, shopping and errands for disabled individuals, seniors and others needing assistance who do not have regular or reliable

transportation.

The diversified backgrounds of the owners and their personal histories make the company uniquely qualified in all aspects of transporting disabled individuals safely, efficiently and with the all-important "human touch," said Kate Anderson, marketing coordinator of The Recovery Project.

Parkhill and Josh Marshbanks both have spinal cord injuries. Since Josh's injury in 2001, his brother and business partner, Zac, has been an integral part of his care team and an inspiration in launching Fare to Freedom.

Their experience provided the company with its guiding light and mission statement: to provide

respectful and sensitive service, using interactive skills and understanding of the physical and emotional needs of clients, Anderson said.

"Each of our drivers have physical therapy skills and training in rehabilitative therapy. They will take care of you door to door," Anderson said. "With Fare to Freedom, you can be assured that we understand your needs."

Fare to Freedom is at 20000 Victor Parkway. For more information on Fare to Freedom, call (855) 826-3273, visit www.faretofreedom.com or e-mail info@faretofreedom.com. For more information on The Recovery Project, visit www.therecoveryproject.net.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES NOTICE OF DENIAL NATURAL BEAUTY ROAD

In accordance with the provisions of Section 324, subsection .35702 of Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, twenty-five or more freeholders had Petitioned the County of Wayne, Michigan ("County"), to designate a portion of **Ridge Road between Joy and Ann Arbor Roads in Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan**, as a Natural Beauty Road, being more particularly described as:

All that portion of Ridge Road in part of the SE 1/4 of Section 31 and the SW 1/4 of Section 32, T1S, R8E, Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan described as follows: Beginning at a point 60 feet North of the intersection of the centerline of Joy Road and the East line of said Section 31; thence Northerly along said East line and centerline of said Ridge Road approximately 1318 feet to a point 65.68 feet South of the intersection of the centerline of Ann Arbor Road and along said East line. Containing approximately 1318 feet of roadway, 0.250 miles.

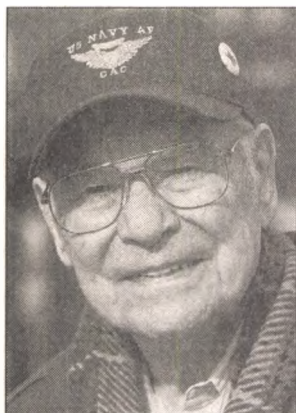
In accordance with said Act, a Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 in the Town Hall Room within the Plymouth Township Hall located at 9955 North Haggerty Road, Plymouth Township, Michigan.

The Hearing Examiner of the County obtained all necessary facts and information concerning the advisability of either granting or denying said Petition and provided all findings of fact to the County's Natural Beauty Roads Evaluation Committee ("Committee") for their recommendation. The Committee made a recommendation to DENY the Natural Beauty Road designation request. The Hearing Examiner then accordingly provided his final decision within the thirty (30) day requirement as provide in said Act.

The Hearing Examiner's final decision is to DENY the Natural Beauty Road designation to a portion of Ridge Road between Joy and Ann Arbor Roads in Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan, as described above.

True copies of this notice are to be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act, as amended.

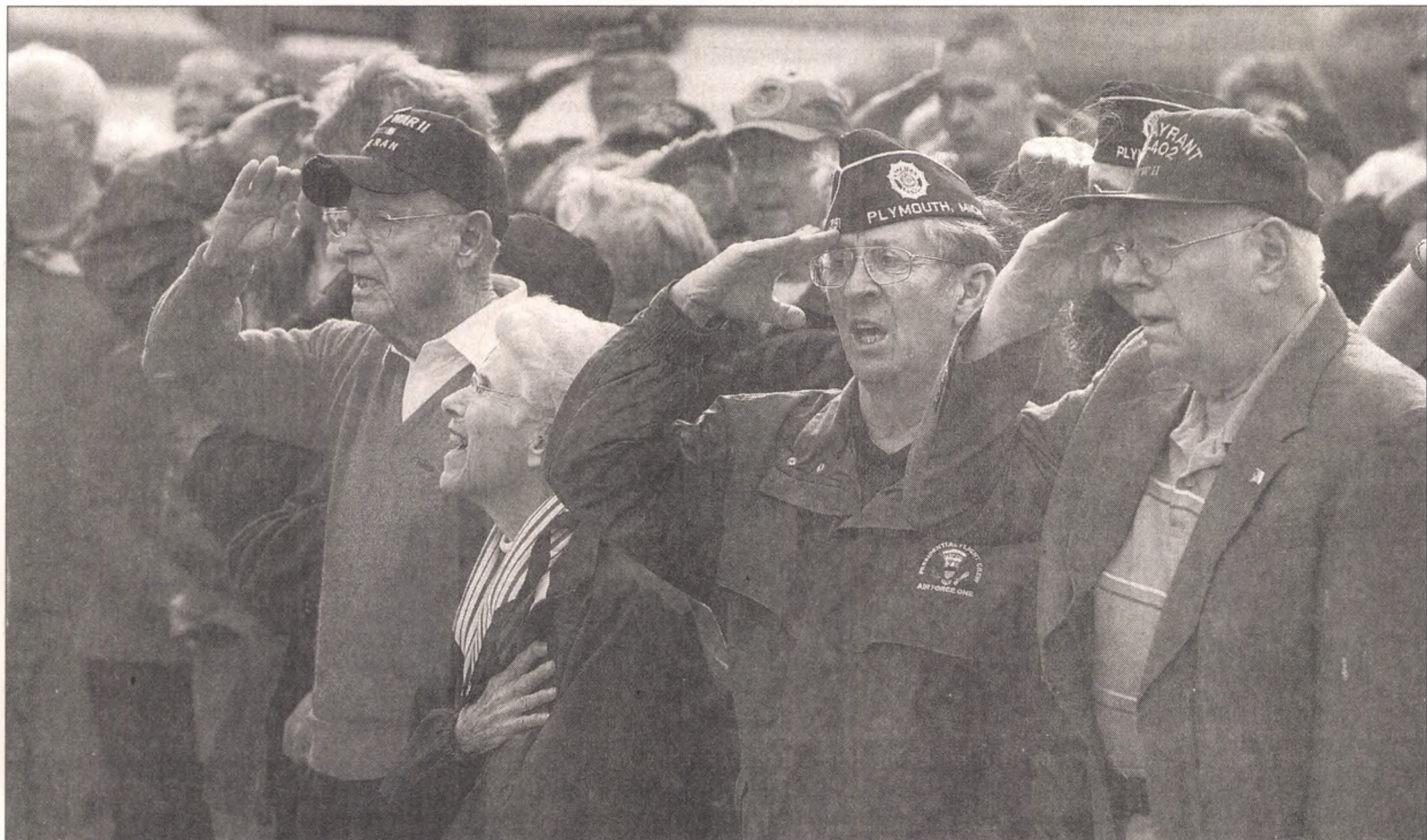
WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
Engineering Division, Real Estate
Attention: Sandra Martin
400 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226
313.224.7772



William A. Neu, a Navy veteran of World War II, said it was "gratifying to see there are people who do want to remember, and who do want to say thank you."



Looking for familiar names.



Singing the Star Spangled Banner, led by John Stewart.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VETERANS

Continued from page A1

are some 700,000 veterans in Michigan.

He said they all have one thing in common.

"They are men and women, white, yellow, black and brown, with one thing in common — we serve God and country," Pawelak said. "The joy and pride we feel serving something greater than ourselves is the same, because we are veterans."

Rick (Rico) Ciaramitaro, a Vietnam veteran who is commandant of the Burgess Detachment of the Marine Corps League in Westland and who led the color guard at Sunday's ceremony, noted he hopes veterans coming home from current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan get a better welcome home than Vietnam veterans got.

"As Vietnam vets, we never got a welcome home," Ciaramitaro said. "Those memories are there of how we were treated when we came home. We don't want those memories to be a part of it for these young people coming home."

While the ceremony is intended to honor veterans and their service, Dennis Bielskis, commander of the VFW Post 6695, took a



Ken McCormick helps his dad read and see the veteran's memorial. Ninety-five year old John F. McCormick is a Navy veteran of World War II.

moment to recognize both veterans who passed away "long after they stopped wearing their uniform," and the families of veterans.

"It's important to remember not only the price paid by so many veterans ... but the price paid by their heartbroken families, as well," Bielskis said. "A country is only as good as the people in it. And a land that could produce such heroes is truly a land worth serving."



Veterans, family and friends gather at the memorial to honor those who served and those who are serving.



Ken McCormick wheels his dad around the veterans memorial.

CRIME WATCH

Business break-in

Cash, keys and gift certificates were reported stolen late last month after a break-in at a Plymouth Township hair salon.

The burglary at Elite Hair Fashion, on Ann Arbor Trail east of Haggerty, occurred on Oct. 28 or early the next day, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. A woman who was walking her dog on Oct. 28 saw the glass in the salon's front door had been smashed and called police, police said.

Police found papers on the floor and a couple of drawers open, but no one inside the salon, the report said. Later, on Nov. 1, a man on nearby Brownell Avenue found a cash drawer in his curbside recycling bin and turned it over to police. The drawer turned out to have come from the salon, police said.

Vandalism reports

A Detroit man recently reported vandalism to two of his vehicles.

The scratches to the man's Chrysler Town & Country

minivan and Pontiac Firebird occurred while they were parked outside his workplace, McLane Food Service, between Oct. 23 and Nov. 5, he told police. The business is on Pilot south of Five Mile and east of Beck.

The victim said he had also reported vandalism to a pickup truck and a motorcycle in July.

The window on a house on Ridge just north of Powell Road mysteriously shattered earlier this month. The window was broken between Nov. 4 and Friday, the victim told police.

Police said it was not clear what caused the window to break.

A parked car had dirt and plants dumped on it, and a mailbox was knocked from its post, early Sunday outside a house on Howland Park Drive, north of Powell Road and west of Ridge.

The vandalism occurred between just after midnight and about 7 a.m., the complainant told police.

A parked Jeep was vandalized early Monday outside Plaza Lanes, a bowling complex on Ann Arbor

Road east of Lilley.

Police said a driver-side window had been smashed, apparently by a beer glass that had been thrown at it. Beer was also spilled on the Jeep, police said.

— By Matt Jachman

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OUR VIEWS

Goodfellows, Salvation Army need your help

For many people, being merry this season may mean a hot meal at the local soup kitchen or a warm place to sleep on a cold winter's night. For many, it's a fine line that separates them from being a have and a have not. They are struggling to make ends meet.

A protracted economic downturn, massive loss of jobs and a slow recovery has increased the number of families living in poverty. For these some families the happiness of Christmas is provided through the generosity of strangers. They are the people who buy Goodfellows newspapers, drop money into Salvation Army Red Kettles or unwrapped toys in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tot boxes.

For decades these nonprofits have been helping those in need. They rely on our support both financially and in donations of food, clothing and toys to help the less fortunate. And now is the time for us to open our hearts and our wallets to help them help the needy.

If there's no room under the Christmas tree for that present, think about giving it to the Goodfellows or the Salvation Army. Instead of dropping \$10-\$20 on a quick dinner out, drop it in a Red Kettle or send it to the Goodfellows. Use a good deal on food at the grocery store to buy a few extra cans and donate them.

