

GIFT GUIDE





SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2012 • hometownlife.com

Santa letters

Dear Kids: Please don't forget Santa. He wants to hear from you in time for the holidays. He's expecting so many letters that he has asked the Plymouth Observer to help.

Please send your letter and a photo of yourself to the editor at bkadrich@hometownlife.com. You can also mail them attention of Brad Kadrich, Plymouth Observer editor, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The Observer will publish letters and photos before the holidays. That means we need to receive your letter by noon, Friday, Dec. 14.

Board meets

The Plymouth-Canton **Board of Education meets** at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the board meeting room of the E.J. McClendon Educational Center to talk about the district's technology and capital improvement needs.

Board members recently began discussions about the possibility of seeking a bond issue of some \$100 million to deal with its needs in both areas.

Among things being considered to be obtained by the bond would be buses, technology and a solution to the problems at Central Middle School.

The E.J. McClendon **Educational Center is** located at 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth.

Pearl Harbor ceremony

President Franklin Roosevelt declared Dec. 7, 1941, a "day that will live in infamy.

On Friday, Dec. 7, local veterans try to make sure that day is not forgotten.

At 1 p.m., a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony takes place at Veterans Memorial Park, in front of Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth. The ceremony is a cooperative venture of the local veterans military organizations representing Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton. They are the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 528 and American Legion Post No. 391.

Wreaths will be laid and Taps played as a special tribute to those men and women who made the supreme sacrifice and died at Pearl Harbor.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus and 3-year-old triplets Elaina, Emery and George Kolb throw the switch that lights the Kellogg Park tree. The Kolb triplets are from Plymouth. Santa Claus, of course, is from the North Pole.

'Tis the season

Plymouth kids greet snow — and Santa

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

Undeterred by a sudden dip in the temperature and what must be a hectic season for him, Santa Claus made his scheduled visit to Plymouth Friday evening, greeted by hundreds of children and their parents.

"We had some wind turbulence along the way, but everything worked out OK," Mr. Claus, accompanied by his wife, told the crowd in Kellogg Park after stepping off a fire truck, which had circled the park with lights flashing and siren blaring to the great excitement of younger visitors.

The Jolly Old Elf's stop at the park, accented by a brief snow flurry, marked the official start of the holiday season in downtown Plymouth. The North Pole's most famous resident helped light up the park's Christmas tree and the giant menorah figure, accepted the key to the city from City Commissioner Ed Hingelberg, and held court for kids and their wish lists in his Santa House, the line for which soon stretched nearly the entire length of the park.

There is no place like Plymouth in the whole wide world,"

Please see SANTA, A3



Seven-year-old Alec Paris gets as close to being on stage with Santa as

Black Friday in Plymouth steady, relaxed

By Matt Jachman **Observer Staff Writer**

Friday was the official kickoff of the Christmas buying season, but nobody in downtown Plymouth was camping out to be first in the store or elbowing other shoppers over the sale tables.

"I can't imagine what that would be like," said Nancy Ball, the owner of Hands On Leather, a leather goods store on Forest. "It's a lot of stress."

"My customers aren't those people that like that," said Sharon Pugh, the owner of Sideways, a home furnishings and gift store nearby. "I think it's a whole different market we have in downtown Plymouth."

Instead of fighting crowds and zeroing in on discounted electronics and "doorbusters," as mall and big-box store shoppers often do on Black Friday, downtown visitors browsed in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, although store owners said traffic was steady. Black Friday is so-named because, supposedly, some merchants rely heavily on it to make a profit (going "in the black"), and because the rush is apparently dreaded by some employees in those stores.

Not in Plymouth.

"It's not crazy like other places," said Ball, who has had a store in Plymouth for 35 years; she pronounced Black Friday "a fun day to work."

"A little stressful, but we definitely have enough people working to get it covered," said Elle Dare, the owner, with husband Charles of Genuine Toy Co. Things there get busier in the afternoon, Dare said, perhaps because early bird shoppers who were at big-box stores get a second wind.

Pugh said Sideways, which sells kitchen utensils and tableware, toys, paper goods and decorative items, has good traffic year-

Please see BLACK FRIDAY, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Kathleen Thurn and Ruby take a break from their bike ride in downtown Plymouth.

Mann steps away from local office

INDEX Community Life.. Crossword Puzzle. C3 Homes Obituaries. Services. C3 Wheels ..

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Mann is walking away from the Plymouth Township board after 12 years as supervisor and trustee.

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

Steve Mann has spent his entire professional career in municipal government, and that's not going to change anytime soon.

What is changing is Mann's involvement in his home community of Plymouth Township, where Tuesday he stepped away from the Board of Trustees after a dozen years, four as the full-time township supervisor and the last

eight as a part-time trustee. Mann is an attorney with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, and his clients are local governments around the state, to which he provides counsel on borrowing, the Open Meetings Act, construction contracts and other matters. With a growing client base and increasing work demands, Mann decided last spring not to seek another term.

But he is looking proudly back at 12 years in township government that began in 2000, when he defeated the incumbent supervisor, Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, in the Republican primary and took office that November.

"I think my biggest accomplishment was carrying through on my word, doing what I said I was going to do," Mann said Tuesday morning, hours before he officially left the board.

Moving forward

Mann had been a township police officer since 1989, when dissatisfaction with the adminis-

Please see MANN, A2



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 25, 2012

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dale and Becky Deloy, with their children Maggie, Zach and Sam, staff the Salvation Army Kettle at Main Street and Penniman during Black Friday shopping Friday. Becky Deloy began the family bell ringing project with son Zach, then 1 year old, 19 years ago. The Deloy family is from Plymouth.

BLACK FRIDAY

Continued from page A1

round, and that business has picked up since October. The keys, Pugh said, are reliable hours, customer service and an ever-changing selection of goods that's responsive to customer demand.

Ball said she has a group of women customers who have made it a Black Friday tradition to meet for breakfast before shopping, and that her store is on their list.

Dare said that while Black Friday is always a good day, Genuine Toy's peak is typically the Saturday that falls about two

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weeks before Christmas, as people who may have been putting off shopping look at the calendar.

It was the downtown atmosphere, shopping and special events that drew Duane and Margie Wilger of Trenton to Plymouth on Friday. Browsing at Genuine Toy, Duane Wilger said they and their daughter were also planning to head to Kellogg Park for Santa Claus' arrival and the holiday decorations, and have dinner out at a downtown restaurant. They make the trip every year; it's their way of getting into the Christmas spirit, he said.

'We come out to Plymouth just for the ambience, and if we find something for Christmas gifts, that's a bonus," Duane Wilger said. "It's a great night.'

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

MANN

Continued from page A1

tration prompted him to challenge McCarthy in

"Things were really stagnant. Nothing was getting done," Mann said. His goals, he said, were to improve services, improve relations with schools and neighboring communities and offer more for residents' quality of life.

'We were on the same page," Treasurer Ron Edwards, an early supporter, said of Mann. "We had to move the community forward. Some of the old guard around there was very cautious about what they did."

Mann and Edwards have a checklist of things accomplished during Mann's term as supervisor, including developing Lake Pointe Soccer Park, improving Miller Family Park, building the sprayscape at Plymouth Township Park, stepping up a sidewalk construction program and starting to work toward the construction of the new township hall, fire station and police station.

Many of those projects had been planned already, Edwards said, but the plans had languished.

'We've really moved ahead a lot. He started it," Edwards said. "As supervisor, you're leading the way," and Mann had a 'good team" backing him, Edwards said.

Mann said he worked hard to make sure residents' voices were heard in local politics; homeowners' concerns, he said, led to the land swap that saw Victory Honda expand in a new location on Ann Arbor Road, forced changes in the planning of the Robert Bosch facility at Five Mile and Haggerty, and helped shape the improvements at Miller Family Park and at the playground at Isbister Elementary, Mann



BILL BRESLER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Mann spent four years as supervisor, then eight more as a trustee before deciding not to seek re-election in 2012.

said. The latter project also improved relations with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, he said.

Busy schedule

Mann also attended Thomas Cooley Law School while he was supervisor, a move that brought criticism from some who said it was taking him from township obligations. But Mann says his classes met Saturdays and Sundays, with the exception of one Thursday night class that met 6-9 p.m. for a semester.

"I went on my family time," he said.

"It was quite a blur," he said of that time, which included many commutes to Cooley, which is in Lansing. "I look back, I don't know how I did it.'

Mann is also sometimes criticized for his support of a new township hall that, in the wake of the Great Recession, holds fewer employees than originally planned. But Mann defends the move, saying the old township complex was "miserable" and "dilapidated" and the new one, at \$6 million, was built to meet future needs.

"This is a modest building we built on a limited budget, and we got a lot for our money," he said.

Mann decided not to run for a second term as supervisor in the spring

of 2004, shortly after he graduated from Cooley and got an offer from Miller, Canfield.

More change

"I still loved the community and wanted to stay involved," he said, and so ran for trustee, winning in both 2004 and

The fight over the future of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which was restructured in March after six firefighters were laid off due to budget constraints, was the consuming issue for the board over the last few years, and Mann said that fight took a toll on him.

"The issues with the fire department have been by far the worst experience I've ever had on the township board," he said.

While opponents of the restructuring were using scare tactics, a majority of residents understood the service model needed to change and backed the board majority, Mann

Mann said the fight over the fire department was "inevitable," but forced to the front burner by the township revenue decline that accompanied the recession. He anticipates further changes in the department, perhaps a hybrid public safety model, in which police officers will also be trained as firefighters and medical first responders.

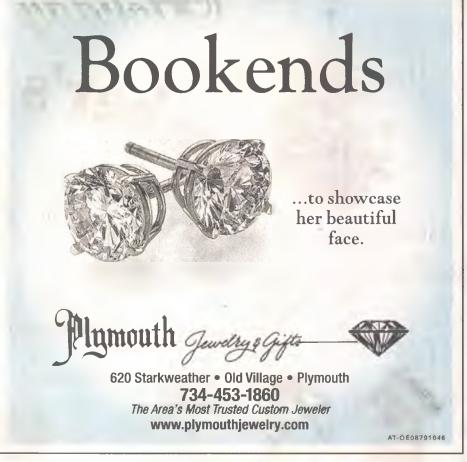
For now, Mann plans to focus on his legal career, saying that helping clients solve communities' problems keeps him motivated. Experience as an elected official, he added, helps him connect with the officials for whom he works. "I've been here," he said.

Will he ever re-enter politics?

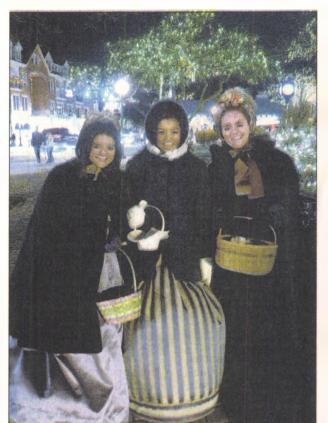
"That's not going to happen anytime soon, but maybe in the distant future, I'll get back to it if time allows," he said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amanda Przybyla, Katie Salanga and Julie Armitage pass out information about the Plymouth Historical Museum's Santa Workshop.

SANTA

Continued from page A1

Hingelberg said as he gave Santa the giant key. Santa also introduced

the "fantabulous" choir from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools, which led the crowd in a spirited version of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The choir and Christine Belisario, who performs a variety show as Christmas Carol, had warmed up the crowd before Santa's 6 p.m. arrival.

"It's just nice to see neighbors out and about and everybody bundled up for winter," said Kris-tin Adamski of Plymouth, who was there with husband Ray and their sons, Evan, 9, Brendan, 8, Cart-

er, 6, and Cameron, 4. The Adamskis have made greeting Santa a day-after-Thanksgiv-

ing tradition, saying they had been to the event for eight straight years.

Carter, asked what he thought of Santa's appearance, gave it an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

Kristin Adamski said her family likes to see the Christmas tree light up every year and then walk around the park to look at the decorations.

"It makes a nice memory for them - they were there when the lights went on," she said. "It makes the whole rest of the season very special."

Santa will be seeing visitors at the Kellogg Park Santa House periodically through Dec. 23. Check the "events" tab on the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce website, www.plymouth. org, for dates and times.

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Keeping tabs

Eight-year collection goes to charity

Bv Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

Canton resident Allan Levy has spent eight years collecting 108,870 aluminum can pull tabs. But who's counting?

Levy, a University of Michigan alumnus, started his collection for charity, and he chose to try to help U-M beat rival Ohio State as the two schools battled to collect the most pull tabs before Saturday's football game in Columbus.

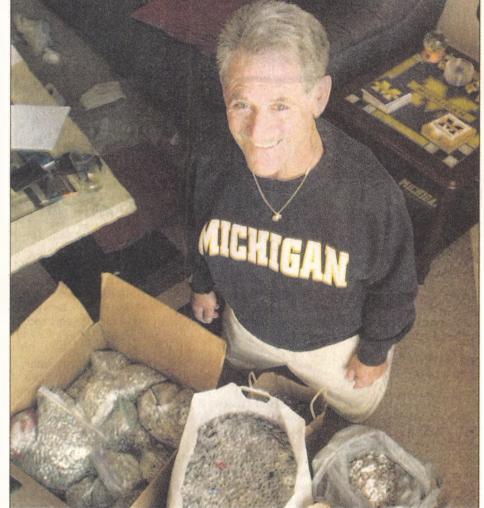
It's a friendly competition benefiting Ronald McDonald Houses in Ann Arbor and Columbus. and Levy was planning to drop off his pull tabs in maize and blue country by Saturday's deadline.

Not only do the Ronald McDonald Houses collect and cash in the scrap pull tabs, but Coca-Cola Co., has pledged to donate \$1,000 to the charity house that draws the largest collection.

"I like contributing to good causes," Levy said. Levy has been collecting pull tabs from pop, tea, soup and beer cans any cans, really and he's had help from sources such as softball and baseball teams he's involved with in the Detroit area and around

the country. "I've even forged relationships with opponents," said Levy, who played baseball when he attended U-M.

Levy also has received help from airline flight attendants and groups such as the U-M Club of Ann Arbor. He's a member of the club's Board of Governors.



BILL BRESLER LSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Allan Levy says he spent eight years collecting 108,870 aluminum can pull tabs, and turned them in this weekend to benefit Ronald McDonald Houses.

Levy has stored his collection in boxes and plastic bags, and it's not the first time he has collected pull tabs for charity. This time, however, he and others are helping Ronald McDonald Houses provide housing for families whose children are being treated at places such as U-M's Mott Children's Hospital.

According to the Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House, families need help with housing for time

periods ranging from two weeks to a year or longer.

Levy has long had a charitable heart, and he has more time now that he has retired from Macomb Community College, where he taught speech, English and business management. He also was the college's director of public rela-

tions and publications. Levy plans to continue collecting his can pull tabs for charity, and he's

asking for help from oth-

Joe Alli, owner of the Auto-lab of Canton South, said he will use his business as a drop-off point for the pull tabs.

'We'll see if we can help him," Alli said.

His business is located at 44744 Michigan Ave., between Canton Center and Sheldon.

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Students at Achieve Charter Academy collected \$500 and then hand-tied blankets for long-term patients at U-M

Students donate blankets to hospital

Students at Canton Charter Academy raised \$500 to make hand-tied blankets for patients at The University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Eighth-grade students in Yamamah Sawalha's community service class asked all K-8 students to donate a dollar for the project. For every dollar donated, the students placed a yellow block letter M on a blue bulletin board. The plan paid off, and they exceeded their donation goal.

"I thought this project was a great success," said student Jacob Gru-enberg. "The first week of donations started slow, but then everybody was encouraged to put even more effort into the project and it took off."

The students needed to

work fast to hand-tie 55 blankets so they would be ready for an assembly with a representative from C.S. Mott Children's Hospital on Friday, Nov. 16. The representative talked to the students about the hospital and thanked them for their generosity.

"It made me feel good about myself to be making blankets for sick children," student Elizabeth Cothran said.

Sawalha said she was proud of how her students handled this project from start to finish.

"I am so pleased with my class for coming up with an idea from scratch, putting it into place, sticking with it, and ultimately prevailing," Sawalha said.

The blankets will be given to long-term patients at the hospital.

'Bucket brigade' sends relief to Sandy victims

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

What started as a sense that "We want to do something to help" idea turned into a whirlwind relief project that wound up being a hugely successful effort to help the victims of Superstorm Sandy that devastated the east coast earlier this month.

The idea started with three women from Plymouth's First United Methodist Church and quickly mushroomed into a community wide effort to get cleaning supplies to Sandy victims through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

When it was all said and done, some 500 buckets filled with cleaning supplies were on their way to a Pennsylvania distribution center and then on to the East Coast.

"There were thousands of donations," said Renee McKarge, one of the women who helped organize the drive. "This community deserves a massive thank

More than 8,000 items were collected — largely through school collection drives at various Plymouth-Canton Community Schools spearheaded by the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's National Honor Society — including a variety of cleaning supplies such as scrub brushes, soaps, detergents, gloves and

They were packed into buckets and shipped off, courtesy of MSA Delivery Services of Canton, which provided the shipping to Pennsylvania. MSA's generosity was matched by others, including various groups and organizations. The building used for the local collection was donated by Essco Development Company, the owner of



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some 8,000 items were donated to help fill nearly 500 buckets for Hurricane Sandy relief.

which handed McKarge the key and allowed her to use it as nec-

"All in all, it was a community based, community-wide effort," McKarge said. "All these major things we needed to make it happen, people volunteered and said 'yes, we'll do that for you.' The schools jumped right in. It was amazing when it started coming in."

UMCOR was very specific about what needed to go into the baskets, so notes of encouragement were not allowed. However, students at least one elementary school found a way around

"It was so cute," McKarge said. "They used markers or whatever they could find and wrote messages on the scrub brushes like 'hang in there!' It was adorable."

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Abby McKarge and friends loaded up a truck with buckets of cleaning supplies headed to the East Coast to help with the cleanup from Hurricane

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To My "Guardian Angel" Jonah,

As I'm sitting here writing this letter to you, so much is flashing through my

How a man that I've never met, let alone know, took me under his wing and carried me through all that I have. How do you tell someone thank you that has done so much for you!

Jonah, I am humbled and I am overwhelmed! I thank you so much for all that you have done. I wanted to make sure you would be proud of me! I worked. hard in Therapy. Thank you for helping me through my healing process, with my nursing care, medicine, feeding, physical therapy, occupational therapy and administrative needs. I want you to know that from my heart, you have done so much for me! I'm succeeding in my goal of healing in my total hip replacement. I also want you to know while I was at Westland Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre, so many people were so kind and caring. It was a wonderful place to go to heal and recuperate from an injury.

The administrative office, doctors, nursing, CNAs, therapy department, kitchen and staff, maintenance, grounds keeper, etc . . . everyone was so kind and helpful. Mr. Jonah, you have a wonderful establishment and a great staff of people working for you! They care about the people they care for. You are a wonderful man, with a heart of gold and a soul that will be rewarded over and over! Each day I thank God that he has his Earth Angels here on earth looking out for those who are in need. I am overwhelmed and thankful for all that you have done for me. A friend forever in my heart!

Always and forever,

Darline Woodard

P.S My "Earth Angel" will always be in my prayers! I'm walking better each day.



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

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7-10

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

Details: The Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 in Plymouth MI has Jazz @ The Elks in a beautiful club setting on the last Tuesday of every month. The Nov. 27 event features the Terry Lower Trio with Russ Miller. Russ is an Assistant Professor in the Music Department at Wayne State University and has played with several famous Jazz artists. Russ plays Alto Sax and Flute. Terry will be on Keyboard, Jim Ryan on Drums, and Ray Tini on Bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors

Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

d'oeuvres.

MUSEUM CRAFT BAZAAR

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum.

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold its annual juried Craft Bazaar and Open House. The Craft Bazaar is free and open to the public and will feature many crafts, such as knit, ceramic, jewelry, and recycled art. Stop by our bake sale and try our yummy treats and refreshments. Santa will be here all day so bring the whole family! Visitors are also welcome to explore the Museum's special exhibit for free that day.

The Plymouth Historical Museum will be holding its Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 1, as well. We need donations of baked goods. Cookies, cakes, candy, breads, pies, sweet rolls, and bars are all welcome—as are any specialties you may have in your recipe box. Please bundle your cookies or bars in packages of 6 or 12. Remember, festive holiday treats sell first. Please either label your treats (examples: Brownies with nuts or Santa's Favorite Sugar Cookies), or leave a note attached. Labels will be available in the kitchen. Please drop your goodies off in the kitchen on Friday, November 30, between 1 and 4 p.m.

Contact: Please call Heidi Nielson,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tree time

Pat VanDusen of the Plymouth Community United Way, decorates their tree in Kellogg Park. Betty Nolan and Stephanie Driver, also with United Way, worked with Pat.

(734) 455-8940, if you have any questions.

COLORING CONTEST

Date/Time: Now through Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8:30-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Location: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, 40875 Plymouth Road

Details: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet will be holding a coloring contest. The age groups are 0-3, 4-6 and 7-9. The winner from each age group will be awarded a \$50 Toys R US gift card. One entry permitted per child. While you are here, take a picture with Nick from the Chevrolet commercials.

Contact: Call 734-453-4600 for more information.

HOLIDAY ART FAIR

Date/Time: Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m. to

Location: Connection Church in Canton

Details: Connection Church in Canton hosts a Holiday Art Fair. If you have a craft and are interest-

ed in renting a table (\$35 & \$25). **Contact:** For more information please email Katy at cchoidayart-fair@gmail.com.

FARRAND FAIR

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

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: Thursday, Nov. 29, 1:30-7:15 p.m.

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon in Plymouth

Details: The American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Plymouth. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcome.

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 Kerwan 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.

WCGH REUNION

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m.m Tuesday, Dec. 11

Location: Café Marquette in the William D. Ford Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Wayne County General Hospital employees will gather for their 28th annual holiday reunion. A luncheon buffet will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$16 and includes beverage, dessert and tip. You can pay at the door.

Contact: For more information contact Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or e-mail chknlit@wideopenwest.com, Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or e-mail fightingirish316@global.net or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail. com, or visit www.stekmops.org.

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'Motor City Shakedown' author to speak at Madonna

Two-time Michigan Notable Author D. E. Johnson will present his book Motor City Shakedown at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Madonna University Library, as part of the school's "Meet the Author" series.

Set in Detroit in 1911, Motor City Shakedown is a tale involving crime, mystery, and history. The sequel to Johnson's first Michigan Notable Book, The Detroit Electric Scheme, this novel follows protagonist Will Anderson as he deals with the murder of his best friend; placing him in the center of Detroit's criminal world of corruption and mobsters.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 25, 2012

Johnson, a graduate of Central Michigan University, has been writing fiction for the majority of his life, but he didn't publish his first novel until 2010. His books have been recognized by the Library of Michigan, Booklist, and the House of Crime and Mystery.

The third and most recent book of the series is also earning positive reviews. Detroit Breakdown takes the characters to the Eloise Insane Asylum located near Detroit.

Contact the Madonna Library at (734) 432-5703 or visit http:// library.madonna.edu/ for more information.

Living trust spells out specifics on asset allocation

By Rick Bloom Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I read your column a few weeks ago about estate planning and how to treat children with different economic backgrounds. I am a widower and my children do not need my money. What I would like to do is to set up a fund that would be used by friends who aren't as fortunate. I figure they can use the money and then when they die, whatever is left can go to charity or to my kids. Can you tell me if what I want to do is legal and what I need to accomplish what I want? I have a simple will and I assume I would have to amend it to reflect these changes.

A: What you want to do is admirable and legal.



Rick Bloom

not as fortunate **Money Matters** as you is a very nice thing to do. However, there are some things that you would have to do

I recommend that you have a living trust drafted. In your situation, the benefit of a living trust is that you would not need court supervision with regards to the maintenance and distribution of money to your

to accomplish your goal.

friends. If all you had was a will, the Probate Court would retain jurisdiction over your assets until the money was distributed to a charity. This would mean that your trustees would have to report to the court every year and incur significant costs until final distribution of your assets.

I believe the more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the easier things are. That is why I recommend a living trust.

Within your living trust one key question is who do you want to be the trustees? They would be the individuals who would manage the money within the trust and supervise its distribution. You have a number of different options to consider. You can name family and friends or a professional (an attorney or even a bank).

You can also have a combination of a family member and a bank to serve as co-trustees. In that regard, in order to have a checks and balance system, my recommendation would be that you have at least two

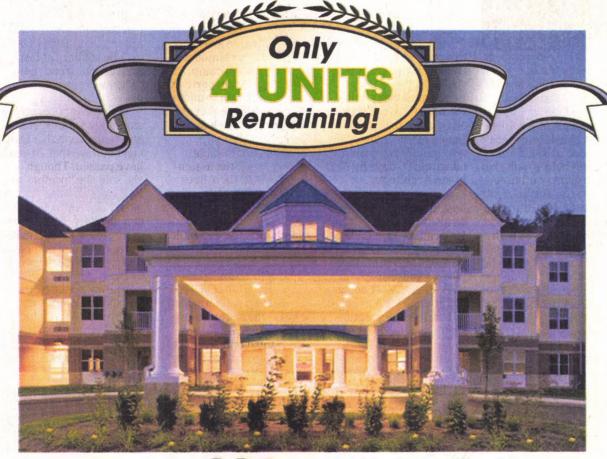
One thing to consider is how the money is going to be distributed. You want to help your friends but you have to have some sort of methodology to monitor the distributions. If you said that the trustee should pay whenever a friend has a request, then you may run into the situation where some of your friends are abusing the trust. If distributions are based on need, you must establish some rules for the trustee to follow.

One last thing to decide is which one of your friends the trust is meant to benefit. If you say any, that could cause all sorts of problems. Identify which friends should benefit from the trust.

When it comes to estate planning, no one should tell you what you should do with your money. You worked hard for it and you're entitled to do with it as you choose. The key is to make sure that you leave the proper instructions as to how to carry out your final wishes.

One last issue that deals with what you plan to

Please see BLOOM, A10



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Final destination

Nazi boxcar will be used to teach the horrors of the Holocaust

By Joanne Maliszewski Observer Staff Writer

The morning after Henrietta and Rachel's family had their first Passover seder in the Warsaw Ghetto, Nazi soldiers came, gathered hundreds of Jews and put them into a railroad boxcar headed for the concentration

camps.
It took the sisters and their family: Sara, mother; Israel, father; and two brothers, Reuben and Herschel, one week to reach Majdanek, an extermination camp near Lublin, Poland.

When the train finally reached its destination, Nazi soldiers made their selections. The men and women were separated. They never again saw their father or brothers. Their mother was pulled out of the group of women. Rachel and Henrietta last saw her waiting in a grassy area. "Little did we know that she would be put in the gas chamber," Rachel Schwartz said. "Never did we think we would never see her again."

Gallery dedication

The sisters, Rachel Schwartz and Henrietta Weisberg, told their story at the Nov. 20 dedication of The Henrietta and Alvin Weisberg Gallery at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

The newly constructed addition to the center houses an authentic World War II Nazi boxcar, the type used to transport the sisters and their family to the concentration

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PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER After the dedication of a new gallery at the Holocaust Memorial Center people gathered around the boxcar and talked.

in 1943-45.

"This exhibit brings back many painful memories," Schwartz said, choking back tears as she spoke of her family and the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews and others in Europe.

The boxcar is set against a brick backdrop resembling the Hannoverscher Bahnoff (Hanover Railroad Station), complete with cobblestone floor, reminiscent of the Warsaw Ghet-

The Hanover station was a major Nazi deportation center for Jews and gypsies, both considered enemies of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

The boxcar is of a size that could hold 40 soldiers or eight war horses, said Stephen Goldman, center executive director. Boxcars of this type were retired in the 1970s without much thought about the role they played in the Third Reich's Final Solution. "The precious cargo carried and forgotten are now remembered," Goldman added.

Sacred task

Alvin and Henrietta Weisberg of Bloomfield Hills were contacted when Goldman learned



Henrietta Weisberg and Rachael Schwartz at the dedication of a new wing of the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

of the boxcar's availability. "They found it, called and said, "We need help," Henrietta Weisberg said, as the dedication began. "It was our pleasure to do this."

Alvin and Henrietta donated the funds to build the gallery addition and to bring the boxcar from Germany to Farmington Hills. When the addition neared completion, the heavy boxcar was lifted by a crane and positioned in the gallery. The new gallery was completed within 90 days by Neumann Architects.

mann Architects.

"We have the sacred task of teaching thousands the lessons of the Holocaust," said Laurie Weisberg, Alvin and Henrietta's daughter-in-law who serves as a docent at the center. "Most docent-led groups, such as school kids, without exception are fascinated by this

important artifact."
Laurie Weisberg spoke
of her in-laws, their gen-

erosity to the center and how the exhibit sets the journey for visitors as they learn about "the unimaginable fear and cruelty of the Holocaust."

Three journeys

After sisters Rachel and Henrietta lost their family at the Majdanek extermination camp, they were later transported in a box car again to another camp where they were assigned to work in a munitions factory.

Though hard labor, Rachel said, the assignment saved their lives because they were given more food and water than had they been sent to another camp. Yet while there, the sisters witnessed the deaths of 25 other prisoners.

In the summer of 1944 as Russian soldiers drew closer, the sisters boarded another box car for their third trip. This time, they were sent to Buchenwald. But again the

Russians were drawing near, and camp leaders forced the sisters and other prisoners on a "terrible march" for three

weeks without food.
One morning as they
slept near the Elba River,
Rachel said, they could
again hear Russian voices. The soldiers at last
arrived and freed them.
"They were very good to

us."
As the sisters received standing ovations, Henrietta told guests that she can't believe that 70 years have passed. Though she said she "prefers to look at my future, not my past," Henrietta added: "I can honestly say I believe in miracles. I can't imagine how Rachel and I survived the horrors known

as the Holocaust."
Bradley Schlafer, the
Weisbergs' grandson,
assured his family he
would continue to tell the
stories of the Holocaust.
"I will be my grandmother's voice."



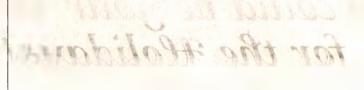
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Shoppers hit Laurel Park Place on busy Black Friday

By Ken Abramczyk Staff Writer

Peter Zantop pushed a stroller Friday morning through Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

The stroller usually transports his 2-year-old daughter Alex, but the stroller was loaded with presents as Peter's wife Ashley took Alex with her to shop.

Peter Zantop waited with his mother, Barbara, and talked about their overflowing stroller. "There used to be a kid that was in it," Peter

quipped. Peter Zantop and his mother Barbara are former Canton residents, both in town to visit with Peter's sister, Julie Darmofal, who still lives in Canton, About 14 family members gathered there Friday for a Christmas party.

Barbara Zantop lives in Jackson, while Peter and his family live in Minneapolis. Everyone celebrated Thanksgiving together Thursday, and Friday was Christmas for them, Barbara explained.

"We buy the Christmas presents today, then we'll have the party later," she said. "It's a good way for us to celebrate Christmas, for the kids and spend time with their moms, who can tell us what they need. They have teenage daughters and you never know what to buy them.'

Peter expects to relax and "enjoy family" this



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shoppers flocked to stores with gusto Friday as the holiday season began in earnest. Zi Yang, Connor Spitery and Kaleigh Carlone, all of Northville, wrap gift items for customers. The volunteer-run gift-wrapping service raises money for Vista Maria for Girls.

weekend, watching Michigan State basketball and football games on television with family members. "It's our time to spend together," Zantop said with a smile. "It's our Christmas party and we're able to spend time with each other."

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 25, 2012

A busy morning

Claudia Frederick, spokeswoman for CBL & Associates Properties, owner and operator of Laurel Park Place, said the mall opened at midnight, the second consecutive year for the mall to do that Black Friday. Mall traffic was heavy until about 3 a.m. that morning, she said.