And consider volunteering — and while at it, have children do their part. Let them drop money in the Red Kettle. Let them select toys to drop in the Toys for Tot boxes and help pack boxes for delivery by the Goodfellows. It's an important lesson that they will keep for life. The gift is the generosity, a life skill that needs to be learned as a child. It is taught through example and experience.

With the need for assistance remaining high, we need to take that extra step and help. So be sure to make an extra purchase for those less fortunate. It isn't shiny and bright, but that generosity is a gift that's well worth giving.

Deer hunting opener tradition like no other

For many people in the state of Michigan, today is an annual holiday like no other. It's not an official holiday, of course, but don't tell that to the people across the state who look just as much forward to the Nov. 15 traditional opener for firearms deer hunting season as children do to Christmas morning.

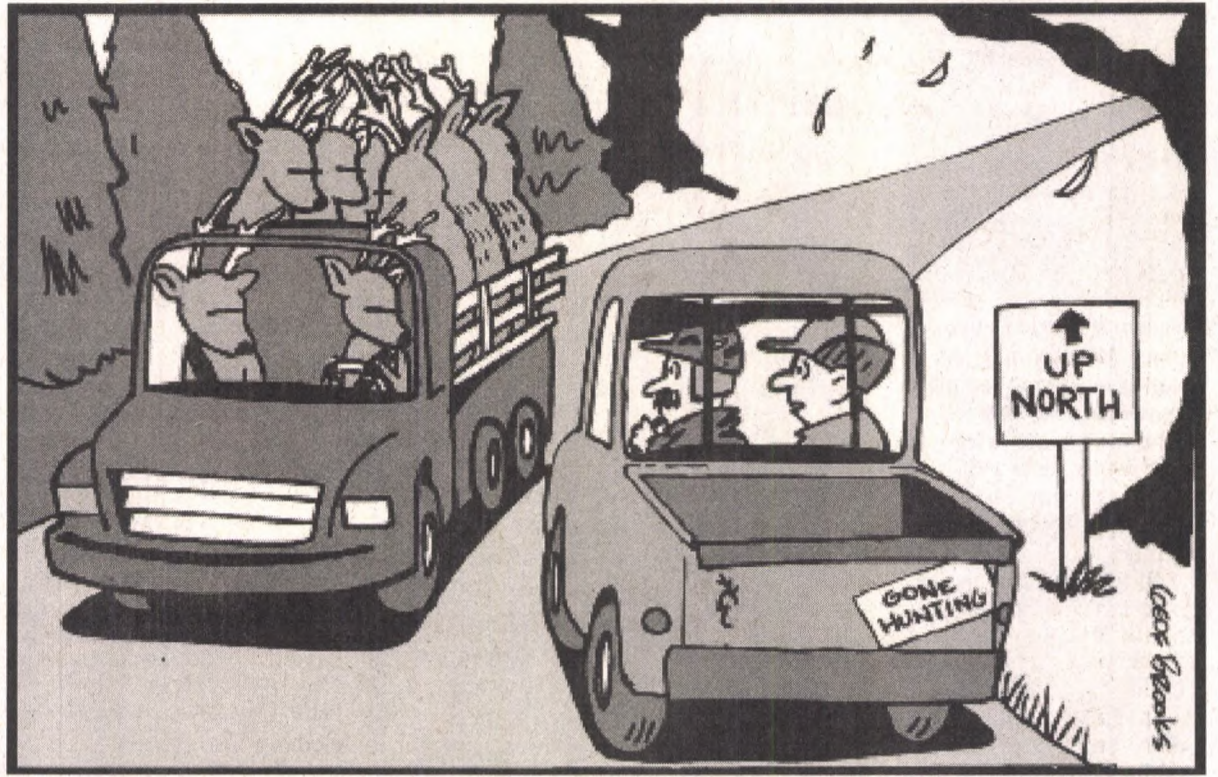
Beginning this morning at the crack of dawn, and over the course of the next couple weeks, more than a half million hunters will be hunkered down in the forests, swamps and farmlands across the state, with dreams of bagging a big buck. But that is not the only reason hunters from all walks of life look forward to deer hunting. Survey after survey have shown that hunters enjoy spending time with friends and family during their hunting trips, not to mention just getting outdoors and enjoying the state's natural beauty.

Deer hunting is particularly important to the rural areas of the state. In fact in many communities, schools are closed down for the day, and many businesses display "gone hunting" signs on their front doors as the proprietors have headed to "camp." There is no question, 'Opening Day' and hunting in general are part of the fabric of life in rural Michigan.

It is also big business. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates the more than 750,000 licensed hunters (including all hunters) ranks third in the nation. And they have a tremendous impact, adding \$1.3 billion annually to the state's economy. Of course hunters purchase hunting gear, but they also stay in motels, shop at stores and eat at restaurants while on their hunting trips. That especially means a great deal to small towns in rural Michigan.

Because of the mild winters we have experienced in recent years, wildlife biologists say deer numbers are up around the state. Hopefully that means many of our hunters will have a successful hunting trip.

We wish you all good luck, and hope you remember safety is the first priority out in the field. Happy hunting.



LETTERS

Rude behavior

As a community activist and volunteer on election day for state representative candidate Tim Roraback at the Cultural Center polling place in Plymouth, I was appalled with the rude and arrogant behavior of current state representative Kurt Heise.

He interrupted Mr. Roraback talking to potential voters. Unfortunately, I had to reprimand Mr. Heise in public and remind him that Mr. Roraback has the right to his opinions and vice versa.

I think that an apology to Mr. Roraback and his constituents is in order. Civility and respect for differing views should be the norm. Wouldn't you agree?

Gerri Kilsdonk
Plymouth

Remember your vote

To all of those who voted for President Obama, I want you to remember this moment.

Someday when you are old and can't get the medical care you need, can't find a doctor who will take Medicare patients, or don't have the money to pay out-of-pocket, resist your natural instinct to blame someone else.

Instead, go look in the mirror and remember what you did to yourself, for this is what you voted for.

Rachel Davis
Northville

Help us give hope

As you are aware, the holiday season is upon us. This is a time of reflection for many of us to be grateful for what we have in our lives. From our homes, jobs or food on our tables; the very basic of necessities are things that many us take for granted.

There is no greater time when this disparity is marked than during the holiday season. For families that struggled to survive the year meet-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published Thursday.

ing their basic of needs, the holidays bring more stress because of what the season brings with it that some families cannot provide: tidings of comfort and joy.

Last year, Volunteers of America - Michigan was able to bring those tidings of comfort and joy to 22,000 metropolitan Detroit families. We were able to make the holiday season a bit brighter by providing food, clothing and all the trimmings that make everyone young and old, feel special and remembered.

We are reaching out again to help make this a holiday to remember for families who are still struggling to get on their feet. We are asking if you could kindly donate your time or services to bring extra value to this event and assist in touching even more lives in our community.

Our goal this year is to raise \$100,000. Our 20th annual Adopting Families Holidays of Hope Event will be held in the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham on Friday, Dec. 7. Whether you wish to sponsor a table, buy tickets for the event, make a donation or provide an item or service for auction, we welcome you to help us meet that goal.

From our happy home to theirs,

wishing you a blessed holiday season.

Justin Cessante
Volunteers of America - Michigan
Host Committee member

A temporary setback

Most of you are already aware that I was not elected to keep my position on the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees in the historic Nov. 6 election.

I may have lost the election, but because of your support I feel like I have emerged as a winner. You were involved in my campaign in so many ways and I will sincerely be forever thankful. As I went about the tasks of putting up campaign signs or talking to voters or planning a mailing or any number of other things that candidates do, those tasks didn't seem so difficult or mundane for two very good reasons. First, I knew I had your support and that made all the difference in the world. And secondly, as a trustee I had the opportunity to ensure the highest quality educational experience for thousands of students at an affordable cost.

Schoolcraft is truly a gem in our community, doing amazing things in preparing students for meaningful, productive lives. Your support may have only been a few words of encouragement but that was important to me and I am sincerely grateful.

Now, let's briefly look at where we go from here. This setback is temporary and it certainly isn't the termination of anything. With your continued support we will live to fight another day. I will continue to serve on the board through the end of the year. Then I will attend all future board meetings as "spectator," preparing for our next campaign encounter in the not-too-distant future. I will keep you abreast of the interesting things that occur, so stay tuned. And once again my sincere thanks for your continued support.

John Elkins
Livonia

STAFF COLUMN

Dinosaur learning new tricks, #olddog

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Here are two things I learned in my first real day monitoring my Twitter account:



Brad Kadrich

- Veronica Belmont thinks someone named George R.R. Martin is a delightful dork in some video to which she posted a link.
- B.J. Mendelson liked a match WWE Smack-

down general manager Teddy Long put together.

Now, I have two questions for more veteran Twitter users than myself, and these questions are at the heart of why I've stayed away from Twitter until now:

Who the heck are Veronica Belmont and B.J. Mendelson, and how the &\$@! did they get on my Twitter page?

I understand how people like Phil Allmen and Jay Grossman got on my Twitter account; I decided to follow them. They are respected members of my profession and my company; Gross-

man, in fact, is our newspaper group's top Twitterer (Tweeter? Twitter-user?).

These are lessons I'm going to need to learn, I fear, if I want to satisfy my company's desire to take us into the 21st Century. The use of social media is exploding, and even dinosaurs are being dragged from the Stone Age into the Facebook age.

And they aren't the only lessons. First I had to learn some basic stuff, like ... how to load Twitter onto my phone. For this I turned to my 30-year-old daughter (my 15-year-old son wasn't available), who did the same thing she always does when I ask about technology: She rolled her eyes. And then she explained it to me.

Most of the rest is the 21st Century of the old hunt-and-peck typing technique. I haven't quite figured out how to add people for me to follow, and I definitely haven't figured out how people get around to following me.

For instance, I got a notice quite some time ago that Britney Spears is now following me on Twitter. I have no idea how that happened, since I don't follow her, and the only time I ever went

to see her in concert, my sons and I waited about 2-1/2 hours for her to come on at Pine Knob, and then watched as she played for 45 minutes, which was one minute for every dollar I paid for each ticket.

I'm sure once I've learned what there is to know, I'll embrace Tweeting with the same enthusiasm with which I've gotten used to texting. I have, after all, used Facebook on several occasions to conduct interviews, which is another practice about which I was dubious until I tried it.

Like nearly all media outlets, our newspaper group is placing a strong emphasis on social media, recognizing it for what it is: An additional means of informing our readers, attracting folks to our website and our print product. It's a way to connect with our readers in a way we've never been able to before. And I'm happy to join the fray.

Just as soon as I can get my teenagers to show me how.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com and @bkadrich on Twitter.

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Report details alleged abuse of special-needs preschoolers

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

An attorney retained by parents of two special-needs preschoolers described as atrocious and appalling the abuse they allegedly suffered while in former teacher Sharon Turbiak's Livonia classroom, as detailed in a report recently made public.

"It turned my stomach," said Jim Spagnuolo Jr. of Southfield, himself the father of a special-needs child.

Spagnuolo said he was disturbed by the conduct of Turbiak and the school district, as described in the report.

"No one reported this to the state; no one reported this to the authorities," he said.

He said he will be filing a lawsuit on behalf of multiple families.