"The stores are beating last year," Frederick said. "We had a lot of young shoppers early this morning, then it slowed down, and now it is picking up again," Frederick said Friday morning.

Getting it done

Judi Torosian of Livonia scurried through Laurel Park Place. She was shopping that day with her sister, and carried several bags.

"I'm all done," Torosian said. "I always finish by Thanksgiving because I hate this madness. Then I go out and help everyone else, so I must be a glutton for punishment,'

Tami Carlone of Novi

was with her children Kaleigh and Andrew, who were organizing a fundraiser for Vista Maria. The Carlones and other volunteers set up gift wrapping services for shoppers, with proceeds helping purchase clothes, toys, books and beauty supplies for girls at Vista Maria, along with a remodel of a supplies closet at Vista Maria, according to Tami Carlone. Her son, Andrew, a senior at Northville High School, used to organize the event, but that duty is now being passed onto Kaleigh, who is a freshman at Northville High School.

Tami Carlone said the event is something that can help girls at Vis-



Barbara Zantop, of Jackson, and son Peter Zantop, of Minneapolis, shop at Laurel Park Place on Friday before a family Christmas party is scheduled later that day.

ta Maria. "These girls have lived a rough life, through no fault of their own," Carlone said. "They have suffered through abuse and neglect. I have a real heart for them."

Tom LeGault of Plymouth set up his paintings for sale. He applies a heavy acrylic paint, which adds texture and depth to his work, what he describes as a lake near Charlevoix.

"It's a good way to come home," LeGault said of Laurel Park Place and his display area. "The only show I do around here

is the Ann Arbor show. so it's like a homecoming and I see some old friends." LeGault said he spends much of the year traveling or in northern Michigan.

"I see a lot of people who live in the nearby condos, who are walking around and exercising, and they stop and talk," he said.

LeGault said sales are sporadic, but good. "It's really good for me to get out of the studio," he said. "It gives me a place to get focused. It's a good workplace for me to get things done."



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SKYFALL (PG-13) 12:15, 3:15, 6:30, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:30 WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10 FLIGHT (R) 2:30, 3:25, 6:25, 9:20







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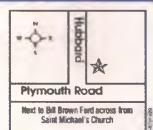
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Photos let children share their hopes, dreams

By Sue Mason Observer Staff Writer

It's said that a picture is worth a thousand words. But in the eves of acclaimed photographer Linda Solomon, they are worth much more, especially when they are taken by children.

For a second year, the Bloomfield resident was at Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City for the unveiling of "Pictures of Hope" — photographs taken by 15 youngsters whose families are being served by Lighthouse Path in Pontiac

"It's been an honor to work with these children," Solomon said. "They've been dealt difficult hands, but we can show them their dreams matter. We can show them their dreams are respected."

Lighthouse Path, which provides transitional housing for families for up to two years, selected the 15 children, ranging in age from 5-14, for the project. Solomon provided tutoring on picture taking, then gave cameras to the children, who were told to turn their hopes and dreams into photographs.

She then selected a photograph for each child, which was turned into one of the notecards that are on sale at Gordon Chevrolet and Lighthouse Path. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit Lighthouse Path.

"We're very proud and very blessed to be a part of this," said Susan Ianni, general manager at Gordon Chevrolet. "I was a single mom years ago. I can look at single moms and understand their struggles. I have a soft spot in my heart for them. Anyone who reaches out, I'll help.

This is the second year Solomon has partnered with Chevrolet to introduce "Pictures of Hope" to children living in shelters in 12 cities around the country. She chose Lighthouse Path to "show the problem of homelessness in Oakland County

"These children come from broken homes, or their parents lost their jobs or they've been evicted from their homes," Solomon said. "Their hopes and dreams might be something they can't strive for. They don't have the same funds as those with a normal

It wasn't hard to figure out 8-year-old Donovan Ward's dream. His photo-



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Youngsters from Lighthouse Path of Oakland County who participated in 'Pictures of Hope' wait with Linda Solomon to see what their cards look like.

graph was of a fire truck, his hope and dream to be a firefighter like his father, who is in Indianapolis, Ind. His mentor was Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, who took him to a fire station to capture his dream on film.

"I went to the fire station and asked if I could take a picture. I took pictures of a fire truck and a house," Donovan said.

Fourteen-year-old Sianna Wahs's hope is to go to college and to play basketball. Her mentor was Teri Fenner, vice president of the board of Lighthouse Path, who tapped into her network of friends and took her to meet the athletic director at Oakland University. Sianna now has four tickets for four OU basketball games, so that she, her mother, twin sister Samaria and a Lighthouse Path staffer can attend. Her photograph is the

OU sign. "I want to be a basketball player and study to be a pediatrician," said the teen, who has been in transitional housing with her family for 11/2 years. "It helped me to get closer to my family, including my twin sister."

Other dreams included making their mother proud, stopping racism, getting all A's and hope.

Lighthouse Path provides fully furnished apartments for families for up to 24 months. The average stay is 18 months. The goal of each woman at the shelter is to be self-sufficient and move into their own home and have sustainability.

Tia Cobb, Lighthouse Path executive direc-



Among the hopes expressed on the cards is that of 12year-old Antane: "My dream is to teach."

tor, was "overjoyed and excited" about her agency being selected for

"Pictures of Hope." It's a great opportunity for the children.

'PICTURES OF HOPE'

The Lighthouse Path children's greeting cards with their heartfelt photos of "hope" cost \$20 for a package of 15 cards. They are available at:

 Gordon Chevrolet, 31850 Ford Road, west of Merriman Road, in Garden City. For more information, call (734)

 Lighthouse Path of Oakland County, 46156 Woodward Ave., Pontiac. For more information, call (248) 972-1493 or go online to www.LighthouseOakland.org.

Thanks to the generosity of Chevrolet and Gordon Chevrolet, 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit Lighthouse Path of Oakland County.



Riley Brennan shows Gordon Chevrolet GM Susan Ianni the card with the photograph that shows her with one of the 15 children who did this year's 'Pictures of Hope.'

"For a child to be given the opportunity to see their hope and dream they strive for and visualize a path to achieving them," Cobb said, "this is exposure they have never gotten before. It's an opportunity that lets them realize they can have anything anybody else has.'

"The hope to go to col-

lege is number one in all of the cities," Solomon said. "That's something we take for granted. "They reflect their true values in the these cards. These are really specific things that they have. This tells them we hear you, we care about you."

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Continued from page A6

do with the money after your friends are no longer around. You mentioned at that point you will either leave it to your kids or to a charity. If you decide to leave it to a charity, then you need to be sure that whoever drafts your trust disinherits your children. This will prevent potential legal issues.

You can also state in the document the reasons why you're choos-

ing not to leave something to your children, but you don't have to. Furthermore, it's up to you whether you tell your children before vour death what you are doing. This is always a touchy issue and you probably are the best to judge what makes sense in your individual situation.

In today's ever-changing world, when it comes to passing money upon death, just about anything and everything goes. The key is to always make sure your final wishes

are properly documented. Unless you dot the i's and cross the t's, you may find that a good portion of your money doesn't go where you want it to go, but rather, to legal fees, and that is something that everyone should try to avoid. Good luck.

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

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Raymond Rolak and Wally Triplett will speak about some special Detroit sports moments and historical memories on Tuesday Nov. 27, at the William P. Faust Public Library.

NFL's Triplett will talk football at Westland Library

Longtime Detroit resident Wally Triplett, 86, has a special place in football history. Triplett was the first African American to be drafted and sign with an NFL team in 1949.

Triplett will be speaking at the William P. Faust Public Library at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Veteran sports broadcaster Raymond Rolak will introduce Triplett and address perseverance in sports. Rolak also will share some Wayne State University sports history and some humorous anecdotes from the new All-Hawaii full length comedy, Get a Job, in which he was an associate producer.

Triplett, a 1948 graduate of Penn State, will reminisce about his life journey and football experiences. The evening will also include accounts of some of the rich athletic history of Detroit. Most fascinating will be some never before heard narratives by Triplett regarding Paul Robeson and Jackie Robinson.

This special event is sponsored by the Friends of the Westland Library and is free. Pre-registration is required. Call (734) 326-6123 or go online to www.westland.lib.mi.us.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 16123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road,

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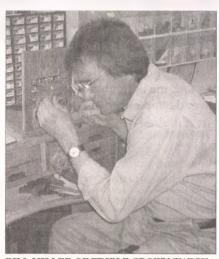


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can repair your watch or clock. Have a watch, clock or timepiece you treasure and just can't figure out how to fix? Well, you're not alone. When many of the Detroit Area's jewelry stores can't seem to make a watch tick, they out source more complicated repair cases to Troy's own certified horologist (that's an expert watchmaker) Bill Miller of Triple Crown Watch

Miller has over 28 years experience with watches and timepieces, and received his degree in horology at Houston Technical College before

relocating to southeast Michigan. Over his expansive career, Miller has seen his share of unique cases. "One of the most interesting cases I worked on was an English Grandfather clock from the 1590's. The owner wanted it restored to working order, and rewired for battery operation," said Miller

"Another difficult request was hand-cutting a triangular crystal for a special-edition Masonic pocketwatch by Rolex," Miller continued. There's good reason over 172 jewelers in the area rely on Triple Crown and Miller for those hard-to-fix assignments. "I enjoy the challenge of restoring unique timepieces to their original functioning state. It is as much an artform as it is pure mechanics, and it is extremely rewarding to see these old pieces correctly keeping time again."

Triple Crown is located at 1940 E. Maple Rd. (at John R.) in Troy. In addition to repairing watches, straps, batteries and winding boxes, Triple Crown has a large amount of battery operated and wind up pocket watches.

For more information, stop by Triple Crown at 1940 E. Maple (15 Mile) just west of John R., visit www.triplecrownwatchcompany.com or give them a call at 248-585-2777. They will make sure you stay on time in 2012!

Advertorial

Charter Township of Plymouth Notice of Budget Public Hearing December 11, 2012

The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year of 2013 at the Charter Township of Plymouth offices located at 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 on December 11, 2012 at

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

PUBLIC HEARING FOR: REVISION OF ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD LIQUOR LICENSE PERMITS

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170 (734)453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: November 25, 2012

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Shoppers make time to send holiday cheer to troops

By Sue Mason Observer Staff Writer

Michael Wisniewski Jr. had a heartfelt message for U.S. troops serving in harm's way. He thanked them for their courage and bravery.

The Romulus resident was among shoppers who stopped to sign a holiday card that will be sent to the troops.

"I hope other people come and do this, our troops need more of this," said Wisniewski, who was at Westland Shopping Center Friday with his daughter, Kati Wisniewski. "My stepson is in the Army. He went to Virginia Tech for two years to study diplomacy. He's been to Moscow four times and will go to Russia four times. He's a translator and will go over to Russia. He's an awesome young man, I'm very proud of him."

This is the sixth year the Westland Jaycees have had Cards for Troops tables at the mall on Black Friday, offering shoppers a chance to send a message of support on cards they pro-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katie Neu of Westland, fills out a holiday card for the troops being collected by the Westland Jaycees.

vide. Initially, the effort spanned two days, but over the years, the Jaycees pared the time down to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

"It's a good time to get shoppers," said Debi Goetz, who is chairing the project. "Ninety percent of the shoppers have been receptive. We're hoping to get around 1,500 cards, that's a good number."

The Jaycees were working in shifts to keep the table manned on the busiest shopping day of the

holiday season. On their table was candy for those who sign cards, donated by Paul Visingardi of Vizzy's Pizza Palace.

"He has a cousin who's on his seventh tour," said

The Jaycees also were collecting donations to the cost of shipping care packages to the troops. Goetz uses donations to buy travel-size toiletries to send to the troops. Last year, the Jaycees were able to send four boxes overseas, and in July received a thank you card from the Kandahar USO. The note was framed and sitting in a place of honor

on the table.

"People actually have been very generous with their donations," said Goetz. "We're hoping we can send more things this year."

The Jaycees also will be collecting items to send with their care package. On their list of needed items are:

 Phone cards, the No. 1 most-requested item so they can phone loved ones.

 Visa and MasterCard gift cards, the No. 2 mostrequested item. It gives them maximum flexibility in spending.

• Wet Wipes, individually wrapped in foil packets (not gel bottles).

· Lip balm, floss, toothbrushes and disposable

razors - men's and women's. Breath mints, candy

Cards and personal care good items also can be dropped off at Men on the Move, 39101 Webb Drive, Westland.

The Cards for Troops tables were set outside the inside entrance to Kohl's the busiest store at the mall, and a steady stream of shoppers going in and out stopped to sign cards. Among them were Terri Staton of Redford, Brittany and Sherri Bell of Garden City and Brian Gerhardt of Redford.

"I told them, 'You guys and gals rock,' and wished them a merry Christmas and happy New Year," said Gerhardt. "This is my first time doing this. I'm glad I did."

> smason@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6751

Services remember loved ones who have passed

Families who have lost loved ones will have an opportunity to honor and remember them at services of remembrance at the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Garden City and Livonia Saturday, and Sunday, Dec.

This is the 22nd year R.G. and G.R. Harris has held a service of remembrance. At the services,, family members will be invited to place an angel with their loved one's

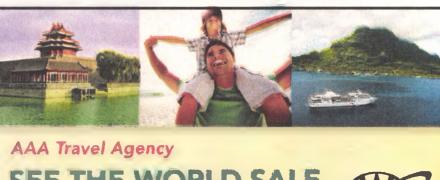
name on a tree where it will remain until after January 1, 2013. A popular Children's Table is available for the kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings. Helpful thoughts on getting through the holidays after a loss will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are

Refreshments and fellowship will be indoors following the service.

The service at the R.G.

and G.R. Harris Funeral Home-Livonia Chapel will be 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. The chapel is at 15451 Farmington Road, just north of Five Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-6720.

The service at the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home-Garden City Chapel will be 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. The chapel is at 31551 Ford Road, just west of Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call (734)



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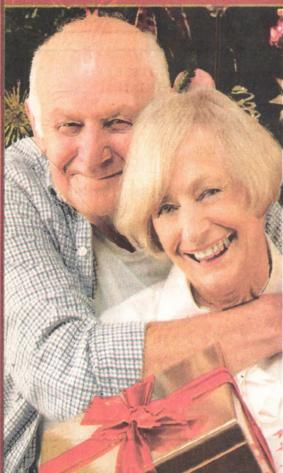


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* Open House events to be held at The Villa Apartments located on the West side of the road entering the campus.

The Village of Redford is located on Six Mile Road just east of Beech Daly in Redford

Family tradition continues with election of Kevin Cox

By Ken Abramczyk

Kevin Cox remembers sitting down at dinners at 5:30 p.m. every night with his parents John and Rita Cox and brothers Sean and Mike at their home in Redford.

Dad played "devil's advocate" during discussions about that day's events and what was happening in the outside world, Kevin said.

"Dad was big on history and current events and very interested in politics, and he would lead us into dinner table discussions," Kevin said. "We were all curious about the world around us. The politics and law melded together."

That curiosity and eventual pursuit of a law

career has evolved into Kevin Cox's successful election onto the Wayne County Third Circuit Court bench, as he finished third Nov. 6. Kevin is the third Cox brother to win elective office. and the second to win a judge's seat.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 25, 2012

Kevin, 53, is the older brother of Mike Cox, former state attorney general, and younger brother of Sean Cox, a federal judge in southeast Michigan who lives in Canton.

Mike Cox, 50, won election to two terms as attorney general in 2002 and 2006 and placed third in the Republican gubernatorial primary in 2010. Today Mike runs his own law firm in Livonia. Mike is married to Laura Cox. who is a Wayne County



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The patriarch, John Cox, with sons Mike, Kevin and Sean Cox. Sean lives in Canton.

ing Livonia.

U.S. District Judge Sean Cox, 55, who is seated in the court's Eastern District of Michigan, also served as a circuit judge in Wayne County, winning elections to circuit court in 1996, 1998 and 2004. He was appointed to U.S. Dis-

Kevin and Mike reside in Livonia; Sean lives in Canton. Their parents live in Livonia.