Ven Johnson of Detroit, an attorney representing a Plymouth family whose son was at the center of the dispute, said he

too will be filing suit in U.S. District Court. "Our investigation revealed reprehensible misconduct and mistreatment," he said, adding state and federal laws were broken by school employees who suspected abuse but didn't report it.

The report was released Wednesday by Livonia Public Schools to those who had filed a Freedom of Information Act request after the Michigan Tenure Commission dismissed its case against Turbiak following her resignation.

Turbiak, who taught at Webster Elementary, remains on paid administrative leave until March 31, 2013, the effective date of her resignation. She was placed on leave in April. She has not been charged with any crime.

The report, conducted by the district's public safety administrator, Mark Schultz, includes witness statements saying Turbiak slapped and yelled at the children, let

them fall instead of supporting them when they moved to the floor or a chair, and put a boy confined to a wheelchair in the bathroom for timeout for 15 to 20 minutes.

The report says a parapro in the classroom spanked a child.

The report says one witness "was told by Sharon (Turbiak) that it was a good thing that the administration believed she had a warm and nurturing classroom and didn't know that they hit kids around in the classroom."

"That really pushed me over the edge," Spagnuolo said.

The report says the first documented complaint against Turbiak was dated Oct. 24, 2011.

Turbiak denies any wrongdoing in the report. She did not return a reporter's phone call Wednesday.

The class was part of a Wayne RESA center program serving students from multiple districts.

All 12 of the children who were in the class are cognitively impaired and some also have physical impairments.

The report says the school's former principal, Shellie Moore, had contacted central office administrators, but "there was never any thought or discussion that this would be a Protective Service or police issue."

Schultz, a former police officer, went to Livonia Police Department on April 24, the day after he began the internal investigation.

Livonia police sought warrants from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, but those warrants were denied and the case was closed.

The board voted June 18 to recommend the state tenure commission terminate Turbiak's employment. The tenure commission has the final say in a teacher's firing. The parapro was fired June 13.

Artists headline holiday craft show

A diverse group of local artists and crafters will gather to hold a holiday sale on Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth.

Julie Brancart, an award-winning paper craft artist from Canton, invited 11 other talented friends to join her for this one-day sale.

The collection of handmade items offered during the sale includes

beautiful textile work, stained and fused glass art, framed pressed flowers and unique jewelry. Also included is a variety of functional and decorative pottery created by a member of the Village Potters Guild.

To round out the group, Brancart asked a few friends to sell their homemade holiday cookies and candies.

"This is a larger version of the intimate sales

your friends hold in their homes, the one that you look forward to all year," Brancart said. "Instead of just one or two artists, though, there will be 12. This will be a wonderful, one-stop place to get your heart felt, one-of-a-kind gifts for the holidays."

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PHOTOS BY TERRI SAENZ

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band stands proud in the Bands of America honored finalist ceremony.

Marchers reach top 12 at nationals

By Peggy Fenwick
Correspondent

Congratulations are in order after the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Marching Band was named one of 12 national finalists in the 2012 Bands of America Grand National Championships Saturday at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The hometown marchers were the only Michigan band to be included in the prestigious list of 12 high school bands. The last performance of the season was also the band's 22nd appearance as a national finalist in the 36-year history of BOA. More than 500 marching bands participate in Bands of America competitions leading up to the four-day event in Indianapolis.

Carmel (Ind.) High School was named the grand national champion. "A lot of excitement, a lot of tears, and a lot of dreams met for the kids today," Jonathan Thomann, associate director of bands, said afterward. "I couldn't be more proud right now. Kids are super happy right now, but I think we reached our goals well before being named a national finalist."

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, led by Director of Bands David Armbruster and Thomann, came in 12th of 87 bands in Indy. The last time Plymouth-Canton made the top finals designation was 2008. The 172-member band wowed the audience with the nine-minute program titled "The Last Dance" particularly when a giant grey shroud depicting a dark cloud was pulled over the entire band and across the stadium field.

The entire program was designed to showcase the prophecy that the world will end this Dec. 21. The music in the program included "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong, and "Time in a Bottle" by Jim Croce.

"Everyone's floating on cloud nine right now," exclaimed a jubilant Armbruster afterward. "It was a very good year for the band. They set some really high goals and they achieved them."

Canton senior Aldridge Gillespie, who plays the largest of the bass drums, was exuberant about the final placement of the band.

"I think we did pretty good," Gillespie said. "Twelfth out of 90 bands,



Senior trumpet player Collin Richter finishes the show with a solo of Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World.'



The band forms an hourglass during the song 'Time in a Bottle.'

SEASON FINALE

What: Holiday Arts & Crafts Ensemble
Who: Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters
When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17
Where: Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck in Canton
Details: The 2012 marching band season ends with this large fundraising event. The juried Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble features more than 100 exhibitors on hand to sell their handcrafted items. The public is invited to attend. Information: Visit www.pcmb.net.

I'm pretty happy with that. Being a senior, I personally reached my goal of making it into Finals."

Juniors Matt Duda and Nick Potter, both clarinet players, were very happy about the band's final run.

"I'm really happy we made Finals," Potter said afterward. Both juniors are looking forward to doing this again next year. "I think being in Finals is going to drive me more for next year," Duda said.

Next year's season begins in May when eighth graders from the local middle schools are encouraged to join

the extra-curricular activity. Practices run through summer, with autumn bringing about four rehearsal days per week and competitions reserved for Saturdays.

The students returned from their trip to Indy on Sunday afternoon to cheers, banners, and car horns. With unseasonable warm weather, the Plymouth High School parking lot was transformed into a second celebration as the students disembarked the buses, unloaded equipment and props, gathered their luggage, instruments, and finally headed home. But not before the Plymouth-Canton Drumline did one final presentation for the crowd of students and parents gathered around.

This year's band season has been a successful one, with Plymouth-Canton reclaiming its Flight I State Championship status Nov. 3 at Ford Field. The PCMB also was named BOA Pontiac Regional Champions back on Oct. 6.

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1,200 will take a run, walk through Lightfest

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The runners and walkers were long gone when Tom Smith pulled up a chair beside the bonfire. The Westland resident had driven by and saw the pile of wood at Merriman Hollow in Hines Park and knew how it would be used.

"I'm here for the fire," said Smith. "I saw it and knew they were going to have a fire. They lit it up at 4 p.m. The fire is the best thing."

The fire pit was more than 6 feet across and provided warmth to some 1,200 runners and walkers who turned out for the annual 8K Fun Run/Walk, one of two pre-opening events for the 2012 Wayne County Lightfest.

Participants wearing glow-in-the-dark necklaces, twinkling lights and even jingle bells walked or ran or did anything in between through the 4½-mile light show that stretches along Hines Drive from Merriman Road in Westland to Warrendale in Dearborn Heights.

It was Brenda Phare's second time doing the run. The Westland resident was in the park with her friends, Jana Seals of Dearborn Heights and Tiffany Gluski of Novi, who, she said, got her into it two years ago.

"It was the first time I'd ran a race, now I'm running a marathon," Phare said.

"This is like the beginning of the season for us," said Gluski. "It puts us in the holiday spirit."

The trio estimates it takes them 40-50 minutes to complete the route. At Warrendale, participants board buses that brought

OPENING NIGHT

The Wayne County Parks annual Lightfest kicks off with a bang this evening.

Opening ceremonies will be held at 6 p.m. on Hines Drive at Merriman Hollow Area in Westland. The traditional throwing of the switch to light up the display includes music, entertainment, light refreshments and fireworks.

The Midwest's largest and longest drive-through light show, Lightfest features more than 45 giant animated holiday themed displays and more than one million lights. The display is open 7-10 p.m. now through Dec. 31. It's closed on Christmas Day. There is a \$5 fee per vehicle.

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, will be Toy Nights. Wayne County is committed to collecting and providing toys for children who are less fortunate. On these three nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee.

Remember to visit Santa's Workshop at Warrendale Park at the end of the Lightfest drive. Santa will be there starting Thanksgiving Day until Dec. 23. And don't forget to bring your letters to Santa. Outside of Santa's workshop there is a giant mailbox where kids of all ages can drop off their letters to Santa. Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly. Visitors enter Wayne County Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman Road in Westland.

For more information on Wayne County Lightfest, call (734) 261-1990 or go online to www.waynecounty.com.

them back to Merriman Hollow.

Some participants brought their children, pushing them in strollers, pulling them in wagons or carrying them in baby carriers like Laura Cain who had 3-month-old Nora in a carrier under her jacket and son Dylan, 3½, and Ada, 2, in a stroller being pushed by her mother Debby Rabe of Gibraltar.

"It's my first time. I brought the kids because I thought they would like it," she said.

"This is my third walk, and I did one ride," said Rabe. "I loved riding through the lights, but it's double because you have to go there and back."

The two women were joined by Michele Katz of Brighton, who was doing her second walk, and Jen-

nine Kendzie of Livonia.

Kendzie pointed to Rabe for the reason she was walking through the lights, adding that "I'm also just trying to be healthy."

Friends of Brittany Howe of Commerce teased her about her delicate condition. Nine months pregnant and 13 days away from her due date — not that she's counting — she was heading out with Joni Rousseau of White Lake, Katie Hill of Commerce and Kelly and Steve Lauderbaugh of Northville.

"We come to see the lights," said Steve Lauderbaugh. "We've done it for five years. It's like a family tradition."

Mother Nature served up a cold, but dry evening for the event, something the group appreciated.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katelin Majeski of Plymouth, Samantha Bucher of Livonia, Tiffanie Barackman of Plymouth and daughter Carlee dressed festive for the pre-Lightfest event.

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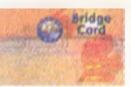
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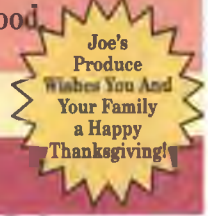
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Wildcats' march hits the wall

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Sequels don't always turn out as good, and Plymouth's varsity football team now knows from first-hand experience.

In 2010, the Wildcats bounced Novi-Detroit Catholic Central 9-7 in the regional finals and that turned out to be the launching pad to the Division 1 state finals.

Saturday afternoon at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park came the rematch, with another regional title on the line.

Yet almost from the start, the Shamrocks (8-4) demonstrated they weren't about to buckle — parlaying 360-plus rushing yards into long drives en route to a 28-7

D1 REGIONAL FINAL

victory.

By comparison, Plymouth gained about 150 yards of total offense, including just over 33 on the ground in 23 attempts (with six plays going for negative yardage).

CC in control

"We made a lot of mistakes on the edge on defense and we didn't run the football, we didn't move the football," Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk said.

"When you beat teams in the playoffs, you have to be able to grind the clock and, shoot, I bet they controlled the football the majority of the game."

Veteran Catholic Cen-



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior quarterback Jamarl Eiland (No. 5) tries to get away from defensive pressure applied by Catholic Central's Dan Bowen (No. 55) during Saturday's regional final. At right for the Wildcats are running back DJ Rossell (No. 31) and senior lineman Travis McCall (No. 75).

tral head coach Tom Mach said ball control was the team's game plan.

"All these guys who

run spreads, they put a lot of pressure on you," Mach said. "But what we like to do is keep them off the field."