Their parents told the boys about their maternal grandfather, Anthony McQuane, a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. McQuane was jailed in 1916 and a second time in 1919 as Irish nationals fought for independence. Stories about their grandfather from their parents and the importance of freedom, individual rights and political activism weren't lost on the grand-

Mike said his father, a Korean war veteran, did not go to college, but was well-read and constantly kept up with current events. "He'd read a lot of books and newspapers and he'd love to argue," Mike said. "Politics and law always came up."

Sean said his father often spoke about the Korean War. "He challenged us," Sean said. "He knew European history and the history of Ireland."

Mike said that upbringing also led him to his career goal: He always wanted to be a prosecutor. Mike was the deputy chief of the homicide unit in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Sean echoed that the talks and their own family history influenced their future careers in public service, but added: "I don't know how all three of us ended up in law.'

"All of us have a desire to make society better." Sean said. "Public service is a good way to do it."

Winning a court seat

Kevin attributes his election win earlier this month to the work he put into his campaign over the past six months, meeting with various organizations to get his name out, he said.

Cox holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. He is married to Elizabeth Cox. The couple has four children: Kiefer, 23; Kasey, 20; Jack, 17; and Brian, 14. Kevin is active in the St. Edith Parent Association, St. Edith CYO Athletics Board of Directors, Catholic Central Dad's Club and fundraisers for the Salvation Army, **Detroit Rescue Mission** Ministries and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

As an assistant attorney general in the labor division of the office of Attorney General Bill Schuette since 2010, Cox represented the state of Michigan in state courts and administrative hearings.

"I've been an active trial lawyer for almost 28 years," Kevin said. He points to his experience in hundreds of courtrooms to prepare him for the seat.

Kevin has tried more than 30 complex civil jury trials for clients and tried cases to verdict in eight Michigan counties. Prior to practicing as an assistant attorney general, Kevin was in private practice for 25 years. His practice was composed of injury litigation throughout the state.

Kevin owned and managed a law firm of 12 attorneys and more than 20 employees for several years. Although 75 percent of his cases were in Wayne County, he has litigated cases in more than 40 counties in Michigan resulting in several successful jury verdicts and hundreds of settlements.

Will tradition continue?

Kevin sees the same interest in politics and law with at least two of his children. Kiefer is a first-year student at Wayne State Law School. Kasey is a senior at the University of Michigan studying international relations.

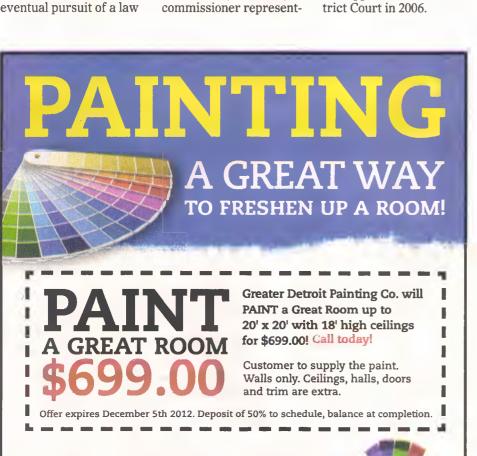
Kevin said he will work hard to bring himself up to speed, whether he is a judge in the family division or the criminal division of the court. "There will be subtleties," he said. "There will be procedural things that will be new to me. I will work as hard as I can to be very good as a criminal judge or a family judge,'

His brothers in the legal field are proud of him.

"He worked really hard and ran an excellent campaign," Sean said. "He campaigned very efficiently, sending smart, targeted mailings."

Mike said voters chose a judge who is "highly skilled" with 27 years experience.

"I know he'll do a great job," Mike said. "I'm very proud that the voters selected someone who is highly qualified and brings his skills and experience to the bench."





Author adds twist to Girls Night Out book signing

Dana Corbit has made a habit of using her annual book signing as an excuse for a Girls' Night Out with friends. But this year, the Novi author has added a twist to her 5th annual

Girls' Night Out **Book Signing** by inviting New York Times best-selling romance author Ruth Ryan Langan to be her special guest. Corbit

"I thought it would be fun to shake things up this year by including my friend, Ruth, in the festivities," Corbit said of the event from 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, at Biggby Coffee, 43346 Grand Riv-

er Avenue. "I am a big fan of Ruth's books, and this is a great way for me to introduce my other friends and readers to some of the stories I have loved reading." Langan has provided plenty of those stories.

Writing under pseudonyms Ruth Langan, Ruth Ryan Langan and R.C. Ryan, the Farmington Hills author has published 96 novels, including collaborations with Nora Roberts and J.D. Robb. Corbit first met Langan in 1996 when, as an aspiring author, she joined the Greater Detroit chapter of Romance Writers of America, a trade asso-

"I'm just one of the authors Ruth has mentored over the years. She gave me great advice and introduced me to New York editors and even the woman who later became my agent," said Corbit, who is herself the award-winning author

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of 15 books in the inspirational romance market. "Sharing this year's event with her is a small way for me to say thank you for her kindness." During the book

signing, Corbit will promote her 2012 releases, "A Hickory Ridge Christmas" and "Christmas in the Air," both from Harlequin Love Inspired. Langan will sign copies of her recent releases, 'Quinn," from

'J.D. Robb's The Unquiet," from Berkley. Of course, the Girls' Night Out

Grand Central

Publishing; and

event has always been about more than just books. Corbit, known locally by her married name Dana Nussio, originally suggested the event in 2008 as a night out with her girlfriends. The event remains a chance for guests to take a break from the busyness of the Christmas season by relaxing with their own friends while sipping hot chocolate, espressos or decaf lattes. Adding to the fun of the evening, Lisa Erickson, one of Corbit's friends and a Silpada Jewelry representative, brings a display of her shiny things for guests to try on and add to their holiday wish lists.

Corbit enjoys hosting the signing at the local Biggby Coffee franchise so she can support the local business, which supports her writing career by regularly stocking her books. Literacy is a corporate initiative of Biggby Coffee, headquartered in Lansing

Fitness challenge aims to bring holiday cheer to homeless families

CoreFit Fitness owner and personal trainer Rod Dowdell (Trainer Rod) is going to attempt a staggering endurance-fundraising Extreme Train-A-Thon Fitness Challenge at his studio in Novi to benefit homeless families at the Wayne County Family Center.

Beginning at 6 a.m. Dec. 9, Trainer Rod will endure the seven days of training, with the last 48 hours to be continuous without rest, training between 90-100 clients nonstop. All proceeds from the sessions will go directly towards buying gifts and fulfilling the wish list for homeless children at the Wayne



Dowdell

LOCAL NEWS

Trainer Rod plans to hand deliver gifts to as many

children as he can on Christmas day.

The Wayne County Family Center program matches needy families with "services, providing transitional shelter for homeless families." They welcome two-parent families, single mothers or fathers with children and pregnant women. They also offer assistance with services to help people



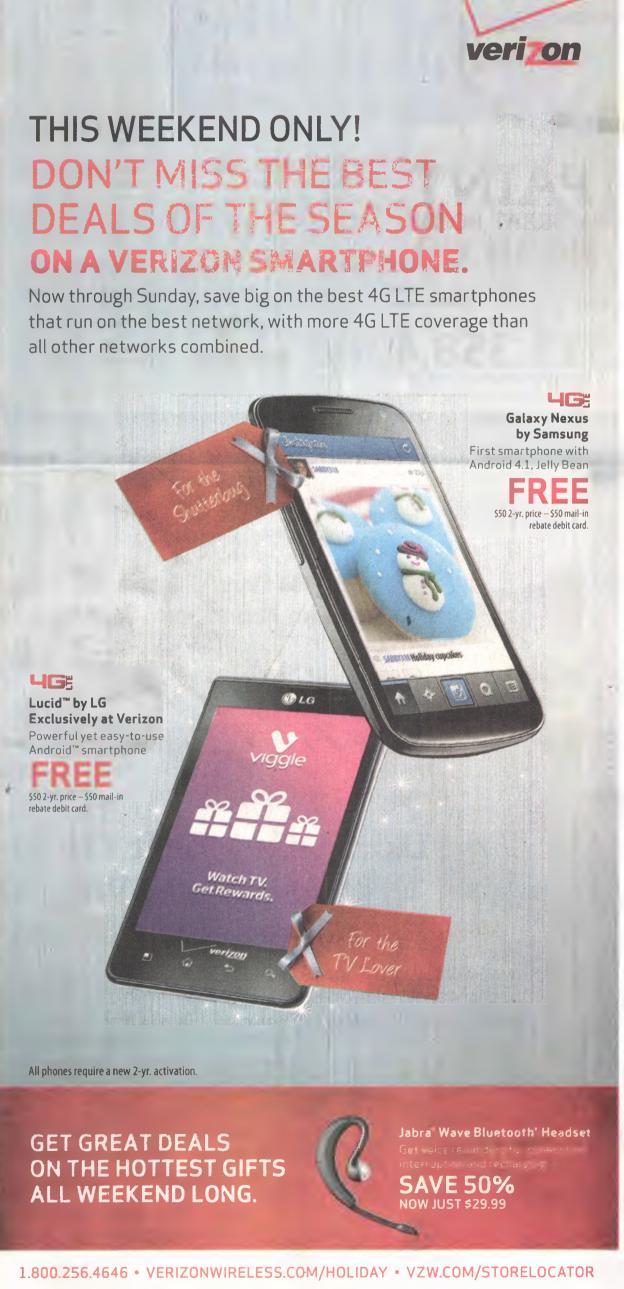
You can participate in Trainer Rod's Extreme Train-A-Thon Fitness Challenge to benefit Wayne County Family Center by signing up for an hour-long training session between Dec. 9-16 for \$60. All proceeds will go toward buying holiday gifts for the kids at the center. Call Trainer Rod today at (248) 943-7179, or email him at trainerrod@corefitfitness.com to reserve your spot or a spot for someone else. Visit corefitfitness.com for more information.

after they leave the shel-

Trainer Rod grew up in an environment where there were no positive associations with this time of the year and he did not receive anything for the holidays.

'This personal pain

and disconnection with the holidays is something that I do not want any child to have to experience," he said. "So I'm on a mission to change the lives of as many children and families as I can with the talents and skills I have developed as a personal trainer.'



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SPORTS

DAN O'MEARA, EDITOR domeara@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2323

Spartans look good with 3-0 hockey record

Stevenson trounces Churchill, remains on early-season tear

> **By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer**

Livonia Stevenson's hockey team doesn't want to get ahead of itself, but the Spartans are looking very formidable during the early going of the 2012-13 season.

That was no more evident than Wednesday night at Edgar Arena as Stevenson skated to an impressive 9-2 win over rival Livonia Churchill in a Kensington Conference crossover.

"It was a night where a lot of bounces went our way and a night where a lot of things went our way," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team is 3-0 overall and has outscored its first three opponents by an aggregate of 22-4. "It was a good night

Junior forward Dominic Lutz enjoyed a five-point night with three goals and two assists. Junior linemate Tyler Irvine and senior forward Blake Battjes each added two goals and two assists.

Lutz scored just 16 seconds into the first period from Devin Kelly, who finished the game with two

"We came with a lot of energy," said Mitchell, whose team led 3-0 after one period. "This is a group that has been working extremely hard. And so far, practices have been outstanding. Our work ethic in practice has carried over to the games and it's nice to see.' Freshman Ben Kowalske and

Please see SPARTANS, B5



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Stevenson's Tyler Irvine (9) and Churchill's Tommy Carey (22) battle for possession of the puck in Wednesday's game at Edgar Arena.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

North Farmington-Harrison junior Stephen Coulter advances the puck as Farmington senior Marc Nahat gives

Flyers zip past Falcons

North-Harrison dominates pre-Thanksgiving game

By Dan O'Meara **Observer Staff Writer**

City rivals North Farmington-Harrison and Farmington have played some exciting, nailbiting hockey games in their annual Thanksgiving Eve series, but the 2012 event was not one of the classics.

In one of the more one-sided meetings, the unified Flyers outshot the Falcons, 48-17, and skated away with a 3-0 victory Wednesday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

"Our guys did a great job," North-Harrison coach Ken Anderson said. "We knew we had to move our feet constantly against these guys, and we were able to do it. We were able to control the play because of it."

Senior defenseman Reede Bur nett figured in all three goals, assisting on the first by senior Eamon Devlin and scoring the last two with help from senior Eric Stanis and juniors Stephen Coulter and Kyle Witherspoon.

A scoreless first period was clean and even until the Falcons took the first penalty with 1:03 remaining. With 57 seconds left on the power play to start the second period, Devlin scored a half minute into it.



Senior Reede Burnett scored two goals and had one assist.

Farmington goalie John Lethemon left the goal crease to play the puck, but he didn't get a handle on it and it slid behind him. He couldn't recover in time to stop Devlin from tapping the puck into the open net.

'It's a tough goal to give up," Falcons coach Mark Vellucci said. "I know he feels bad about it, but those things happen. We have to keep his spirits up, because we're going to need him for the long haul."

The Flyers (2-1) were on the power play again later in the second period when Burnett whipped a slapshot from the point that hit a player and bounced into the net to make it 2-0.

"He's our captain; he leads us on the ice and off the ice," Anderson said. "Tonight was a big game and he stepped up. He, Stanis, (senior TJ) Zak and Devlin needed to step up and they did it."

Early in the third period (13:31), Burnett took a centering feed from Stanis, quickly moved the puck to his right and slipped it behind Lethemon for the third goal.

He drew an unsportsmanlike penalty following the play and put Farmington (0-3) on the power play for the next minute. The Falcons took four more penalties and gave North-Harrison an almost continuous power play for the duration of the game. There was no more scoring, but the Flyers might've had twice as many goals as they did.

"I told my guys that," Anderson said. "We thought we outplayed them enough. But that's what happens in a rivalry game. You have to keep working hard,

Please see FLYERS, B4

Naubert gets WHAC award

Madonna University junior point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball Player of the Week (ending Nov. 19) after averaging 29 points, 6.5 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 1.5 steals as the Crusaders went 1-1.

Naubert scored a career-high 31 points in a 100-81 setback Nov. 14 at Goshen (Ind.) College and followed with a 27-point, eightrebound effort in a 75-61 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph Nov. 17 at home over No. 25-ranked Indiana Tech.

Kubicki, Boes finish season

Madonna University had two representatives in the NAIA Men's and Women's National Cross Country Championships Nov. 17 at the Fort Vancouver (Wash.) Historical Site.

Sophomore Bianca Kubicki (Canton), making her second straight appearance, finished 84th among 320 runners with a 5,000-meter time of 19 minutes, 17 seconds on a soggy course following two days of heavy rains. She was only three seconds off last year's time.

Meanwhile, MU senior Tim Boes (Westland John Glenn) made program history when he became the first Crusader to compete in the NAIAs finishing 115th among a field of 309 in 26:16 (8,000 meters). He broke the 8K school record twice this season.

Boes, majoring in social work, along with women's runner Kayla Daugherty (Brighton), relations major, were also named as 2012 Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete team for carrying a 3.5. or better grade-point average.

Clinic topic is baseball

The Warriors Baseball Club of Michigan invites all school and summer baseball coaches to attend the first Metropolitan **Detroit Baseball Coaches** Clinic and Vendor Show at Farmington High School from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 8. The event will feature presentations by the head baseball coaches from several state universities.

More than 25 vendors also are expected to participate. The cost is \$50. Participants who pre-register will be eligible for numerous door prizes.

For additional information or to pre-register for the clinic, please contact the Warriors Baseball Club of Michigan at (248) 842-7044 or WarriorHQ@aol.com.

Wildcats rout rival Chiefs in 9-0 romp

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

At the annual "Toys for Tots" game hosted by Canton, it was the Plymouth Wildcats opening up a box filled with goals.

Behind five power play goals, the Wildcats romped Wednesday night to a 9-0 victory in a KLAA South Division boys hockey game halted after two periods due to the eight-goal mercy rule. The game was played at Arctic Edge Arena.

"It's extremely discouraging," Canton coach Jeremy Majszak said. "You should step up for a game like this and we didn't."

He pointed to a lack of team play, particularly after the Wildcats

jumped in front at 4:04 of the first period on an even-strength goal by senior forward Jordan Lopetrone on assists from junior forward Conor Browne and senior defenseman Dean Gunther.

"We're just not playing with a lot of heart right now," Majszak said about his 0-2 team. "We're running around; that's all there is to it.

"We're not playing team hockey. That's what we play, that's what we stress every year and this group's just not getting it yet."

Lopetrone (two goals), Browne (two assists) and Gunther (two goals, two assists) were among seven Plymouth players to chalk up multiple points.

Please see WILDCATS, B5



Vying for the puck during Wednesday night's contest at Arctic Edge are Plymouth's Joe Burke (No. 19) and Canton's Matt Cox



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NOVI

NORTHVILLE

Chargers roast Monarchs in pre-holiday victory

By Ed Wright Observer Staff Writer

The Crestwood/Garden City Unified hockey team's game Wednesday night against Allen Park Cabrini had all the ingredients of a Thanksgiving leftovers sandwich for the Chargers.

The middle period was a turkey, but the first and third were as sweet as corn bread.

After bolting to a 4-0 advantage after the opening 17 minutes, the Chargers overcame a Monarch surge to ultimately knock the stuffing out of their hosts, 8-3.

The first-year contingent improved to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the Southeastern Hockey League's Gold Division. Cabrini slipped to 0-2 and 0-1, respectively.

Despite the one-sided final result, the Chargers' performance gave head coach Steve Popp a slight case of indigestion.

"Even though we got off to a quick start, and it looked good on the score-



PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT

Crestwood/Garden City Unified defenseman Jimmy Stevenson clears the puck during the second period of Wednesday night's 8-3 victory over Allen Park Cabrini.

board, I thought we struggled," Popp said. "I didn't think we played well at all as a team. Talentwise, we're much more advanced than (Cabrini). but we didn't play like it.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 25, 2012

"We weathered the storm, though, and did enough at the end to win. Since it was the first league game for us, it was an important win."

The Chargers' first two goals were delivered by Garden City students Johnny Segasser, a sophomore forward who onetimed the puck in the net from the door step just 68 seconds into the contest, and Scott Bleim, who flipped home a rebound four minutes later after Matt Sandburg's shot was stopped by Cabrini fresh-



Crestwood/Garden City Unified forward Johnny Segasser stretches for the puck during the second period of Wednesday night's 8-3 victory over Allen Park Cabrini.

man goalie Justin Varhol.

Crestwood/GC upped its lead to 4-0 thanks to goals from Jacob Noel (from Corey Hahn) and Justin Sims (from Matt Kirunchyk and Segasser), but the hosts stormed back with two quick goals from Alis Solis and Sheldon Varhol early in the second period - forcing Popp to call a tempochanging timeout.

"I told them they needed to pick up the intensity," Popp said, recounting his message during the timeout. "We were hesitant going into the corners for the puck. We needed to step it up, and to the guys' credit, we did."

Chargers goalie Chris Greco — who turned in a spectacular effort stemmed the Monarchs' momentum midway through the second period with back-to-back stellar saves within a 20-second span.

Crestwood/GC expanded its advantage to 5-2 with 13:31 left in the game, when Kirunchyk

tipped in Steve Bennett's initial effort.

The Monarchs drew to within 5-3 with 11:47 left when Christopher Sukel ripped a shot through Greco's five-hole, but the Chargers turned on the after-burners down the stretch, scoring on goals by Bennett, Bleim and Joey Testane.

"I thought Steve Bennett played really well on defense for us," Popp said. "And Johnny Segasser was tough all the way around."

Pats notch first win of the season vs. Kettering

Seniors Elijah Grimm and Adam Stadler each had four-point nights to lead Livonia Franklin to a 6-2 boys hockey win Wednesday over visiting Waterford Kettering in a game played at Edgar Arena.

Grimm finished with a hat trick and one assist. while Stadler assisted on four goals as the Patriots, who unloaded for 39 shots on goal, evened their record at 1-1 overall.

Senior captain Mike Diaz scored the first two goals as the Patriots led 2-0 after one period.

Sophomore Justin Makowski also added a goal for the Patriots, while Corey Ferrier chipped in with three assists and Josh Dudek finished with one.

Franklin sophomore goaltender Matt Monendo stopped 13-of-15 shots.

Kettering (0-3) got second-period goals from Kyle Soncrainte and Christian Ketterben, but still trailed 5-2.

"It was great to get our first win, but I understanding Kettering was short-handed and missing some key players," Franklin first-year coach Dennis Gagnon said. "I was proud of the effort. We've got a lot of learn, but we're excited to move forward."

STEVENSON 6, G.P. **SOUTH 1:** Junior Dominic Lutz and senior Travis Harvey each tallied a pair of goals Friday as Livonia Stevenson (4-0) downed Grosse Pointe South (1-2) in the first round of the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Thanksgiving Tournament.

One of Lutz's goals was short-handed. He also drew an assist as Stevenson outshot the Blue Devils, 38-19.

Austin Stevens and Tyler Irvine had the other goals for the Spartans, who led 2-0 after one period and 3-. 0 after 34 minutes.

Andrew Bigham scored in the final period for South to spoil the shutout bid by Stevenson senior goalie Connor Humitz, who made 18 saves.

The Spartans will face the host Cranes, a 3-1 winner Friday over Grosse Pointe North, in the title game beginning at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Cranbrook.

NOVI 3, SALEM 2: The visiting Rocks (0-1, 0-1) fell short in a comeback

bid Wednesday night at Novi (1-2, 1-0) in the KLAA Central Division opener for both teams.

Novi led 2-0 after one period and 2-1 after two, following Salem's goal by first-year sophomore Noah Willer (assisted by Justin Katulski and Colin Pietron).

Willer collected a stretch pass up the middle and broke in on Novi goalkeeper Pat Carney for the marker.

In the third, the Rocks scored on a power play goal by first-year sophomore Noah Saad (from Alek Zultowski and Jake Sealy). Salem peppered Carney trying for the equalizer but could not covert. The goalie stopped 28-of-30 shots.

"While we are not happy with the end result, we played a solid game and controlled the game for long stretches," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said.

CHELSEA 7, CANTON 2: On Nov. 16, the visiting Chiefs were defeated in their regular season opener.

Scoring single goals for Canton were Brad Ceci and Christian Flack.

Jacob Dugan and Justin Kolbicz divided the goalkeeping duties.



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

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

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All-Observer soccer team a 'goal-den' class of players

FIRST TEAM **Bobby Budiong, Canton:** The senior co-captain returned

after missing the 2011 state championship season due to knee surgery and had a huge season.

Budlong scored 14 goals and added 20 assists to spark the Chiefs to a 16-4-2 record including a 10-0-0 mark in the **KLAA South Division**

That performance landed him a spot on both the Michigan High School Coaches Association's "Dream Team" and first team

His all-around efforts also earned him all-KLAA, all-district and all-region honors.

"Bobby has been a true gift to the Canton High School soccer program," coach George Tomasso said. "He has led on and off the field for four years. Bobby is a player that will never be replaced in any program.

Dan Ovesea, Canton: Having scored the goal that won the D1 championship in 2011, Ovesea entered this season with a lofty standard to live up to and he didn't disappoint - despite the Chiefs losing in the district semifinals to KLAA champion Salem

Ovesea tallied 19 goals and 12 assists to team up with Budlong for a potent offense. The four-year varsity starter finished with 84 career goals and the co-captain was rewarded by being named to the all-conference, all-district and all-region squads as well as to the MHSCA first all-state

"Danny is a goal-scoring legend in the Canton soccer program," Tomasso said. "His 84 career goals speaks foud and clear. He proved how special of a player he is by scoring a goal in the (2011) district final, regional final and (by scoring) the game-winning goal in the state championship game.

Chandler Olah, Plymouth: The senior forward and cocaptain was a force all over the pitch as Plymouth won the first D1 district championship in its history

Olah tallied 22 goals and 13 assists for the 11-8-0 Wildcats, who upset No. 3-ranked Salem 1-0 in the district final. His hat trick enabled Plymouth to edge Livonia Churchill in a district game.

For his efforts, Olah was selected to the all-KLAA, alldistrict and all-region teams as well as earning a spot on the MHSCA all-state second team.

"Chandler was a great team player and leader that did whatever the team needed him to do," coach Jeff Neschich said. "That includes scoring.a hat trick in our 3-2 overtime victory over Churchill in the first round of the districts, or defending all game as he did in the district finals." John D'Agostino, Stevenson: The senior defender and forward served as the Spartans' captain where he had 11 goals and eight assists en route to all-KLAA and Division

D'Agostino is undecided about his college choice "John was an impact player at whatever position we played him at," coach Ken Shingledecker said. "We got into a rhythm of him scoring the goal to give us the lead. and then moving him to the back to help preserve the

1 first-team, all-state honors.

"I have never been around a player that can change a game with one opportunity like him. His explosiveness and speed were awesome to watch. For as an excellent player as he is, he is an even better teammate and person." Luke Hazen, Salem: A senior co-captain for the KLAA Central Division, Kensington Conference and association champion Rocks, Hazen had

a major role in limiting opponents to 0.65 goals per game crucial to the team's overall 16-3-4 record He was named to the all-KLAA, all-district, all-region and MHSCA all-state (second

team) squads as a show of recognition for his consistency and excellence. "Luke was responsible

2012 ALL-OBSERVER **BOYS SOCCER TEAM FIRST TEAM**

Bobby Budlong, Sr., MF, Canton Dan Ovesea, Sr., F, Canton Chandler Olah, Sr., F, Plymouth John D'Agostino, Sr., D. Liv. Stevenson Luke Hazen, Sr., D, Salem Collin Hewett, Jr., GK, Salem Donald Payne, Sr., MF, Farmington Kyle Kansman, Sr., MF, N. Farmington Luai Fakhoury, Sr., MF, Farm. Harrison Alex Isaevski, Sr., MF, John Glenn Tyler Fosdick, Sr., MF, Salem Ma Sambou Jatta, Sr., D, Clarenceville Dominic Sabatini, Sr., MF, Liv. Stevenson Matt Wisniewski, Sr., GK, Garden City

Connor Shennan, Sr., D, Canton **COACH OF THE YEAR** Ed McCarthy, Salem SECOND TEAM

Ronnie Basin, Sr., MF, N. Farmington Michael Murphy, Sr., MF, Liv. Churchill Colton Robison, Sr., GK, Liv. Churchill Bobby Mason, Sr., F, John Glenn Ernie Babon, Sr., F, Luth. Westland Connor Cole, Jr., MF, Salem Griffin Parks, Jr., F, Canton Lucas Albrecht, Soph., F, Ply. Christian Lewis Ellis, Sr., F, Redford Union Hayden Steinman, Jr., D, Liv. Franklin Tom O'Brien, Sr., D. Liv. Stevenson Joe Trombley, Sr., MF, Farmington Josh Brunett, Jr., D, Farm. Harrison Viet Nguyen, Jr., MF, Plymouth Jeff Okerstrom, Jr., MF, Redford Union Christian Stombaugh, Sr., MF, Garden City Martin Ballah, Sr., F, Wayne **HONORABLE MENTION**

Redford Union: Joe Griffin, Nate Longman, Justin Ruffner, Ryan Ruffner; Garden City: Toyosi Kuforiji, Matt Castaneda; John Glenn: Tyler Simpson, Ryan McCarthy, Carlos Santiago, David Isaacs; Wayne: Zak Hamden; Stevenson: Ben Stromberg, Billy Werthman, Zack Verant, Ryan Schifano, Brian Smith; Franklin: Matt Freed, Nick O'Brien, Jordan Bickham; Churchill: Nathan Bradford, Brian Cavicchio, Matt Koepke, Tim DeYoung, Andrew Smutek; Lutheran Westland: Walter Gembarski, Jordan Williams; Huron Valley Lutheran: Justin Howell; Clarenceville: Evan Gregg, David Vanderkerckhove, lan Bunker, Cameron Fyffe, Matthias Hoffman; Canton: Scott Piwowar, Nick Tomei, Ian Wingate, Cody Widlak, Jack Zemanski; Salem: Chris Dierker, Brady Cole, Grant McKinney, Andriy Pelekh; Plymouth: Vikas Kanneganti, Jeff Pattison, Do-Hyung Kim, Teddy Phillips, Chris Lebioda, Mario Gruszczynski; PCA: Jacob Bailey, Matt Read, Jayme Putney, Adam Powlus; Farmington: Brandon Schulz, Alex Arlin, Dom Hajdu, Alexander Budd, Sam Fleck; N. Farmington: Will Clisham, Christian Beckwith, Matt Diekman, Nate Bur, Zach Lumley; Harrison: Brenden Tatomir, Moussa Zaatar, Eimil Hennes.

for taking nearly all of our defensive re-starts," coach Ed McCarthy said. "He is one of the top passing defenders in the state and has outstanding

Collin Hewett, Salem: One would be hard-pressed to find a high school goalkeeper with h range and athletic ability as Hewett, who seemed to be everywhere when the Rocks needed him en route to a successful ride that went all the way to the heartbreaking, 1-0 district final loss in penalty kicks to Plymouth.

The rangy and lanky Hewett posted a dozen shutouts and was named to the all-conference, all-district, all-region and MHSCA all-state teams. the latter as an honorable mention.

"Using his size and quickness, he is able to dominate the 18-yard box," McCarthy said. "He is able to make difficult saves seem effortless. Collin is the key reason our team had 12 shutouts this year."

Donald Payne, Farmington: The senior midfielder was a four-year starter for the Falcons, who were 9-6-5 the past season while competing in the Oakland Activities Association's top division (Red). Payne, an all-state honorable mention in Division 1, was outstanding at controlling and distributing the ball, and he had a knack for scoring goals, too. Payne had eight goals and four assists this year, and he finished his high

respectively. "Donald has been a big part of our success the last four years," coach Luke Juncaj said, adding the Falcons had a winning season each of those years. "He's a great player; he's a playmaker.

school career with 36 and 27,

"He's also a player who can take over a game and win it for us. He did that many times in his four years at Farmington. He's one of the great players that Farmington has had in the last 20 years. We're definitely going to miss him." Kyle Kansman, N. Farmington: The senior midfielder was a four-year starter and twoyear captain for the Raiders, earning a Division 1 all-state honorable mention this year. Kansman spent most of his prep career playing defense, but he moved forward on the field to play a holding mid Kansman was voted the most

valuable player on the North Farmington team, and he also received the Chuck Voss Award for leadership, sportsmanship, character, scholarship (3.9 GPA) and community service. He scored 11 goals and had six assists while coming out of the back this year. Kansman, who is an OAA Scholar Athlete and helped the Raiders win an all-state academic team award, will play college soccer at either Ball State, Indiana-Purdue or

Madonna.

"Kyle is not only an exceptional soccer player but an incredible young man," coach Mike Horner said. "He is the one of the toughest tacklers I have ever coached and is also very strong in the air. Kyle made it next to impossible for teams to attack us up the middle as we allowed only 22 goals in 20 games. We always sent him forward on free kicks and corners because of his

excellent offensive skills." Luai Fakhoury, Harrison: The senior captain and midfielder was the field general for the Hawks, directing teammates and executing coach Tim Russell's game plan. Fakhoury, a member of the Division 1 all-state, third team, was the top player for Harrison, which took Novi to overtime in the district final at Stevenson and finished with a 10-6-4 record. He scored five goals and assisted on 14

others. "Luai's field presence made him into a player-coach and unofficial assistant coach." Russell said. "His numbers were terrific and his skills were the key to our success, but his leadership really made the biggest difference in our



Bobby Budlong Canton



Dan Ovesea Canton



Chandler Olah Plymouth



John D'Agostino Stevenson



Luke Hazen Salem





N Farmington



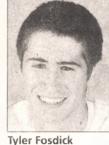
Donald Payne Farmington



Luai Fakhoury Harrison



John Glenn





Ma Sambou Jatta Clarenceville



Dominic Sabatini Stevenson

late-season improvement. He

did a great job of organizing

our team, and he was a terrific

captain. Luai's influence on his

Alex Isaevski, John Glenn:

The senior midfielder helped

ever, finishing with 26 goals

and 14 assists on his way

to all-KLAA and all-district

honors. Isaevski was also a

football.

dual-sport athlete, serving as

sienn's kicker and punter in

"Alex is very fast and techni-

playmaker. He is able to create

offense from center midfield

He's an ambidextrous shooter

and dribbler. His high work

him a complete player.