"That's what we would like to do, all the time you can't do it. But today we did it at different times where we had long drives, got first downs, kept the clock moving."

The Shamrocks didn't waver, even after giving up Plymouth's lone TD early in the third quarter to cut a 14-0 halftime deficit in half.

CC answered with a 59-yard scoring drive that took 6:19 off the clock and opened up a 21-7 lead.

Then for good measure, the Shamrocks finished the game on an eight-minute drive comprised of 14 running plays.

"Our focus (at half-time) was to come in

Please see WILDCATS, B3

Bring toys to hockey game

High school hockey fans have a chance to catch a game and give to Toys for Tots.

On Wednesday, Nov. 21, at Canton Arctic Edge Arena on Michigan Avenue near Belleville/Canton Center Road, the Canton Chiefs and Plymouth Wildcats will drop the puck in the KLAAs South Division opener for both squads.

Spectators, however, can get a \$10 discount coupon for an oil change at Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth provided they bring a brand new toy to the 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve game. (It is requested that stuffed animals not be donated.)

Other highlights of the evening will include a raffle (with proceeds benefiting Plymouth-Canton Educational Park hockey programs) and Dick Scott-hosted "Score-O!" between periods.

With the latter, participants will be trying to score from center ice and win a 2013 Dodge Dart from Dick Scott in the process.

Salem euchre tourney

Salem Wrestling Boosters are holding the annual Fall Euchre Tournament, slated for Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with games starting at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per player and participants must be at least 21 years old.

Awards will be given to the top three players with the highest scores. There also will be raffles and prizes.

Complimentary food and a cash bar also will be available. Walk-ins are welcome, but seating is limited. For more information, call (734) 981-7913 or (313) 706-3282 or send an e-mail to rkddox@aol.com.

Rookie of the year

Plymouth junior takes preps by storm

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Sarah Dombkowski decided to give high school swimming a try after some encouragement from friends at Plymouth High School.

"The other girls on the team, I talked to them and they convinced me to do it," the 17-year-old Dombkowski said. "I wanted a change from club. Abby (Humphries) said the girls are really nice and that I should try it out."

That decision has resulted in a tidal wave of accomplishments that so far include her time of 1:54.01 in the 200-yard freestyle at the recent KLAAs Kensington Conference meet at South Lyon — which bested the pool record held by U.S. Olympian Allison

Schmitt.

Dombkowski, a junior, set one of her five Plymouth records (including two relays) with that performance. Her All-America consideration time of 4:57.30 in the 500 free at the recent MISCA meet set another school mark.

"It's pretty cool," Dombkowski said about breaking the record set by Schmitt during her pre-glory days swimming for Canton High School. "People are like, 'Oh my gosh, you're going to be an Olympian.'"

With a laugh, Dombkowski recalled telling them "No, I'm not."

Next on the agenda

But who knows what the future might hold for such a driven, talented and highly competi-

Please see SWIMMER, B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth junior Sarah Dombkowski's transition from club swimming to the Wildcats has been a record-smashing success.

Holland-hosted finals await PCEP tankers



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton junior Destinee Barmore-Hicks, shown from a meet earlier this season, will compete at the state finals in several events including the 100-yard freestyle (above).

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park swimmers will travel more than two hours to reach this weekend's Division 1 girls swimming and diving state finals in Holland.

Yet the long trip won't stop youngsters from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools from going after their dreams and the opportunity to stand on the awards podium at Holland Community Aquatic Center.

Canton

For the Chiefs, who are taking nine young ladies to the Friday-Saturday meet, all but freshman Emily Meier experienced the state finals in 2011 at Eastern Michigan University, said head coach Ed Weber.

"The girls have come together very well over the past few weeks," Weber said. "They have worked hard this season in preparation of this weekend."

"... This experience will give the girls confi-

dence competing at high schools most challenging meet. We have some big goals in mind for this weekend, and it always starts with accomplishing personal bests."

Meier might ask teammates Hannah Jenkins, Delaney Adams and Destinee Barmore-Hicks about what it was like to compete last year at EMU. The quartet will compete in the 200-yard medley relay.

Meier, Barmore-Hicks,

Please see FINALS, B2

BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW - PT. 1

Wildcats go to work

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth Wildcats will bring their lunch buckets to the rink if they are to have success during the 2012-13 varsity boys hockey season, said second-year head coach Gerry Vento.

And the Wildcats look ready for the challenge, having earned a 4-2 victory over Dearborn Divine Child in Tuesday's

season opener at Redford Ice Arena.

Plymouth (1-0-0) enabled the Falcons to even things up at 2-2 early in the third.

But true to the hard-working form Vento expects to see, the Wildcats bounced back with goals from junior forward Zach Tavierne on the power play and junior defenseman Kyle Bauer to salt away the victory.

"I thought we shut them down and didn't give them many chances, which is what we were looking for," Vento said. "I thought we were a little tight around their net. If we would have relaxed a little we could have put a few more in and maybe put them away earlier."

"But to give them a goal early in the third and kind of put our backs

Please see ICERS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the top returnees for Plymouth is senior defenseman and assistant captain Dean Gunther (No. 6), shown in this file photo from last season.



Members of Plymouth's varsity girls swimming and diving team competing at the Division 1 state finals in Holland include: (back row, from left) Caylin Waters, Alexa Earls, Emily Toro; (front row, from left) Sarah Dombkowski and Linda Erickson.



Members of Canton's varsity girls swimming and diving team competing this weekend at the D1 finals include (from left) Emily Meier, Delaney Adams, Madeline Madison, Caitlin Orr, Hannah Jenkins, Abby Madison, Claire Green, Destinee Barmore-Hicks and head coach Ed Weber. Not pictured is Melissa Green.



Members of Salem's varsity girls swimming and diving team qualifying for this weekend's D1 finals include (from left) Linda Zhang, Julia Suriano, Abby Aumiller, Stephanie Solterman and Lisa Zhang.

FINALS

Continued from page B1

Madeline Madison and Abby Madison also qualified in the 200-free relay. Canton's third qualifying relay team (400 free) is comprised of Madeline Madison, Caitlin Orr, Adams and Barmore-Hicks.

The swimmers can only compete in two relays and two individual events (or three individual events and one relay), but options abound for Weber's lineup.

Canton's breakdown of swimmers and individual events they qualified for include the following: Barmore-Hicks (50 free-

style, 100 free); Adams (100 butterfly); Claire Green (500 free); Madeline Madison (200 free); Jenkins (100 breast-stroke); Melissa Green (1-meter diving).

Not to be outdone, both Plymouth and Salem will be taking five swimmers to Holland — most who competed at last year's finals.

Plymouth

Holland-bound from the Wildcats will be junior Sarah Dombkowski (qualifying in four events in her first season with the team), Linda Erickson, Emily Toro and Alexa Earls along with alternate Caylin Waters.

Dombkowski — ranked

No. 1 by MISCA in the 500 free and No. 3 in the 200 free — leads the way.

She also joins Erickson, Toro and Earls on the 200-free and 400-free relays, which both set school records this season.

(Emily Weiner was part of the latter but opted not to be an alternate, Schade said.)

Meanwhile, Erickson set a record at the KLAA South Division meet in the 100 butterfly while Toro is the division's best in the 200 IM.

Earls set Plymouth marks in all three relays as well as the 100 backstroke.

Salem

Spearheading Salem's

quintet this weekend are freshmen twins Linda and Lisa Zhang.

Both Zhangs qualified in the 200-medley and 400-free relays. Individual events for Linda Zhang include the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke;

Lisa Zhang's other events are the 200 IM and 100 fly.

Also available for the 200-medley and 400-free relays will be Abby Aumiller, Julia Suriano and Stephanie Solterman.

Other events for those swimmers are as follows: Aumiller (200 free, 100 back); Suriano (500 free, 100 back); Solterman (100 back).

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SWIMMER

Continued from page B1

tive swimmer. This weekend, the longtime member of the Novi Sturgeons

club team will look to add a few more lines to her resume when she competes at the Division 1 state finals in Holland.

Dombkowski is slated to compete in two individual events (200, 500 free)

along with the 200 free and 400 free relays.

Joining her in both relays are Emily Toro, Linda Erickson and Alexa Earls. Plymouth also is sending Caylin Waters as an alternate.

"I'm pretty happy and I'm excited to go to state meet," said Dombkowski, described as a low-key person who flips the script when it's time to compete.

Also thrilled about that is Plymouth head coach Doug Schade, who said he is "really looking forward to this weekend because this is as big a meet as there is in high school. And I think she'll do really, really well."

Schade said the bright lights don't bother Dombkowski.

"I could say she is maybe the most competitive swimmer I've ever coached in my 22-year career," he said. "She's very athletic and she's very competitive. It seems like the bigger the meet we go to, the better she does."

"She's pretty quiet and pretty reserved. But when she gets in the water, I'm telling you I've never seen someone more competitive than her. I don't think I've seen her lose this season, to be honest with you."

Fitting in

The coach added that Dombkowski has meshed well with her Plymouth teammates, something that doesn't always happen when an elite-level athlete suddenly opts to give prep sports a whirl.

"To her credit, she's fit right in and she's done really well," Schade said. "She's set a great example for the kids on the team as far as how to train and how to go about their business on a daily basis."

Of course, Schade admitted getting a kick out of Dombkowski breaking Schmitt's record.

"Everybody knows who Allison is, she's one of the best swimmers in the world," he said. "Anytime that someone puts you in the same category, then that's a pretty good thing."

As far as Dombkowski is concerned, the decision to swim this fall at Plymouth also has been pretty good. She did say there was an adjustment period, coming from the Sturgeons — her club team

since age 10 and the same program older sister Mary (a 2012 Plymouth grad) belonged to.

"The first couple days, it was different from club," Dombkowski said. "But I wanted to do it. It's more team-oriented. Club is more individual. At high school, everybody cheers for you."

They've had good reason to do that. Dombkowski's maiden voyage into the high school waters has yielded individual school records in the 100, 200 and 500 free and a share of records in the 200 and 400 free relays.

Making her mark

Perhaps she will return to the Sturgeons during her senior season. But no matter what, her name will be up on the wall at Salem High School's natatorium (where Plymouth holds its home meets).

"I think that's really cool, just to have your name on a record board and knowing you accomplished that," she said. "I didn't really care about the records (when she joined). I just wanted to make friends and do the best I could do."

Meanwhile, whether or not Dombkowski swims again for the Wildcats next fall remains to be seen.

"You never know," Schade said. "I think she's had a great experience with our team. I think she's broken five or six pool records. She's had a fun season, she's done a lot of things and I hope she comes back."

"I'd like to see what she can do her senior year. But, like I said, when you have someone of her caliber, you can never say for sure what she's going to do."

What is certain is Dombkowski does want to swim at the collegiate level, taking after her mom (Sue) and older sister Mary, who currently is swimming at the University of Toledo.

"She (Mary) has helped me and we have pushed each other," Dombkowski said. "We're so competitive, so we both push each other."

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Football brotherhood soothes pain of loss

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The football game had ended 15 minutes earlier and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central celebrated with the regional trophy.

Still, Plymouth Wildcats players and coaches did not want to leave, even though their season came to a disappointing end Saturday with a 28-7 loss to the Shamrocks.