KLAA champion Rocks.

rate and terrific fitness make

Tyler Fosdick, Salem: The

senior co-captain gave all he

provide essential leadership

His efforts did not always

translate to the stats sheet,

of him to vote him to the

all-conference, all-district,

able mention.

possession."

was sweeper.

but his peers thought enough

all-region and MHSCA all-state

teams, the latter as an honor-

Tyler is an excellent defen-

and is one of our conference's

enceville: The 6-foot-3 senior

Trojans with 11 goals and five

assists. Jatta's primary position

"Ma Sambou is a fierce com-

petitor," coach Trevor Johnson

said. "Even in games that

coaches would praise him,

many pointing out that he

"He was also a very good

sport, well received by com-

petitors, and a clean player.

He was invaluable to my team.

and he was also the kicker on

the football team, balancing

both with no issues. I have a

hard time believing that any

player on the field.

was clearly the most complete

we were on the wrong end.

played every position except

sive midfielder," McCarthy

said. "He is good in the air

top players at helping keep

Ma Sambou Jatta, Clar-

goalkeeper, leading the

had on the pitch and more to

and clutch playmaking for the

cally skilled," coach Brian

Tomlinson said. " Alex is a

as well as outside fullback

propel Glenn to its best season

teammates was invaluable.



Garden City

to mine.



Canton



Ed McCarthy Salem coach

player in the area meant more to his team than Jatta meant

Dominic Sabatini, Stevenson: The senior center midfielder ended up with four goals and eight assists earning both all-KLAA and Division 1 all-district honors for the 11-4-5 Spartans

"Dom was an outstanding leader on and off the field," Shingledecker said. "He's extremely craftly on the dribble and an outstanding passer. He did the job offensively and defensively for us at attacking center midfielder all season. He also played an important role in making my first year a

will always be grateful." Matt Wisniewski, Garden City: Wisniewski put the wraps on an outstanding high school soccer career by registering 222 saves - many coming from close range. Athletic and acrobatic, the three-year starter kept the Cougars in many contests with his sharp skills in front of the net.

seamless transition; for that I

"Matt made the greatest saves I have ever seen from a high school goalie," said Garden City coach Jeff Szypula. "He is the top goalie to ever play at Garden City High School. He has the career-best mark at the school for saves. He brought his best effort to every practice and every game.

Connor Shennan, Canton: Another sturdy pillar of Canton's soccer program, the defender excelled again for the Chiefs despite dividing time between the soccer and varsity football teams. Shennan was named a member of the all-conference, alldistrict, all-region and MHSCA all-state squads (the latter as an honorable mention) and provided all-around strong play for the KLAA South Division champions, scoring against Plymouth to clinch the title.

"Connor has demonstrated his athletic superiority by playing two varsity sports with soccer and football," Tomasso said. "He was a huge part of a state championship defensive line (in 2011) and he propelled our team this year."

Tomasso added that Shennan leaves the Chiefs "as one of the best center defenders to ever play" at the high school. COACH OF THE YEAR

Ed McCarthy, Salem: The only thing missing for this season's Salem Rocks was a Division 1 state championship. McCarthy's standout team - in the top-10 all year - finished 16-3-4 overall, capturing the KLAA Central Division (7-1-2), Kensington Conference and association titles.

The Rocks might have taken a serious run at the title if not for an unbelievable job in goal by Plymouth's Mario Gruszczynski in the D1 district final, won 1-0 on penalty kicks by the Wildcats. That loss bumped Salem

down a peg or two from the No. 3 ranking in the state, but it was still a stellar season for the veteran coach and his squad.

Salem featured a solid, balanced offense (39 goals, led by junior twins Brady Cole and Connor Cole along with junior midfielder Andriy Pelekh and senior forward Chris Dierker) and a stingy defense that gave up just 0.65 goals per contest.

The stellar work of junior goalkeeper Collin Hewett, senior defender Luke Hazen and senior midfielder Tyler Fosdick were key components of that defensive excellence.

"Our team success is primarily due to great players, a high work rate and a rare balance of high level players in all 11 positions," McCarthy said. "We defended well, had excellent goalkeeping, our possession in our midfield was among the best in the state and ultimately we had timely scoring with a balanced attack.

Although the loss to Plymouth put a disappointing capper on the season, McCarthy underlined another big team accomplishment.

"One defining achievement this year is a program-first, four wins over an outstanding, state-ranked Canton team," he said.

Among those was a D1 district semifinal win.

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL Monday, Nov. 26 N. Farm. at Lakeland. 7 p.m Tuesday, Nov. 27 HVL at Macomb, 6:30 p.m. L. W'sld at Crestwood, 7 p.m RU at Franklin, 7 p.m. Edsel Ford at Stevenson, 7 p.m Wayne at Garden City, 7 p.m. Farmington at Harrison, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 • Frankel at HVL, 6 p.m.

Inter-City at C'ville, 7 p.m. Salem at F.H. Mercy, 7 p.m. Farmington at Novi, Friday, Nov. 30 Franklin at Garden City, 7 p.m Wayne at Belleville, 7 p.m Powers at Ladywood, 7 p.m Harrison at Oxford, 7 p.m. PREP HOCKEY Wednesday, Nov. 28

Franklin vs. Country Day,

Churchill vs. Howell

at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m. Farmington vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 6 p.m. N'ville vs. N. Farm.-Harrison at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 Stevenson vs. South Lyon at Kensington Valley, 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30 Churchill vs. Plymouth at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m Saturday, Dec. 1 Franklin vs. Brighton at Kensington Valley, 4 p.m

Ladywood vs. A.A. Pioneer

at Arctic Pond, 8 p.m. (at Farm. Hills Ice Arena) Farm. vs. Howell, 5:30 p.m. **MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS** Wednesday, Nov. 28 Kellogg at S'craft, 5:30 p.m. Madonna at Lourdes, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30 (Muskegon CC Classic) S'craft vs. Muskegon, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 Madonna at Concordia, 3 p.m.

(Muskegon CC Classic) WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS Wednesday, Nov. 28 Kellogg at S'craft, 5:30 p.m Madonna at Lourdes, 6 p.m Friday, Nov. 30 (Muskegon CC Classic) S'craft vs. Cincy State, 1 p.m Saturday, Dec. 1 Madonna at Concordia, 1 p.m. (Muskegon CC Classic) S'craft vs. Muskegon, 5 p.m.

Area women will try to win another title for Lakers

Grand Valley to play UC San Diego in NCAA soccer semi

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Forgive Alyssa Mira for being a little greedy.

The senior midfielder for Grand Valley State University women's soccer team has played on two NCAA Division II national championship teams and is going for number three when the 20-1-3 Lakers travel Thursday to Evans, Ga., to face UC San Diego in the semifinals.

The Livonia Churchill grad also has company when it comes to national titles in Kayla Kimble, a junior defender from Livonia Stevenson who was a member of last year's national runner-up squad and the 2010 championship team as a freshman.

Mira, the team leader in assists (9), never lost a match on her home field during her four-year career as the Lakers are 49-0-3, a streak which currently ranks second all-time among NCAA Division II women's soccer teams.

That, however, appeared to be in jeopardy last week when Grand Valley needed two overtimes and a shootout following a 2-2 draw with Minnesota State in a national quarterfinal.

The Lakers, who squandered a 2-0 lead during the last 10 minutes of regulation, won 5-4 on penalty kicks to stay alive in

the tournament.

"That was probably one of the most emotional games I've ever played," said Mira, who logged all 110 minutes. "When we gave up two goals at the end I still had complete faith that we could still pull it off. When we went to the shootout, I said, 'This is it, this is the last game on this field.' I had confidence in our shooters and our goalie. I was so happy I won that last game on that field."

Ironically, it was a little used freshman from Livonia Ladywood who factored heavily in the final outcome.

Kelly Capoccia, a native of Farmington Hills who appeared in just 11 games and has seen only 128 minutes action all season, came in cold off the bench score in the sixth round of the shootout, which ultimately set up Taylor Callen's game-winning PK to make it 5-4. "We've been taking penalty kicks every single practice," Capoccia said. "I didn't know until five minutes before the second overtime was over. I was pretty shocked. That was my first one. I was nervous, but I just knew needed to stay calm, relaxed and composed. I put it in the lower right side of the net."

And Mira was one of the first to congratulate her. "I told Kelly after the

game of how proud I was of her," the senior physical therapy major said. "It's not about minutes for her. She was able to sit through that whole game and still have the composure to bury a PK at the end when the team needed her.'

Mira recently earned her second straight All-Region nod, while helping GVSU record 18 shutouts. She was also named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2011, while also earning a spot on the Daktronics All-America third-team.

"She's (Mira) been a great example of somebody who puts everything she has into it as a student and an athlete balancing that with the same amount of energy, success and care," Grand Valley coach Dave DiIanni said. "She's kind of a lead by example, not by voice kind of girl. But she's learned that there are times when she has to speak up because they have so much respect for her.

"She's putting everything into her senior year and tried to stretch outside her normal comfort zone. She's been wonderful. She's played three different positions for us, all because we needed that from her and she's been successful in all those positions. You couldn't ask for a more



Kayla Kimble



Alyssa Mira

consummate teammate." After winning its eighth straight GLIAC crown. Grand Valley ousted University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 2-0, and Rockhurst (Mo.), 3-1, to reach the Elite Eight.

Kimble has started 15 of 17 Lakers' games this season and played all 110 minutes in the victory over Minnesota State.

Like Mira, Kimble earned both All-GLIAC and All-Midwest Region honors this season.

"I think that we've gotten better as the season has gone on," Kimble said. "We're growing together as a team. It just shows that on Sunday, the harder we worked, the better the outcome. I think we're growing has a team and working good, so hopefully we'll pull together for the national championship.

Despite playing in 21 games, Kimble was plagued during her freshman year with Compartment syndrome, which required postseason sur-

This season she's battled dislocated tendons in her ankles, which will also require postseason



Kelly Capoccia

surgery. "She's (Kimble) has been a little banged up in her career, but when healthy she's been an exceptional player for us primarily at center back," Dilanni said. "She's very tactical and has a very high soccer I.O. I think some of that comes from playing for her dad (Jim), who was a soccer coach as well (with the Livonia Hawks and Ste-

venson) a long time. "She's starting to learn not only to lead by example, but also by voice. Because of the nature of the position, we've three great center-backs that have come through that program and now she has an opportunity to add to that list. She's been a wonderful addition after being injured.'

Meanwhile, Dilanni said he wasn't afraid throw Capoccia into the fire at critical time.

"Not everybody has that comfort level to be able to handle that pressure," the 10th-year Grand Valley coach said. "We asked her and she said she wanted to be part of it and give her the opportunity 10 minutes to warm up after the (second) overtime was over. "Obviously give credit to one of her club coaches Eric Scott, who is a Livonia guy and done a great job with her mentally, in terms of being mentally strong and giving her

the nuances of the game of soccer. She has a high soccer I.Q., so I give her confidence doing that. She's not afraid of the moment and that's a lot of respect she garnered from her teammates."

Kimble also admired Capoccia's mental tough-

"That was really great for her to come in and kick one for the team," the junior business and marketing major said. "I was the next one to shoot, so I was a little nervous."

Capoccia, a former All-Stater from Ladywood, has remained patient throughout the process.

"It's been kind of upand-down," the freshman business major said. "I've learned a lot throughout the whole first season. I came in with high expectations."

As far Mira, she likes the team's chemistry heading into the Final Four.

"We all work for each other," she said. "We all know what the main goal is. As much as it's about the team and stuff, we have everyone working to keep our senior class going. We've had set goals from the beginning of the season and we've knocked off every one of them. To win a national championship is our last one."

FLYERS

Continued from page B1

which we did, and we came out on top.

"The team play was there. Everyone worked together. We worked hard in the defensive zone and moved out from there into the offensive zone. We created chances together, and it was a nice team victory." North-Harrison senior

goalie Hunter Myers got

the shutout. He was tested by Farmington's Nick Gensheimer, Nick Heffron and others, but not near as much as Lethemon was by the Flyers.

Vellucci said the Falcons will go back to the drawing board and, hopefully, have a different outcome when the teams play again on Saturday, Dec. 22.

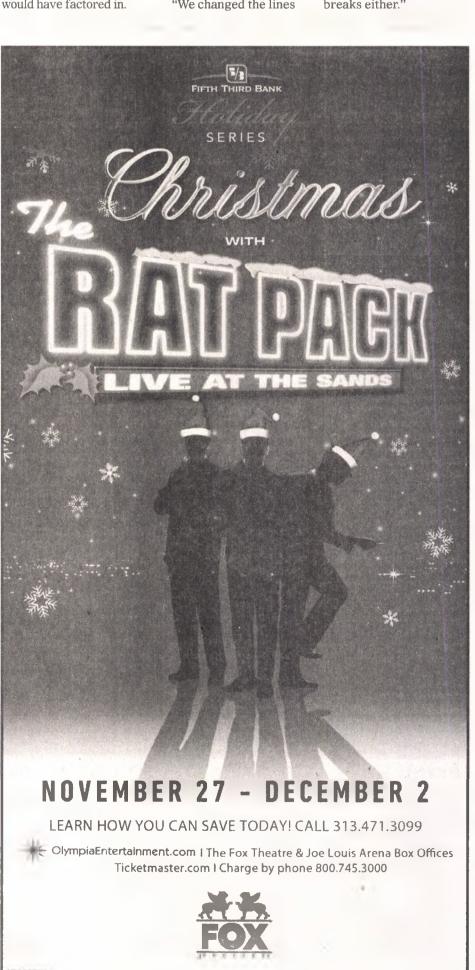
"I think we'll be a better team by then," he said. "We had a big crowd tonight, and it was just a little disappointing. We had 12 returning guys, and I thought that experience would have factored in.

"We told the guys, We need to look in the mirror and regroup. We have to keep going back to the basics and fundamentals.' One of the boys said, 'Coach, we're not executing.' Executing means passing, shooting, skating, and we're just not doing that on all cylinders right now.

"We changed the lines

around a little to try to get a different look. With (Cooper) McLean, Heffron and Gensheimer out there, they had a bunch of chances. We had a couple breakaways and didn't get a shot off. That's the way it went tonight. We didn't get the breaks, and we didn't make the breaks either."





WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

All told, 11 skaters picked up at least one point.

Golden touch

"It's not the way these games usually go," said Plymouth coach Gerry Vento, whose team is off to a 4-0 start. "It's just that everything we touched seemed to turn to gold today.

"Sometimes you're on the right end of those games and sometimes you're on the wrong end. We'll take it and move forward to the next game."

Vento hopes the team saved something for that one, a game at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28 at Arctic Edge against defending state champion and still-stacked Brighton.

The Chiefs competed fairly well for the first half of the opening stanza before two Plymouth power play goals within 1:24 opened up a 3-0 lead.

With 7:13 left, junior forward Mike Schultz (one goal, three assists) walked out of the left corner and threaded a pass in front to senior forward Nick Schultz (two goals, one assist), who onetimed the puck past Canton starting goalie Justin

Plymouth's third goal of the period was scored by senior forward Joe Burke (two goals), who sent a knuckling wrist shot from the right circle inside the left post.

The Wildcats added to the lead at 49 seconds of the second. Gunther skated the length of the ice down the left wing and centered a pass to Burke for the slam dunk

With 14:32 remaining in the period, a shorthanded marker padded the edge to 5-0. The Schultz brothers teamed up again, with Nick Schultz finishing the scoring play.