Head coach Mike Sawchuk and assistant coaches exchanged heartfelt hugs with some of the team's veterans — players such as seniors Nate Emminger and Matt Janke, who were part of the

2010 ride to the Division 3 finals at Ford Field.

Although the team's bid for another trip came up short, one gets the feeling nothing will diminish that as far as any of them are concerned.

"Amazing, it's the best coaches in the world here and the best brothers I could ask for," said Emminger, a heart-and-soul player who usually was in the middle of things for Plymouth on either side of the line of scrimmage.

Emminger, moments after Sawchuk gave him a bear hug, said the coach had a special message for him.

"He told me I was the best player to ever come through Plymouth High School," Emminger noted. "And that meant more than anything in the world to me."

Sawchuk could have said something just like that to another team catalyst in Janke and it wouldn't have been a stretch.

"We played tough as a team, we all poured our hearts out," Janke stressed. "... I love my team. I built some of the best friendships from this team and I'll love those guys forever."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth senior Matt Janke (No. 4) is shown scoring on an interception return Nov. 2 against Livonia Churchill.

WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

and score and then get a three-and-out," Sawchuk said. "But I think at that point they might have wore us down a little bit. ... they converted a lot of third downs and kind of wore us out a little bit."

Giving credit

Two of Plymouth's remaining players from the 2010 game credited the Shamrocks for playing grind-it-out football.

"They play tough, they take it to you for sure," senior wide receiver/defensive back Matt Janke said. "They don't try to out-scheme you, they just try to ram it down your throat."

According to Nate Emminger, another senior wideout/defensive back, "It didn't end the way we wanted it to, obviously, but that's a good team over there."

"It's probably the best team I've ever seen play football in high school. Hats off to them, but we didn't make plays when we had to and that's what killed us in the end."

One of the Shamrocks who did was senior running back/linebacker Anthony Darkangelo, who said his team had extra motivation to get back at Plymouth for the 2010 regional final. He rushed for 128 yards on the ground (in 13 attempts), scoring the first touchdown of the game on a 70-yard run, and was in on numerous tackles as the Wildcats could not move the football.



DENNIS BARNES

Plymouth defenders Josh Dennard (No. 21) and Stefan Turrentine (No. 19) can't stop Zack Bock (right) of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central from scoring during the second half.

On his TD, which made it a 7-0 Catholic Central lead with 11:19 left in the second quarter, Darkangelo bounced off a couple of Plymouth tacklers around the line of scrimmage. After breaking loose, he eluded more defenders near midfield and veered toward the front-left corner of the end zone.

In the open

"Everybody in the front was blocked right and once you get open field, you just got to be able to make people miss," Darkangelo said. "That's what I did."

Sawchuk pointed to that play as one of the turning points: "We had him stopped for a loss and we didn't tackle him and he broke it all the way for a touchdown."

The Wildcats, who finished with a 9-3 record, nearly scored the equal-

izer the next time they had the ball.

Senior quarterback Jamarl Eiland fired a perfect spiral over the middle that Emminger reeled in near midfield and turned it into a 56-yard reception. For a few seconds at least, fans on Plymouth's side of the field had reason to cheer as Emminger sprinted toward the goal line.

But Shamrocks junior defensive back Zach Bock dove forward and tripped up Emminger at the 14. From there, the drive went backward and Plymouth could not even attempt a field goal.

"I don't know, I just saw him out of the corner of my eye and I tried to turn up and run, but he caught me," Emminger said.

Sawchuk emphasized that it's tough for any team in the playoffs to not get anything out of



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth's student section tries to pump up the Wildcats during Saturday's regional final.

such a premium scoring opportunity.

"Obviously, when Emminger made that play and we didn't get any points, you can't do that in the playoffs. You can't do that against good teams," Sawchuk said. "We got to come away with at least three there and we didn't come away with any."

Catholic Central upped the lead to 14-0 at half-time when senior quarterback Garrett Moores broke around left end for a 55-yard TD run.

On the board

Plymouth finally got on the scoreboard early in the third, scoring after a march of 80 yards in nine plays (helped along by a 15-yard penalty against the Shamrocks).

Junior tailback DJ Rosell ran for 9 yards and grabbed an Eiland throw for another 15. Then Eiland hit junior receiv-

er Connor Stella for 14 yards down to the CC 41.

Four plays and a penalty later, Eiland shot through the right side of the line for a 9-yard score with 8:02 left in the third.

That touchdown did not result in the momentum boost Sawchuk and the Wildcats envisioned.

The Shamrocks responded with a 59-yard scoring march, capped by senior fullback David Houle's 1-yard plunge. Houle rushed 17 times for 77 yards, working well in tandem with Darkangelo.

"It's tough," Emminger said. "I know those guys (Darkangelo, Houle) have been playing up there since they were real young. I know they're strong, I know they're powerful ... we just couldn't get it done."

Another quick exit by Plymouth's offense ended the third quarter and

the Shamrocks tacked on another score early in the fourth. A 62-yard pass from Moores to receiver Dylan Roney set up a 20-yard scoring run by Bock.

Despite the disappointing finish, Sawchuk praised his players and assistant coaches for an outstanding season.

"I'm extremely proud of these kids and this coaching staff," he said. "They did a wonderful job. Remember, we only had four offensive returners and four defensive returners."

"Our coaches coached their tails off and the kids got it down in the weight room. We're going to be younger next year."

Meanwhile, Catholic Central will square off Saturday against Rockford in a D1 semifinal.

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ICERS

Continued from page B1

against the wall I thought they responded well."

Making some key stops down the stretch was sophomore goalie Eric VandenBosch, who will split netminding duties with sophomore Jared Maddock.

Their early season mettle will be tested with games Friday and Saturday at the Novi Invitational (against Farmington and Lake Orion) followed by a KLAA South Division tilt Wednesday against Canton at Arctic Edge Arena.

"We got in to the Novi Invite so we're going to have four games really quick here," Vento said. "It's what we want, a tough schedule early to get them going right off the bat."

Also scoring Tuesday were junior defenseman Colin Staub (unassisted to even the game 1-1 in the first) and senior forward and captain Mitch Claggett (from junior forward Mike Schultz and senior forward Nick Schultz) to temporarily give the Wildcats a 2-

1 edge in the middle stanza.

Assisting on Tavierne's marker was senior defenseman and assistant captain Dean Gunther.

Strong on D

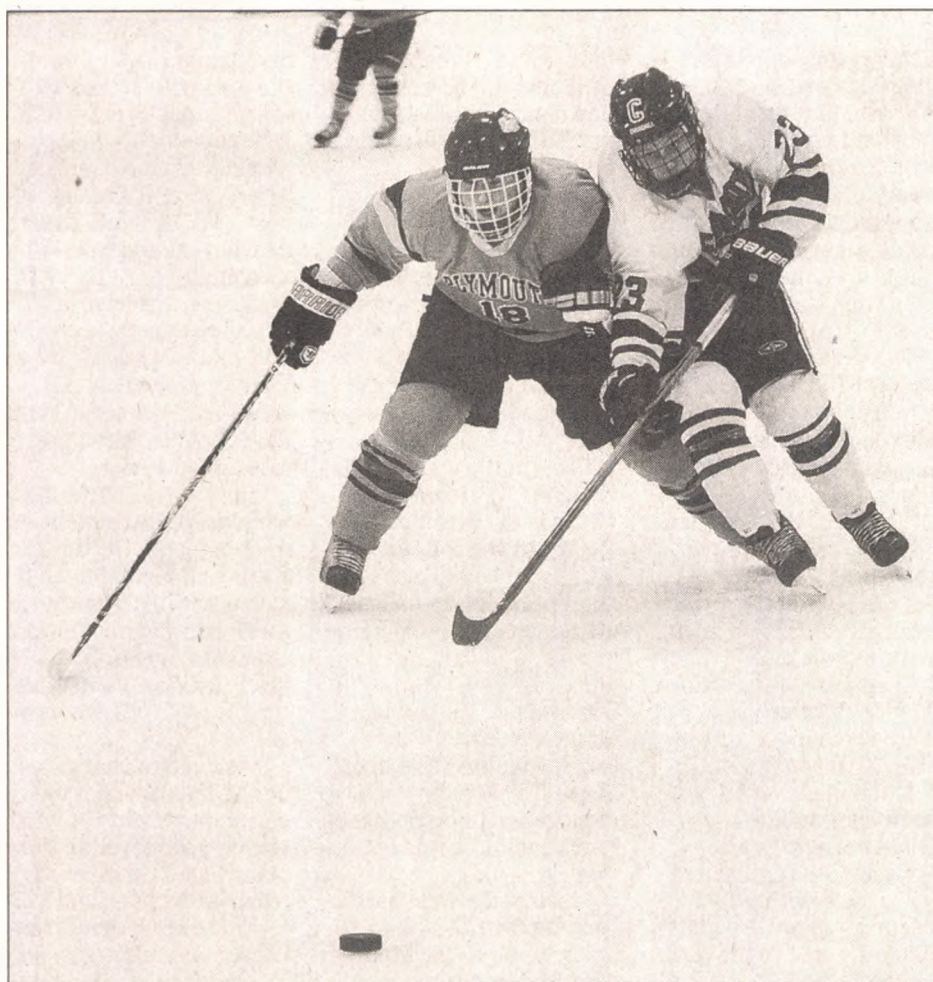
According to Vento, the Wildcats (14-8-0 in 2011-12 in the KLAA South, good for third place) will go to work with a tough defense featuring Gunther, Bauer (also an assistant captain), senior Cam Nadell (out to start the season with an injury) and Staub.

Rounding out the D will be sophomores Jake Zaborowski and Ben Cha-fin.

"As the season develops I think our strength is going to be on the blue-line, we've got a lot of returners back. We got one guy (Nadell) out with an injury and I think once he get back our blue-line's going to be a strength."

"Besides that we're a good skating team, so it's a good combination."

And a lot of that mobility comes from the defensemen, with Gunther and Bauer both capable of excelling at both ends of the rink — which they did against Divine Child.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Once senior defenseman Cam Nadell (No. 18) returns from an injury, the Plymouth offense will be a team strength.

"We look for him (Bauer) to be like that all year," Vento said. "He

had a great spring/summer, playing for an MDHL (Michigan Devel-

opment Hockey League) team. "Same thing with Dean.

He worked unbelievably hard in the spring and summer, made an MDHL team which did a lot for his confidence and it's showing."

Up front, the lineup includes seniors Claggett, Nick Schultz, Ryan Theisen, Spencer Godin, Jordan Lopetrone, Joe Burke, Thomas Kelly; juniors Tavierne, Charlie Supernois, Conor Browne and Mike Schultz; sophomore Josh Smith.

"I've been very impressed with Josh Smith's early start," Vento said. "He seems to have adjusted real well to high school hockey."

"A lot of the guys have really seemed to do well. It's kind of an adjustment for some guys but they'll figure it out."

The players are definitely figuring out what Vento and his staff will expect of them, too.

"The returners know what the program is," he added. "They let the other guys know and they start to catch on."

"We're a lot further ahead this year than we were last year."

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

November

BOOK SIGNING

Time/Date: Noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24
Location: A. Mateja Church Supply, 30762 Ford Road, Garden City
Details: Pro-life activist Monica Migliorino Miller will sign her book, "Abandoned." The book is a first-hand account of the pro-life

movement and includes stories of victory and defeat in sidewalk counseling, a look at the inner-workings of abortion facilities, and more. The book will be available for \$22, a discounted price
Contact: (734) 513-2950
BREAKFAST
Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 18
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All-you-can-eat pancake, French toast, scrambled eggs, applesauce,

ham, sausage, coffee, tea and milk. Adults pay \$3; children, 2-10, pay \$1.50. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club
Contact: (734) 425-4421

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17
Location: Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Vendors, crafters, and prizes. The \$1 admission includes a chance on door prize of your choice. Profits from admission, food sales and 20 percent of vendor/crafter sales goes to our Kids' Hope USA Program, benefiting Livonia School children.
Contact: (734) 427-1414

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton
Details: Free clothing and shoes to anyone in need
Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway Southfield

Details: Norwegian pianist Knut Erik Jensen will perform works by Edvard Grieg, Geirr Tveitt, Richard Wagner and Franz Liszt and others. Suggested donation is \$10
Contact: (248) 354-4488

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16
Location: St. Damian, 29891 Joy Road, Westland
Details: This vendor show also includes a raffle, snacks and cash bar. Admission is \$5. Tables available for \$15
Contact: Yvette Corey at

(734) 427-1680

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: The Rev. Gregory Gibbons will preach on the theme "Pray, Praise and Give Thanks"
Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

December

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 9
Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia
Details: 31st annual concert featuring the St. Aidan Adult and Children's Choirs, and the St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble. Minimum donation is \$5, along with two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go toward food baskets for the needy
Contact: (734) 425-5950

CONCERT

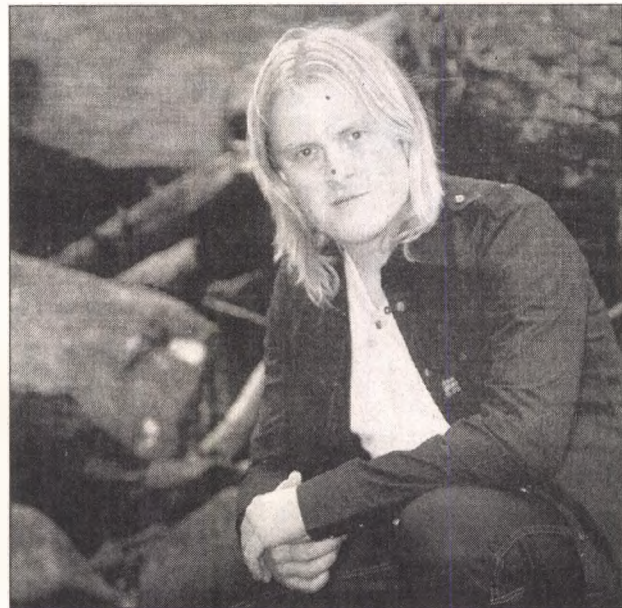
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8

Location: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Birmingham

Details: Bernard Woma Ensemble performs on African percussion instruments, bridging Western orchestral music with the rhythms of African dance. Admission is a suggested donation of \$20 and will include the concert, followed by desserts, wine and conversation with the performers
Contact: (248) 647-2380

GRIEF WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Dec. 14 and 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Dec. 15
Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth.
Details: The "Grieving with



Knut Erik Jensen will perform Thursday, Nov. 15, at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield.

Great Hope" workshop offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Speakers will include the Rev. John Riccardo, as well as John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization. Registration forms are online at www.goodmourningministry.net or call OLCG
Contact: (734) 453-0326; olgparish.net

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

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

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

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday.

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of the Gospel of St. Luke. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation
Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniast-michael.org

Ongoing

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

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DEO, THELLEN

Born June 1, 1923. 89 years old, passed away at Garden City Hospital on October 26, 2012. Preceded in death by husband, Edwin Deo, a builder in the City of Wayne. Cremation by Uht's Funeral Home, Wayne, Michigan. No services were held.



WASSELL, WILLARD "BUD"

Age 79, November 9, 2012. Beloved husband of Ann for 54 years. Loving father of Thomas (Cindy) Wassell and Tracy (Jim) Favaro. Dear grandfather of Roy and Daniel, Josh, Coley and Bethany. Bud was a retired supervisor at Rouge Steel and enjoyed spending time with family and watching sports. Visitation at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Saturday from 10 a.m. until time of Memorial Service at 11:30 a.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to Residential Hospice. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com.

FISHER, MARGARET O.

November 5, 2012, Age 81 of Plymouth. Cherished wife of Eugene A. "Gene" Fisher. Loving mother of David (Jeanne) Fisher of Brownstown, Michigan and the late Stephen J. Fisher. Proud grandmother of Charles D. (Melanie) Fisher of Pasadena, California, Richard P. (Audrey) Fisher of Boulder, Colorado and Margaret G. Fisher of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Great-grandmother of Penelope "Penny" and Jack Fisher both of Pasadena, California. Dear sister of O. James (Ann) Owen of South Carolina. Mrs. Fisher attended the University of Illinois. Margaret was a long-time member of the Plymouth District Library, Plymouth Community Arts Council, and the Perdido Bay United Methodist Church of Pensacola, Florida. She was a former member of the Nomads Travel Club, with whom she and her husband traveled the world. Memorial Service will be held Sat 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth with a gathering from 10-11 AM. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

Farmington church offers lifelong learning

Learn about women and Islam, dog training, and ancient aliens Thursday, Nov. 15 at Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, in Farmington Hills.

The sessions are part of the Lifelong Learning Forum series that runs from 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, October-November at the church. Classes are open to the public. A \$5 donation is suggested. Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m.

"Understanding Dog Training" will feature Sherry Miller, who is trained

in the K-9 method. She'll have her dog on hand to demonstrate basic commands, sit, stay, come, down and heel. Participants should not bring their own dogs to class.

Iman Harp will present "Women and Islam," a forum designed to eliminate common misconceptions about Islam and the roles of women in Islam. She'll talk about what Islam is, who is God in Islam, the relationship between God and humans, and more. Harp immigrated from Lebanon in 1997 and holds

a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry and a master's degree in counseling. She is a guidance counselor and assessment coordinator at Frontier International Academy of Hamtramck.

Duane Townsend, an information technology consultant, will lead the "Ancient Aliens" session. He'll explore the idea of extra-terrestrial contact with earth and mankind. For more information visit www.uuFarmington.org and click on "Lifelong Learning."

Your Invitation to Worship

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Saxophone soloist

Hometown favorite shares stage with Michigan Philharmonic

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Saxophonist Zachery Shemon returns to Michigan this week to help break ground on new music by composer Libby Larsen.

The Plymouth native, a graduate student at Indiana University, will guest solo on *Song Concerto* during weekend performances with the Michigan Philharmonic at The Carr Center in Detroit and the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. Larsen, who has written more than 500 works — from vocal and chamber music to orchestral pieces and operas — will be on hand for the Midwest premier of her work.

"*Song Concerto* was written for Eugene Rousseau, a father figure in American saxophone playing, and combines the saxophone's history as a classical instrument with its unmistakable association with jazz," said Shemon in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "One of the cool things about the piece is that it uses both alto and soprano saxes and gives the audience a chance to hear the wide spectrum of colors the saxophone is capable of producing."

Shemon, a 2002 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School, is in his final year of graduate school, finishing a doctorate degree in saxophone performance. He's also a member of New York-based PRISM Quartet, an ensemble specializing in contemporary concert music for saxophone.

"We regularly commission new works for saxophone quartet by some of the most highly-respected com-



Libby Larsen

posers in the world. In fact, Libby Larsen wrote a piece for PRISM, *Wait a Minute*, which we recorded and released on a CD of short works dedicated to the quartet," Shemon said. "She has written several pieces for saxophone and really understands the capabilities of the instrument."

Guest artist

Performing with the Michigan Philharmonic is a homecoming of sorts for Shemon who made his orchestral debut at age 18 with the Plymouth Symphony. He has performed as a guest soloist several times with the group, which is now called the Michigan Philharmonic. He also has soloed with the Ann Arbor Concert Band, performed with the Windsor Symphony in Ontario and was a featured musician when the University of Michigan Symphony Band played at Carnegie Hall in 2005.

Shemon has earned dozens of awards for his musicianship. Most recently he won first prize in the International Saxophone Symposium and Competition. As a student in Plymouth, he received 15 division one State Solo and Ensemble Festival ratings.

Shemon began studying



Zach Shemon will perform with the Michigan Philharmonic Sunday, Nov. 18 at the Village Theater in Canton.

saxophone in the band at Pioneer Middle School and later attained the principal alto saxophone position in the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, Wind Ensemble and Michigan Youth Band.

"I played in the bands at the Park and was a member of the marching band in 1999 when we won BOA Grand Nationals," Shemon noted.

Paying it forward

He'll return to the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Friday, Nov 16, to meet with Arts Academy music students at lunch.

"It's a small thing I can do

to give back to a music program and community I owe so much to," he said. "I'm absolutely thrilled to be performing with the Michigan Philharmonic this weekend."

The program, "Dance Mix" will include a variety of dance music, in addition to Larsen's work.

The concerts are at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17 at The Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton.

Tickets are \$25, \$20 and \$10. Call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.michiganphil.org.



LARRY SANDERS

Works by Andrea Anderson, such as this handmade scarf, and other members of the Michigan Weavers Guild, will be for sale Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Winter Market in Farmington Hills.

Woven, wearable art for sale at Costick Center

Looking for a special gift this holiday season? The artists of the Michigan Weavers Guild will offer a wide array of gift-giving options at a holiday trunk sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Admission is free.

Michigan Weavers Guild members make wearable pieces and accessories, framed wall pieces, home décor objects, sculpture, and jewelry.

The Winter Market, which will take place in the Costick Center lobby, is a cooperative effort by the Guild and the City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division. A portion of all sales will go to support arts programs for children and adults in Farmington Hills.

The City Gallery at the Costick Center also will feature an exhibit by the Weavers Guild from Nov. 17 to January 3, 2013. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call the Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856.

Symphony marks 40 years with dinner, auction

Livonia Symphony Orchestra will hold its 40th Anniversary Party Friday, Nov. 16, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

The event, which will include dinner and a silent auction, will celebrate the history of the symphony, its musicians and supporters, and will honor Francesco DiBlasi, founder, Volodymyr Shesniuk, music director and conductor, and Carl

Karoub, associate conductor.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. for the silent auction, with dinner following at 7 p.m. Attire is "casually elegant."

Tickets are \$70 per person, of which \$40 is tax deductible. Reservations are required. For more information call June Kendall at (734) 425-1881 or visit www.livoniasymphony.org.

GET OUT!

Arts & Crafts

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints

by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013; Faberge: The Rise and Fall, The Collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, through Jan. 21, 2013; Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3, 2013

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

LIBERTY STREET BREWING CO.

Time/Date: Art on display through November

Location: 149 W. Liberty, in Old Village, Plymouth; in the upper hall gallery

Details: Mariuca Rofick

shows her black and white photography in an exhibit called METROPOLIS. Rofick is an exhibiting member of Hatch, the Hamtramck artists collective, and her work has been shown at such galleries as the Carr Center, Lawrence Street Gallery and the Scarab Club

Contact: (734) 207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

Please see GET OUT!, B8

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GET OUT!