"They (Mike and Nick Schultz) definitely seem to have a chemistry," Vento said. "Our power

play was clicking today. We're very happy with the way things worked

That goal marked the end of the night for Kolbicz, with senior Jacob Dugan taking over.

"I thought Justin played really well," Majszak stressed. "The only reason I pulled him is I'm not going to let him get shelled if the team in front of him doesn't want to play."

However, Dugan also found himself in a tough spot as the Wildcats scored four times (three with the extra man) over the final 10:41 to widen the gap to mercy-rule proportions.

The first two goals Dugan allowed were collected by Gunther followed by single tallies by Lopetrone and Mike Schultz.

Senior forward Spencer Godin earned his second helper of the night on the Lopetrone goal.

Cool and calm

At the other end, Plym-

outh sophomore netminder Jared Maddock was a cool customer. He handled everything that came his way with confidence.

"He did what he had to do," Vento said. "He was pretty calm before the game and I think it showed on the ice."

When the game was 1-0, Maddock turned aside a backhander by Canton forward Colin Smith.

Late in the second, he made back-to-back stops against senior forward Charlie Steslick to keep his shutout going. For the Chiefs, the best

part of the night was hosting the annual game to collect new toys for those in need.

Those who brought toys (to be donated through Toys for Tots) received discount coupons for an oil change at Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth (cosponsor of the event).

There also was a raffle and Dick Scott-hosted "Score-O" where fans took a shot from center ice at a 2013 Dodge.

S'craft guard duo powers by Edison

The one-two punch of Richmond Jackson and Jonathan Campbell proved to be too much Tuesday as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team down host **Edison Community Col**lege, 89-77, in Piqua, Ohio.

Jackson, a sophomore forward, poured in a game-high 29 points hitting 11-of-22 shots from the floor along with 6-of-9 free throws. He also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Campbell, a first-year guard from Livonia Stevenson, added 24 points hitting 4-of-7 from threepoint range and 10-of-12 foul shots.

Center Terrance Coles also posted a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Zinoviy Pelekh came off the bench to scored 10 points and dish out four assists.

The victorious Ocelots, who led 34-33 at the halftime, improved to 3-2 overall.

Edison (2-1) got 10 points from guard Jordan Taylor, while Brandon Ervin posted a doubledouble with 16 points and 11 rebounds. The Chargers also got 15 points from Eric Beckstedt.

MADONNA 92, MARYGROVE 42: Eleven of 12 players scored Tuesday night as host Madonna University (5-1, 2-0) romped to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph over Marygrove College (0-6, 0-2).

Junior guard Travis Schuba paced a balanced MU scoring attack with 15 points, while Zach Wedesky came off the bench to add 13.

Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson), Fred Williams and Zak Lewis chipped in with 10 apiece for the Crusaders, who led 45-23 at the half.

MU shot 56.7 percent from the field (34-for-60), including 14-of-25 from three-point range (14-of-

Marygrove got 10 points off the bench from Diante Taylor.

The Mustangs shot only 17-of-64 from the field (26.6 percent).

SPARTANS

Continued from page B1

sophomore Alex Hunt each added a goal for the Spartans, who led 6-2 after two periods.

Both Churchill goals came in the second period by junior defenseman Drew Puishes, the first from Tommy Carey and the second from Matt Sinclair and Nick Misiak.

"These games are always emotional games," Churchill first-year coach Jason Reynolds said, "And you always want to try and put your best foot forward in an emotional

game like this. "Obviously we had an unfortunate 15 seconds when they jumped on us early. And I think from there we got a little too wrapped up in the emotion of the game. That

led to some poor penalties on our part. And give Stevenson credit, they're always prepared with a potent power play. They've got a lot of great offensive talent on their team. They came ready to capitalize on the mental

breakdowns that we had." Churchill started Alec Calvaruso in goal. The freshman faced 34 Stevenson shots.

"I'm trying to prepare this guy for the future," Reynolds said. "There were a couple of instances there where we thought maybe we could pull him out and give him a little bit of relief, but then on the other hand, we as a team fully need to do more than what we're doing. I certainly couldn't put it all on his shoul-

The loss dropped the Chargers to 0-2 and 0-1 in the KLAA's South Division.

"We had some mental lapses out there," Reynolds said. "I think defensively we still need to get stronger. It's going to be ongoing process for us this year. We have a schedule this year that consists of a lot of tough teams. The schedule is built for a good playoff run. We're going to take it one game at a time and we're going to continue to improve defensive and continue make those mental notes against these good teams. We'll come back and be more ready for these guys in January."

Meanwhile, Stevenson was flying up and down the ice with reckless abandon. The Spartans had a pair of power play goals and also had two short-handed ass well.

"The line of Lutz, Irvine and Devin Kelly - was very good for us," Mitchell said. "They seemed to click together. This was kind of a run-and-gun game and we definitely had breakdowns, and Connor Humitz (26 saves) came up big for us. It's nice to have a senior goalie between the pipes who has been there before."

The Kensington Conference crossover win puts the Spartans 1-0 in the KLAA Central.

"We still have a long way to go and a tough road ahead of us, but I like where we're at at this point of the season," Mitchell said. "But we have a big Thanksgiving tournament coming up at Cranbrook with Grosse Pointe South on Friday night, then either Cranbrook or Grosse Pointe North (Saturday). We have a long way to go, and a lot of good hockey, and a lot to improve upon for sure."

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Madonna spikers to meet top-10 foes

The Madonna University women's volleyball team will face a pair of top-10 ranked teams during pool play in the 2012 NAIA Volleyball National Championship, which starts Tuesday in Sioux City, Ia.

The Crusaders, 34-7 overall, were placed in Pool C with No. 3Columbia College (Mo.) and No. 10-ranked Oklahoma Baptist, along with Carroll College (Mont.).

Madonna comes in ranked 15th overall following their 3-1 victory Nov. 17 at home over St. Xavier (Ill.) in the NAIA opening round after claiming both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships.

Beginning at 4:15 p.m. (CST) Tuesday, the Crusaders face Oklahoma Baptist (32-4) before taking on Columbia (37-1) at 2 p.m. Wednesday before wrapping up pool play at 2 p.m. Thursday against

Carroll (25-9).

The top two teams in each pool advance to the single elimination round of play that begins on Friday.

Madonna is 26-23 in its 12 appearances in the NAIA Nationals and is making its first championship appearance since 2008.







Everything Changes After Surgery Four years ago, Chari Hillier was a different woman. She weighed 270 pounds and every part of her body hurt. "I had been on so many different diets," Chari said. "I just couldn't do it anymore." Chari went to see Bariatric Surgeon Ernest Cudjoe, M.D. Today, Chari is a trim 143 pounds and feels great. Read her full story at www.midmichigan.org/hillier

> MidMichigan Health www.midmichigan.org/bariatrics

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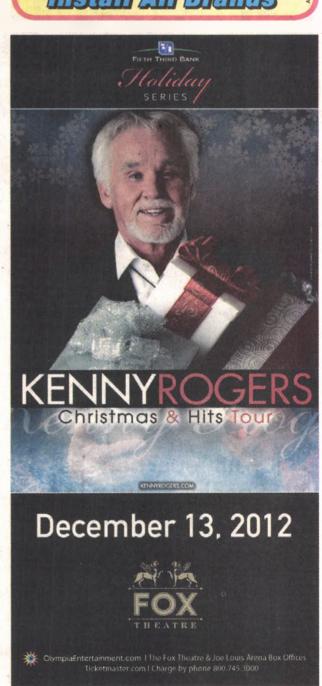
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COMMUNITY LIFE

Seasonal tradition

Couple decorates, bakes for Christmas House Walk

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Every ornament, every Christmas heirloom, every handmade keepsake in Mike and Jane Cuba's house tells a story.

From the early 19th-century New Year postcards that Jane inherited from her grandmother, to the handmade clothespin figures hanging on the hibiscus plant, the cherished family treasures all commemorate events, individuals and places close to their hearts.

"I could give you stories about everything in the house," said Jane, a retired teacher who taught second grade in Southfield.

"She's got an ornament that's a piece of cardboard with a rubber band on the back," added Mike, a retired Detroit high school chemistry teacher. "We hang that sucker up every year."

The simple cardboard



Homemade ornaments from a friend refer to their major addition built on their home. Jane Cuba holds the roll of blueprints and Mike Cuba holds a tumbling stack of bricks.

creation — a gift from a second grader long ago — and dozens of other ornaments will hang from the branches of a freshly-cut Christmas tree in the couple's family room when guests visit during the 24th annual Livonia Christmas House Walk, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

The Cuba residence is one of five houses that will be decorated for the holidays and open to ticketholders. Jane likes to keep the decorations simple and traditional in the 1938 colonial. Roping of artificial greens with lights and bows adorn the stairway bannister, a mirror and other locations throughout the first floor. Antique postcards that were sent to Jane's grandmother from 1908-1903, along with Santa figures and stockings decorate the fireplace mantel. Holiday art hangs on the walls and Christmas cactus blooms in a sun room.

"If people are coming for cutting edge ideas, this is



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike and Jane Cuba, reflected in the hallway mirror. Jane places fresh greens arrangements, like the one on the table, throughout the house during the Christmas season.

the wrong house," Jane noted. "It's very traditional. There will be fresh greens, picked from the backyard. I'll have out 10 arrangements. I'll have poinsettias."

Tasty twistWhen she agreed to par-

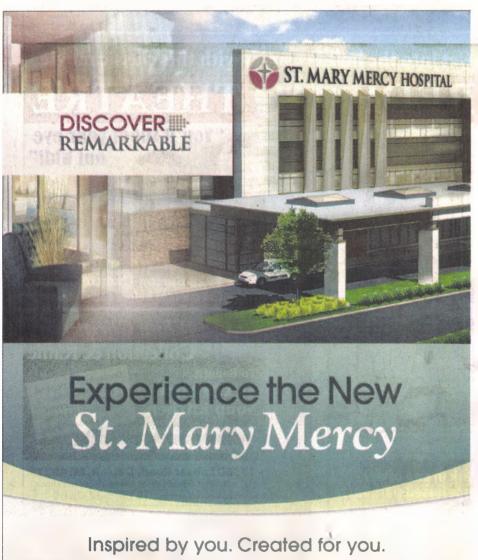
ticipate in the Christmas Walk, Jane told its organizers that the couple would decorate the house as they normally do for Christmas. "Nothing more. Nothing

else."
But because they participated in the 2007 Walk, just

five years ago, the couple wanted to add a new, special twist — without going overboard on decorations.

"To make it a little different for people who have been here, we and some

Please see TRADITION, B7



At St. Mary Mercy Livonia, we're re-inventing the way you and your family experience a hospital stay with our new three-story addition that boasts a state-of-the-art Emergency Center and two floors of 80 total private patient rooms.

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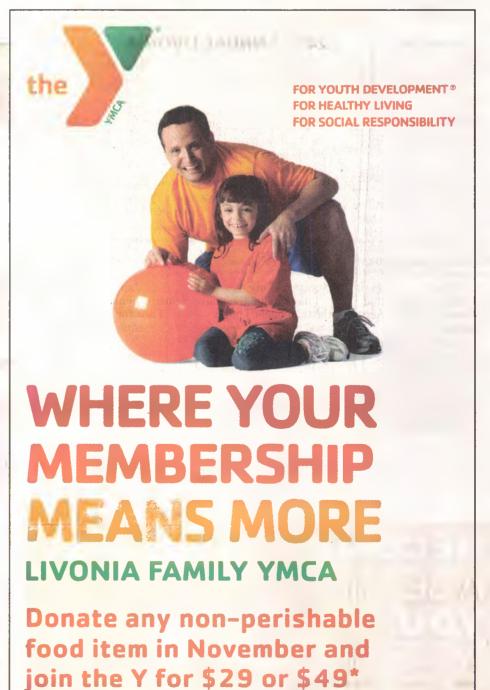
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jane Cuba knits Christmas presents at the kitchen table.

TRADITION

Continued from page B6

friends will be baking cookies non-stop," Jane said.

Visitors will get a chance to taste a cookie or two as they walk through the kitchen, which was part of a major addition, along with a family room and master bedroom suite in

The Cubas will use recipes from the new Angela Hospice cookbook, Where the Butter Flies, which Mike compiled for the organization. (See the Thursday, Nov. 29 food page in the Observer for recipes and a story about the book).

Volunteering together

Both Mike and Jane are long-time volunteers for Angela Hospice. She knits lap blankets and visits with patients in their homes. He crochets lap blankets and pitches in with cooking and special projects, such as the cookbook.

Jane began volunteering for Angela Hospice 18 years ago, after her father

'They were there for ny family," she said. "I said, I'll do it (volunteer) for a year, give back. Well, 18 vears later..

Angela Hospice cookbooks will be available for purchase at their home during the Christmas Walk.

Although only the main floor will be decorated for Christmas, visitors will be allowed to see the upstairs master bedroom, which was part of the 2006 addition, and check out Mike's basement-level "man cave," where he builds the model airplanes that he flies with Detroit Aero Modelers.

Along with the wood skeleton of an airplane that's under construction, visitors may notice a "magic mirror," a dove on a string and a sign for "Ruby's Place" in Mike's work room. All are props that have been used by Spotlight on Youth, Spotlight Players or Still Got It,



Mrs. Brown sits on a holiday table runner in Mike and Jane Cuba's family room.

24TH ANNUAL LIVONIA CHRISTMAS HOUSE WALK

What: Presented by the Friends of Greenmead to benefit Greenmead Historical Park

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1

Details: Walk through five private homes, all decorated for the holidays, in Livonia. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served on event day at the Quaker House at Greenmead

Admission: Tickets are \$9 before the walk and \$10 the day of the walk. Buy tickets at all three Livonia libraries, at the Quaker House at Greenmead, located at Newburgh and Eight Mile, and weekdays at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive Contact: (248) 477-7375

Players in Canton.

"I like building. I build plastic models. I build wood models. If someone says 'I need a left-handed framitz for a play, I'll try to come up with something," he said.

Both he and Jane are active in Spotlight Players. Mike, who regularly acts, directs and helps backstage, will direct dinner theater, The Reunion at Hippie High, in early

2013. Jane also acts and helps behind the scenes. Look for handmade

Christmas ornaments on their tree that commemorate Mike's role as Scrooge and their many years as "big head" and character marchers in the America's Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit.

For more information about the Livonia Christmas House Walk, call (248) 477-7375.

Furnace requirements could be costly

By Joe Gagnon **Guest Columnist**

would like to know how many organizations there are that control and set policies on energy consumption in this country. I think every person should be singled out and how much money directed to each specific group should be identified.

I want to know because I'm tired of not knowing who is responsible for the thousands of dollars that cost Americans right out of their pockets for the new ideas that come out of Washington. Who is it that has the right to dictate to homeowners that

Appliance

Joe Gagnon

Doctor

you can no longer purchase an 80 percent furnace and must install the 90 percentplus as a replacement? Under mandate of law, the heating company of your choice will no longer be able to sell them. Many consumers will be shocked at the increase in price for having a new furnace installed.

This law goes into effect in the ear-

ly months of 2013 and it reminds me of when the Energy Department got involved with the toilet issue that turned out to be one big mess. Don't get me wrong, I believe in saving the planet, recycling and all the other things that can be called normal, but I'm strictly against the rip-offs that get mixed into the methods of getting things done. Let me give you just a few examples of how change which caused some very adverse expense results.

In 1982 the manufacturers of gas ranges had to change the method of ignition on their stoves. They had to go from a pilot light to an electronic ignition system. The old system worked great but it wasted gas which we had plenty of and still have an abundance to feed us for the next 200 years. This move had to cost the manufacturers many millions of dollars in new design. It didn't take very long for them to get a return on investment. The igniters were just a pure piece of junk back then and many range owners had to buy a new one every year at a cost of near \$100. It was several years before the igniter was perfected to withstand some longevity.