Continued from page B7

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Small Works," an all-media juried art exhibit, and "Celebrate!," a Northville Camera Club exhibit are featured. Northville Art House's Holiday Gift Shop also underway
Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: Through November; artist reception is 2-4 p.m. Nov. 17

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: "Mixed Musings" by Peggy Kerwan combines the artist's love of painting, mosaic, and paper sculpture

Coming up: Ornament-making workshop will run 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18. Participants will help fashion ornaments for the "Holiday Walk of Trees" PCAC pine in Kellogg Park and will make an ornament for their own tree. Youngsters under 7 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 at the door. Pre-register by e-mailing to Lisa@plymoutharts.com or call (734) 416-4278. Drop-ins welcome

Contact: (734) 416-4278

VAAL

Time/Date: Through Nov. 17

Location: Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: The Visual Arts Association of Livonia fall exhibit will include original art work done by VAAL members in watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel and mixed media. The art work will be for sale. Ellen M. Moucoulis of Schoolcraft College is the show jury

Contact: (734) 838-1204; www.vaalart.org

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: Through Nov. 29; gallery hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances

Location: In Gallery@VT in the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: The works of Alvey Jones, painter, printmaker, and book artist are on display

Contact: (734) 394-5300

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Trouble with the Curve," \$3

Coming up: "Won't Back Down," 7 p.m. and 9:15

p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 16-17 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18;

Holiday Classics: "It's a Wonderful Life," 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1-2; 9:25 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 30-Dec. 1; and 4:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday Nov. 16-17 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: "Since You Went Away," \$4

Coming up: "A Christmas Story," 8 p.m. Nov. 30 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 1, \$4. Santa will be on hand Nov. 30-Dec. 1 for photos
Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

Music

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17

Location: JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Jeff London hosts the event; Pairadocs Trio is the featured performer; sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m. Eight open mic spots are available and



First place

This oil painting, "A Fine Place for Turtles," won top honors in the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's (VAAL) fall art show, which continues through Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center. The artist, Kathleen O'Connell of Dearborn, painted the scene near the Rouge River in Dearborn. Juror Ellen Moucoulis said she awarded the piece first place because it was created with the "old master technique of layering paint." She also liked the "feeling of peace and serenity" portrayed in the landscape. Second place honors went to Allison Kardell of Novi for a mixed media piece. Regina Dunne of Northville took third place for a pastel. Five honorable mentions went to Fred Keebler of Livonia, Tom Lyons of Ann Arbor, Al Weber of Canton, Rosa Paulus of Northville and Gwen Senatore of Novi. For more information about VAAL call (734) 838-1204 or visit www.vaalart.org.

open to all acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are available

for \$50 per family and \$25 for individuals. Open mic evenings are held the third Saturday of the month

through May.

Contact: (734) 416-4278

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18

Location: Senate Theater, 6424 Michigan Ave., near Livernois, Detroit

Details: Melissa Eidson, keyboard artist, will perform a pops concert on the Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ. Admission is \$12. Guarded parking is available in the lot Gilbert

Contact: www.dtos.org

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December

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

Details: Upcoming performers are Terry Lower Trio with Russ Miller. Miller is an assistant professor in the music department at Wayne State University and has played with several famous Jazz artists. Lower will be on keyboard, Jim Ryan on drums, and Ray Tini on bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans

Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com



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Thanksgiving Day: Dine out or cater the turkey dinner

If you don't want to cook on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, but still want to feast, here's a sampling of establishments that will serve carry-out fare or will be open for business that day:

- **Morels**, 32729 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills, will serve a take-out only Thanksgiving Day dinner, with pickup scheduled from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. The minimum order is for six and cost is \$25 per person. The menu will include Organic Spinach Harvest Salad, which includes dried cranberries, roasted pear and red onion, pinenuts, blue cheese and Maple-Mustard dressing; Artisan Cranberry-Walnut Bread and Michigan Inspired Scones; Roasted Michigan-Raised Turkey; Apple & Cherry Savory Dressing; whipped potatoes; pan gravy; Michigan spaghetti squash; Braised Red Cabbage; and Jayme's Pumpkin Cheesecake. Customers can add on Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail with Atomic Cocktail Sauce for \$3.50 each and Morel Mushroom Bisque for \$8 per person. To order, call (248) 254-3840.

- **Ginopolis Bar-B-Q Smokehouse**, 27815 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills will serve its annual Thanksgiving Day dinner, both carry out and in house dining. In house dining will run from noon to 8 p.m. Carry-out orders can be called in any day or evening and picked up starting at noon Thanksgiving Day. There is no order deadline. In addition to the restaurant's regular menu, the special holiday fare includes an oven-roasted turkey dinner with all the trimmings for \$18.99 for adults and \$7.99 per child. Other entrees: St. Louis Smoked Ribs, Honey Glaze Pork Tenderloin, New York Steak, Baked Ham, "Greektown Style" Marinated Lamb Chops, Baked Walnut-Encrusted Chicken, Herb Gulf Shrimp Pasta, Stuffed Norwegian Salmon Florentine, and World Famous Montgomery Inn Ribs. Call (248) 851-8222 for carry-out or reservations.

- **Claddagh Irish Pub**, 17800 Haggerty, Livonia will serve a buffet 11 a.m.-7 p.m. The buffet closes one hour after the last seating. The menu will include baked breads and rolls, assorted fruit, carved turkey with trimmings, pan gravy and cranberry sauce, Irish bacon with honey, cherry and pineapple glaze, green bean casserole, candied yams, cranberry and apple stuffing, fresh seasonal vegetables, mashed potatoes, salad bar, balsamic-marinated chicken breast, pasta, an Irish specialty dish, soup and an assortment of desserts. Cost is \$22.95 for adults, \$9.95 for kids ages 5-10, and free for kids, 4 and under. Make reservations at (734) 542-8141.

- **Sweet Lorraine's**, 1700 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, will feature a buffet from 1-6 p.m. Cost is \$34.95 for adults and \$11.95 for children 12-5. The menu will include an apple cider station, soup, carving station with roast turkey and prime rib, an omelet station, a pasta station, salads and sides, smoked salmon platter, shrimp cocktail, tropical fruit, green bean casserole, butter-nut squash-stuffed pasta, mashed potatoes, herb-bread stuffing, asparagus and main courses such as Baked Chick-

- en Piccata, Late Harvest Oven-Baked Salmon, Williamsburg Ribs in a Sweet Molasses-BBQ Sauce, and light and dark turkey meat with gravy. A children's mini buffet also will include cocktail franks in puff pastry, pepperoni and cheese pizza stixs, chicken fingers, mac & cheese, pretzels and Teddy Grahams. The dessert table will include cake, trifle, torte, a chocolate fountain and more. Make reservations by calling (734) 953-7480.

- **Five**, at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth, will serve a special four-course Thanksgiving Day meal from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Cost is \$49 for adults and \$19 per child. Entree choices include herb-crusted petite filet mignon, chanterelle-dusted sea scallops, braised short ribs, roasted turkey breast, wild boar chop, butter-poached sable, and a surf 'n' turf plated of herb-crusted petite filet mignon, lobster tail and crab. Make reservations online at Five@st.johnsgc.com or by calling (734) 357-5700.

- **Golden Fox and Fox Classic restaurants** at Fox Hills, 8768 N. Territorial, Plymouth will both offer buffets from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Golden Fox's buffet will include a breakfast station with such items as Pumpkin Cranberry French Toast and Fluffy Scrambled Eggs; a seafood station; soup station with Pumpkin Bisque; salad station; omelet station; carving station; "Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving" station, with turkey pot pie, oven-roasted turkey, beef brisket, tilapia, chicken cutlets and more; and a dessert station. Cost is \$34.95 for adults and \$12.95 for children, 3-12. Children under 3 eat for free.

- The Fox Classic will serve cocktail shrimp, Butternut Squash Soup, salads, cranberry sauce, rolls and cornbread, mashed potatoes with gravy, green bean casserole, honey-glazed carrots, mac n' cheese, Beef Sheppard's Pie, cornbread stuffing, roasted turkey, ham, and desserts. Cost is \$24.95 for adults and \$10.95 for children, 3-12. Children under 3 eat for free. Call (734) 453-7272 for reservations.

- **Courthouse Grille**, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth will include a roasted turkey dinner on the menu with other items. The turkey dinner costs \$17.99 and the stuffed turkey breast dinner costs \$18.99. Both come with cranberry sauce, gravy, a choice of mashed or sweet potatoes and a choice of green beans almandine or honey-roasted root vegetables. The turkey dinner also includes dried fruit and apple stuffing and the turkey breast comes with a rice and escarole stuffing. Other entrees include honey-roasted ham, scallops, risotto, walleye, prime rib and more. All entrees, include the turkey dinners, are served with rolls, and soup or garden salad. Make reservations by calling (734) 453-2002.

- **Epoch Catering** in Novi offers a Thanksgiving Dinner that serves 10-12 and includes turkey, potatoes, cornbread stuffing, orange-cranberry relish, green beans and rolls for \$159. Desserts are available at an additional price. Order deadline is Friday, Nov. 16. Pick-up times will be assigned, between 8 a.m.-11 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Call (248) 735-7222.



Dion Burke, (left) Chuck Woolley and Mike Fillion get ready to carve at last year's Thanksgiving Day dinner at Newburg United Methodist Church.

Friendly feasts

Local churches welcome guests for Thanksgiving dinner

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Nancy Boyd will set the table for Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday night.

She'll prep some vegetables, decorate and maybe take a few photos.

Then, on the big day, she'll greet more than 200 guests and wash dishes after they dine on turkey, all the trimmings, side dishes and pie.

"I love doing this. It makes your heart feel good, especially for those people who don't have family or who have small families," said Boyd, 78. "It's a wonderful mission our church is doing."

The Canton woman is part of a volunteer crew that will make sure Newburg United Methodist Church's second annual community Thanksgiving Day dinner comes off without a hitch on Nov. 22. The free dinner, with seatings at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., will be held at the church, located at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia.

Sarah Nadeau Alexander, youth and young adult ministry coordinator, said Newburg's first holiday dinner last year drew more than 220 individuals and volunteers from as far away as Flint.

"This dinner is free to all and open to anyone who would like to attend, whether families cannot afford the huge dinner setting, or a few people do not want to go through the hassle of putting on a large dinner only for a few to eat," Alexander said, in an e-mail to the *Observer*.

She said the church this year is asking for monetary donations and for volunteers to help before or during Thanksgiving Day. Boyd recalls at least 15 volunteers who were not Newburg members pitched in last year.

"We had a fellow just come in from Afghanistan. He was home on leave and wanted to do something. What a delightful young man he was," Boyd said. "So many people just dropped in to help. It was wonderful."

"I'm thrilled by the whole idea of having a community family dinner for free. I don't have any family here and many times I've gone to friends' homes for Thanksgiving. I'm having two of my friends come to the 4 p.m. seating. And a neighbor is coming. I'll be a greeter at the first seating and I'll eat with them at the second."

"Newburg is my family here and it's a wonderful family." Boyd said the church plans to place a television screen — tuned to football — in the dining room, along with puzzles, coloring books and other activities for children.

Anyone interested in attending the free meal must RSVP by calling the church office at (734) 422-0149.

A handful of other area churches also plan dinners on Thanksgiving Day.

Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, Redford will serve a Thanksgiving Day meal from 2-5 p.m. at its family center. The gathering is open to all, but designed for those who don't



Ragen Chick (left) watches as Michelle Hartmann prepares a salad at the community Thanksgiving Dinner last year at Newburg United Methodist Church, in Livonia.



Ray Odum and the Rev. Marsha Wooley get a close-up look at pies made by members of Newburg United Methodist Church last year at its first annual community Thanksgiving Dinner.



Andrew Perez and Jill Perez stock the pie table.

want to eat alone. A love offering will be accepted. Call the church to RSVP at (313) 534-9000.

St. Mel's, 7506 Inkster Road, in Dearborn, also will serve dinner at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

The focus is on individuals or couples without family or friends in the area, those that might otherwise eat alone on the holiday. RSVP to the church at (734) 422-0149.

Tasty tradition

Vegetarian event offers healthful cooking ideas for the holidays

It started as a way to share healthy holiday vegetarian recipes. Twenty-five years later, more than 650 guests sampled some 50 vegetarian and vegan offerings ranging from appetizers and main dishes to salads and desserts on Sunday, Nov. 11 at the Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza sponsored by Better Living Seminars and Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Guests from throughout western Wayne County and west Oakland County sampled home-cooked recipes prepared by volunteer chefs. Smiles, nods and lots of "this taste's great" were heard throughout the gymnasium, which was transformed into a holiday dining room at Metropolitan Adventist Church on Haggerty Road in Northville Township.

Chefs included Jeanie Weaver (event organizer), Ema Roma, Julie Verhelle, Marcia More, Lori Peach, Simone Cross, Rula Karapatsakis, Lucia Modiga, Margi Toppenberg, Heather Arvidson, Maria Matthew, Joy Hyde, Vera Bakewell, Kathy Dukaric, Shirley Brezzell, Stephanie Howard, Connie Vail and Pat Calisti.

Additional chefs were Dolly Dimond, Amber Bayer, Kelli Marquette, Chad and Melissa Higgins, Ellen Higgins, Anna Box, Janet Costew, Sue Parce, Rina Parce, Jonathan Janevski, Yusuke and Mika Kuramochi, Fumio Narita, Yuzuru Ito, Ayumi Uchino, Cheryl Gilbert, Jennifer Barkholz and Julie Chole.

Also contributing food was Charley's Deli Grille and the Great Harvest Bread Co.

"The event started



Enjoying this year's Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza are Plymouth Township residents and family members (from left) Katharine Rzepecki, Patty Rzepecki, Tom Rzepecki, Terry Rzepecki and Dick Rzepecki. Tom, Patty and Katharine marked their 10th year attending the event while Dick and Terry have attended the last three years.



Natalie Weaver has been a volunteer chef at the event since the taste fest began 25 years ago. Her helper is Ethan Karapatsakis of Canton Township.



Jeanie Weaver (standing) heads the Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza. Also pictured are her father, Dr. Arthur Weaver, of Northville and president of Better Living Seminars, along with taste fest guests Clay and Ejjnifer Raybourn of South Lyon.



Leigh Diamond of Livonia dishes up samples of Uncle Dave's Biscuits and Gravy, a main dish prepared with soy products.



Hannah Arvidson of South Lyon prepares food in sampling cups for taste fest guests.

because we had a desire to share recipes of good healthy food with friends from the community," said Dr. Arthur Weaver, M.D., and president of Better Living Seminars, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching the importance of healthy liv-

ing. "New nutritional research is being published regularly showing the advantages of a balanced vegetarian diet. Scientists are discovering new photochemicals and antioxidants in fruits, grains, vegetables, and

nuts that were previously thought nonexistent. These natural compounds have been shown to be anti-carcinogenic, to lower cholesterol, and to significantly reduce many

chronic disease processes such as diabetes, arthritis, and macular degeneration. Every available evidence now indicates that a well-balanced, total vegetarian diet is the

best food plan one can choose," wrote Weaver on the group's website.

The event is a family-affair for Weaver. His wife, Natalie, has prepared food for the taste fest since the event started. His daughter, Jeanie Weaver, coordinates the event and also prepared at least four selections at this year's Tasting Extravaganza.

Upcoming events include an International Thanksgiving Vegetarian Potluck at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17 in Metropolitan Adventist Church, and A Christmas Potluck on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 15585 Haggerty Road, Northville Township. For information, call (734) 420-3131 or (734) 420-4044.

Make Thanksgiving Day fare vegan-friendly

Got a vegetarian or vegan sharing your Thanksgiving Day dinner?

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) offers these tips to create a feast that will appeal to meat-eaters, vegetarians and vegans:

- Use vegetable broth in the stuffing.

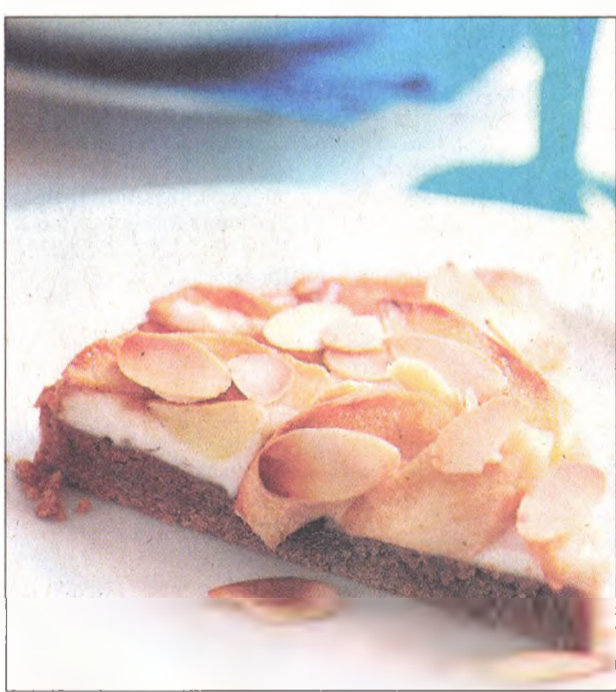
- Vegans — who eat no dairy foods and no animal products — will thank you for substituting soy milk and margarine for milk and butter in mashed potatoes.

- If you're baking holiday bread, substitute egg replacer and soy milk for eggs and milk. Commercial egg replacers, such as Ener-G Egg Replacer, are available in health food stores and many grocery stores. Or try substituting one banana or ¼ cup applesauce for each egg called for in a recipe for sweet, baked desserts. Make sure bananas or apples are compatible with the other flavors in the dessert. Fruit purées tend to make the final product denser than the original recipe. For a light texture, add an additional ½ teaspoon of baking powder.

- Tofu is the perfect egg substitute for quiches, scrambles and custards. Replace one egg with ¼ cup of tofu purée.

- Save time in the kitchen by asking guests to bring a vegan dish to share.

- Be sure to keep vegan salad dressing on hand. Annie's, Girard's, Brianna's, Newman's, Kraft, and Whole Foods are among the brands that offer some vegan products. The dressing also can be as simple as oil



STEVE LEE STUDIOS

Apple Bavarian Torte

and vinegar.

- Try a vegan turkey alternative. Tofurky Roast, Celebration Roast and Gardein Holiday Roast are three options available from health food markets and some grocery stores. All contain wheat gluten, however, making them inappropriate for those on gluten-free diets.

Here are a few dessert recipes from PETA to top off your vegan- and vegetarian-friendly holiday meal:

Apple Bavarian Torte

Makes 6-8 servings

- ½ cup plus 1 tablespoon vegan margarine, chilled
- 3 apples, peeled, cored, cut in half, and thinly sliced
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

- ½ cup plus ¼ cup white sugar, chilled
- ¼ teaspoon plus ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup flour, chilled
- 1 8-ounce package nondairy cream cheese (try Tofutti or Galaxy brand)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- ¼ cup sliced almonds

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Oil a 9-inch springform pan. In a skillet over medium heat, melt 1 tablespoon margarine. Toss the apples with the brown sugar and cinnamon and sauté for 2-3 minutes. Drain off and reserve the liquid. Cream together ½ cup margarine, ½ cup white sugar, ¼ teaspoon vanilla, and the flour. Press the crust mixture into the bottom of the springform pan.

Set aside. In a food processor, blend together the nondairy cream cheese, lemon juice, ½ teaspoon vanilla, cornstarch, and remaining ¼ cup sugar. Pour this mixture over the crust and spread the apples on top. Bake for 10 minutes. Drizzle with a couple of spoonfuls of the reserved apple liquid, avoiding the edges of the pan, and continue baking for 25 minutes. Sprinkle almonds over the top of the torte. Continue baking until lightly browned. Cool before removing from the pan.

Pumpkin Patch "Cheesecake"

Makes 8 servings

- 12 ounces firm silken tofu, pureed
- 8 ounces nondairy cream cheese (try Tofutti brand at Tofutti.com)
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 prepared graham cracker crust

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Purée all the ingredients except the pie crust in a food processor and pour into the graham cracker crust. Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes.

Allow to cool for 30 minutes, cover with plastic wrap or the top of the pie container, and refrigerate for 6 hours or overnight before serving.

Chocolate Bread Pudding With Rum Sauce

Serves 6

- For the Pudding:
- 5 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 tablespoon hot water
- 2 cups soy milk
- Egg Replacer equivalent of 2 eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- Dash salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 to 3 cups stale bread, torn into small pieces

- For the Rum Sauce:
- 1 cup vegan margarine, softened (try Earth Balance brand)
- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- ¼ cup dark rum
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Combine the cocoa with the hot water until smooth. Add more water as needed.

In a large bowl, combine the cocoa mixture, soy milk, egg replacer, sugar, salt, and vanilla. Mix in the stale bread. Pour into a prepared loaf pan. Bake at 350°F for 1 hour.

Beat the margarine until light and fluffy. Sift the confectioner's sugar into the margarine. Add the rum, vanilla, and nutmeg. Beat on high speed for 5 minutes. Pour over the pudding. Serve warm.

Orange-Cranberry Upside-Down Cake

Makes 6-8 servings

- 6 tablespoons vegan margarine, plus more for greasing the pan (try Earth Balance brand)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon allspice
- 1 tablespoon grated orange zest
- 1 ½ cups fresh cranberries
- Egg replacer equivalent to 1 egg

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Juice of 1 orange
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup soy milk

Preheat the oven to 350°F, making sure that a rack is in the center. Generously grease an 8-inch round cake pan with margarine and set aside. Whisk together ½ cup of the sugar with the cinnamon, allspice, and orange zest. Sprinkle evenly over the bottom of the pan. Arrange the cranberries in a single layer on top and set aside.

In a large bowl, cream the 6 tablespoons of margarine and the remaining ½ cup of sugar for several minutes with an electric mixer until well blended. Add the egg replacer, vanilla, and orange juice. Beat again.

In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt. With the mixer on low speed, add the flour mixture to the margarine mixture in three batches, alternating with the soy milk and blending well after each addition.

Pour over the cranberries and smooth the top. Place on a baking sheet on a rack in the center of the oven and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, approximately 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool on a wire rack for 30 minutes. Run a knife around the edge of the cake and invert onto a

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Help Wanted - General

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