Furnace changes

The same picture is true of furnaces. Most people who purchased a new furnace 20 years ago with the new ignition system had to replace several igniters during the first few years of operation. I know, I've replaced five of them in my furnace, which is still operating like a champ. But now comes the big decision I have to make along with several million other homeowners. I simply don't want to replace my furnace at this time. My old one works great and I might get another 10 years out of it. If I do decide to replace it now, I don't want one of the higher efficiency units. I don't believe that the extra expense of installation and extra cost is feasible to recover in my remaining years. It just doesn't work for me and I'm not alone.

To sum it up, I either purchase an 80 percent furnace now or I wait until my current one goes bad down the road and I buy what is available and the 90 percent furnace is shoved down my throat.

Costly changes

Now let's say that I am really concerned about energy savings and have the new energy-saving furnace installed now. I figure that I might save a lot of money compared to what it will cost me a few years from now. Keep in mind that it is not just the extra cost for the product but the additional amount of money I'm going to spend to have holes drilled through the side of my house for the new venting requirements on this new furnace. Thank God I don't live in the center unit of a condominium or I'd be spending more for venting than I would for the furnace. I think I spent \$1,400 for a furnace 17 years ago and today it would cost around \$3,000. I expect that next year it would cost around \$5,000 and who knows what the price will be in the next few years.

I would like to know who the people are that have never held a screwdriver and make these decisions for me. Stay tuned.

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

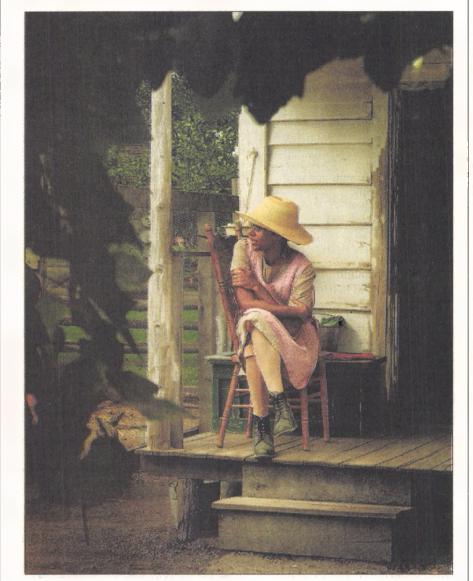






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Best of Show



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 25, 2012

Allen Brooks, a photographer from Livonia, recently won the top award at the Pontiac Creative Arts Center Photography Exhibition. The piece, "Waiting for Moses," will be on display through Jan. 10, 2013 at the Center, 47 Williams, Pontiac.

Shop crafts at museum, with dog rescue coming weekend as yule nears

Mark your calendars for the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual juried Craft Bazaar and Open House on Saturday, Dec. 1, and Better Life Canine Center's Santa Paws Winter Bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 2.

The Museum craft show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. is free and open to the public. It will feature crafts, such as knit, ceramic, jewelry, and recylced art. Santa will be on hand during the event and visitors may explore the Museum's special exhibit for free that day.

A bake sale also is planned in conjunction with the craft show. The Museum needs donations of baked goods, including cookies, cakes, candy, breads, pies, sweet rolls and bars. Cookies and bars should be bundled in packages of

6 or 12. Label treats and drop off the goodies at the Museum kitchen from 1-4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main, Plymouth. Questions? Call Heidi Nielson at (734) 455-8940.

The Santa Paws event will run 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2 at Healthy Paws Veterinary Medical Center, 38150 Ford Road, Westland.

Vendors will sell handmade ornaments, jewelry, knitted items, dog col-

The event will include a refreshment stand, "Smooch a Pooch Booth," Photos with Santa for kids and dogs and raffles.

Admission is \$2 per person or \$6 per family. For more information, visit Better Life Canine Center on Facebook.



PHOTOS BY ILILIE YOU

Ron Bucker (left) of Sterling Heights is Sunshine (left) and O.K. Ron Kwiatkowski of Plymouth is O.K.

Hob Nobble Gobble draws together parade supporters for fun

By Julie Yolles
Social Scene Columnist

here was quite a festive, colorful group gathered at the 50-yard line at Ford Field Friday, Nov. 16. There was just one Detroit Lion — Roary the Mascot — but hundreds of children, several Compuware Elves, unicorns, marching bands, dancers and a whole lot of clownin' goin' on. The 23rd Annual Hob Nobble Gobble brought nearly 2,000 supporters to the "D." The event, along with the Distinguished Clown Corps (DCC) and the Big Heads Corps, help raise needed funds to produce America's Thanksgiving Parade which just celebrated its 86th year Thursday, Nov. 22.

"The Parade is integral to our city and brings tremendous goodwill," said Eric Larson, incoming chair for the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, and a Bloomfield Hills resident. "Continuing the cycle is so important for our legacy."

Larson ought to know. His kids are third-generation Distinguished Clowns. Following in the clown-shoes of his parents, Larson has been a member of the Distinguished Clown Corps for 15 years. This Thanksgiving parade marked the first year that Larson's wife, Kathy, and their daughter Makenzie planned to be Clowns together. Their daughter, Paige, celebrated her third year in the Parade.



Christina Brenner (left) of Westland is an instructor at Tina Marie School of Dance. Two of her dancers, Caitlin Kurmas of Shelby and Alix Deloof of Warren, performed at the Hob Nobble Gobble and on the Art Van float at the Thanksgiving Day Parade.

For consideration of coverage in this column, please send event happenings, including invitations and press kits, to Julie Yolles, Social Scene columnist, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 371 Greenwood, Birmingham, MI 48009. Contact her at jyolles@comcast.net or (248) 642-9465.



Benefit



Jan Krist will sing at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia. Audience members may bring diapers to the concert for donation to the Detroit Area Diaper Bank.

METROPARK CALENDAR

General: 2011 annual parking and boat launch permits are available at the park office. Vehicle entry permits are \$25; senior citizen \$15. Boat launching permits are \$30; senior citizen \$15. The HCMA and Oakland County Parks permits, valid within both park systems, are \$48. Daily entry fee

Kensington

Note: For information for registration, call the Kensington Park office at (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178. The Nature Center office phone number is (248) 685-0603. Pre-registration required for programs and a \$2 fee per person unless stated otherwise. Park hours 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Nature Center

Brownies Try-It - Hiker: Saturday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. All requirements for this badge will be met during this indoor/outdoor program. Fee: \$5 per Scout.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Greens sale

The Dearborn Heights Garden Club will sell fresh wreaths, swags, centerpieces, wreath stands, hanging baskets, baked goods and more, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 6-7, at the Canfield Center, 1801 N. Beech Daly, south of Ford Road, Dearborn Heights. The annual fundraiser benefits scholarships for students who plan to study horticulture-related subjects in college. For more information, call Robert Cairns at (313) 278-2337

Hill and Dale Garden Club

Sally Oullette will guide participants in making their own wreath centerpiece, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13 at the Spicer House, located in Heritage Park, off Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Visit hillanddalegc.org for more information.

Plymouth Nursery

 Santa will be on hand 10 a.m.-2 p.m. weekends through Dec. 9 at Plymouth Nursery, 9900 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Customers can pose for a free photo with Santa, visit a petting farm, campfire and enjoy refreshments. A percentage of proceeds from the sale of fresh-cut trees and wreaths will benefit the Make A Wish Foundation.

• Girls Night Out will run 6-8 p.m. Nov. 30. The first 50 women will receive a free goody bag. The event will include vendors, door prizes, sales and fun.

Call (734) 453-5500 for more information.

English Gardens

The store is accepting donations to provide fresh-cut Christmas trees to U.S. troops and military families. For each \$30 donation, English Gardens will give one tree to a military base in the US or overseas.

 A fundraiser for THAW, the Heat & Warmth Fund, will run 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 at the Royal Oak store and will include demonstrations in LED holiday lighting, decorating tips, visits with Santa, family and pet photos with Santa, live music, pizza, hot chocolate and cookies. Tickets are \$15 per family (maximum six individuals) in advance and \$20 at the door. Each family will receive a \$10 English Gardens coupon. All ticket sale proceeds will benefit THAW. Get tickets in advance at www.englishgardens.com.

 Make a Christmas floral arrangement at a "Make It and Take It Workshop" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13 at stores in Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332 7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Tell us about your Christmas traditions

Got a favorite Christmas tradition? Maybe it's an annual caroling party or ethnic-inspired Christmas Eve supper, ornament-making with the kids or a cookie exchange with the neighbors. Perhaps you assist at a soup kitchen on Christmas day or volunteer at an animal shelter, head north to hit the slopes or south to bask in the sun. Whatever your holiday tradition is, we'd love to find out more.

Send us a few paragraphs about your Christmas tradition - include a photo if you'd like - and tell us why it's a mainstay in your holiday celebrating. We'll share it with readers in an upcoming Observer edition.

Include your name, phone number, e-mail, and city of residence. E-mailed photos should be jpg attachments. E-mail to Sharon Dargay by Friday, Dec. 14, at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail them to her at 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226.

Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY

18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



FIBROMYALGIA IN FAL

Lupus worsens in the summer and improves in the winter; psoriatic arthritis does the opposite.

Fibromyalgia also changes with the seasons. Fibromyalgia flares in the transition from winter to spring and it expresses the same feature in the change from summer to fall. What is unusual is that the change from fall to winter does not cause a similar flare in joint and muscle pain.

It is important for people with fibromyalgia to understand that weather change that others consider fine is likely a bad turn of events for them. That others are looking forward to the morning, when the person with fibromyalgia feels dread, make someone with fibromyalgia feel only more alienated from friends and family.

Furthermore, the worsening of pain brings up the question for more medication or raises the issue that the current regimen of medication and exercise is inadequate. However, physicians know from experience that the worsening

is temporary; the end is in sight even when the greater pain comes on. The best medical advice the patient receives is to wait out the present flare. Why the change in seasons exerts a bad effect in fibromyalgia

is unclear. Going from warm weather of summer to the cool of autumn could make it more difficult for muscles to lose their stiffness. But the transition from autumn to winter does not yield the same result. Why the change from winter's cold to spring's warmth causes a problem has no explanation.

What patients with fibromyalgia should remember is to brace themselves for a temporary worsening in fall, but realize it will

Guide to Employment . For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section! To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

Help Wanted - General

BRANCH MANAGER

HVAC and plumbing proucts, is looking for 2+ years of prior industry nouter and personn managing experience. Re-sponsibilities will include managing an inside sales counter, pulling custome orders, maintaining invento ry and managing outsides sales personnel. Position of fers good pay, complete benefits, including medica insurance, profit sharing 401K plan and job securit Drug screenings required To apply forward complete resume with salary histor and requirements to

rhsonline.net or Don Lemley V/P Branch Operation: Robertson Heating Supply PO Box 2448 Alliance, OH 44601

CAREGIVER For autistic boy in Farmington area. Afternoons, Weekends \$8.50/hr (248) 636-2461

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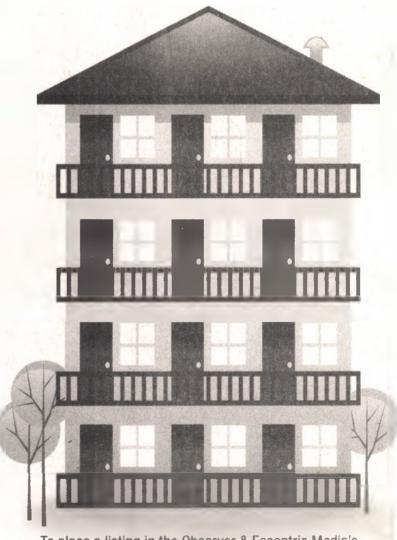
1-800-579-SELL

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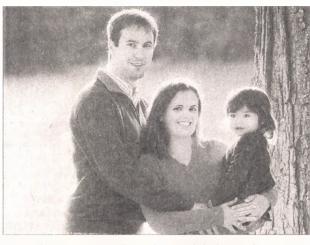
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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC **MEDIA**



Michael Symanow, Melissa King, and their daughter, Elizabeth King

King-Symanow

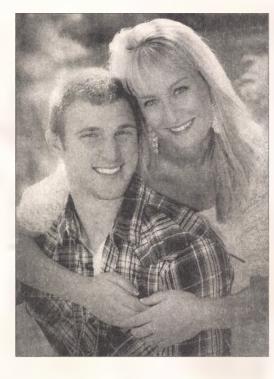
Melissa Ashley King and Michael Charles Symanow announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Duane David King of Westland and Heidi Lynn Taylor of Ypsilanti, is a legal assistant at West & Hurley Attorneys and Counselors at Law, in Springboro, Ohio.

Her fiance, son of David and Carolyn Symanow of Plymouth, is employed by the Department of Defense in Dayton, Ohio.

An April 2013 wedding is planned at Church of the Divine Child, Dearborn.

Milestones



Hamilton-Boyko

Kayla Ann Hamilton and N. Andrew Boyko announce their engage-

The couple met during their first year at Cornerstone University.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Orville and Pamela Hamilton of Decatur, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor of science degree in exercise science. She is employed as a certified wellness specialist at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo.

Her fiance, son of Nicholas and Cathleen Boyko of Farmington Hills, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor of business administration degree. He is employed in sales and marketing at Plastipak, in Plymouth.

An April 2013 wedding is planned in Decatur.

assages Memories & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

CRAMER, MELVIN A.

Age 87, of Livonia. November 2 2012. Beloved husband of the late Marjorie. Loving father of Melvin H (Mary Lu). Frank (Ja-nette) & Paul (Judy). Dear grandfather of Stephen, Mark. Great-Ryan. grandfather of Allison, Stephanie, James & Emily. Memorial service will be held on Sat., Dec. 1st. Visitation with family at 9:00 am until mass at 10:00 am at St Genevieve-St. Maurice Catholic Church, Livonia.

DEO, THELLEN

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



DICKS, PAUL M.

62 of Farmington Hills, November 20, 2012 Paul was survived by his beloved daughter. Melany (Wallie) Newsted; his cherished grandchildren, Carlos, Madison. Rodney and Joseph: his father. Richard (Lillian): his siblings. Leonard (Clare) Dicks and Lorie Tackett; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Florence (d.1998) and his brother, Marvin (d.1967). Paul's family will receive guests on Tuesday. November 27th, from 4:00-8:00pton at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., N. of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200).

Memorial tributes suggested to the charity of the donor's choice. heeney-sundquist.com

DIVEN, JEAN D.

Age 90, passed away November 22, 2012 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on June 18, 1922 in Flint, daughter of the late Ernest and Mary Potter. Prior to moving to South Lyon in 1990, Jean resided in Redford Township for many years. She is survived by her lov-ing children: Paul (Jan), Carl (Carol), Jane, Keith (Cindy), Kurt (Julie) and Pat (Brad) Parks. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and many loving friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles in 1997. Visitation was held on Sunday. November 25 at PHILLIPS FU-NERAL HOME, South Lyon. MI. Funeral Mass celebrated on Monday, November 26 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

DOMINICK.

JOSEPHINE Age 88, November 18, 2012. Beloved mother of Patricia (Bill) Jordan, Marlene (Bob) Smith, Sandy (Dave) Woodruff, Kathy (Steve) Kent, and Cheryl Roberts. Loving Grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of 11. She was deeply loved and will be dearly missed. Visitation Friday 2-8 pm with a 7pm Rosary. Funeral services Saturday 10 am at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (Between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to Angela Hospice www.santeiufuneralhome.com



KIELING, **PATRICIA**

A long-time resident of Livonia died on November 15, 2012 at the age of 46. Patti is the loving wife of Max and the beloved mother of Melani Elizabeth, Mikala Elayne and Madilynn Emina. She is also survived by her parents Donald and Emma brother Donald Jr., sister Cassandra and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Friends may visit Patti's family during a visitation in her honor on Friday November 23, 2012 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W Six Mile in Livonia, Michigan 48152. Visitation will be from 1 pm until 4 pm in the afternoon, then 5 pm until 8 pm that same evening. Her funeral ceremony will be on Saturday November 24, 2012 at 11 am at the funeral home with visitation starting at 10 am. Harry J. Will is located on the north side of W. Six Mile Road, east of 1-275 and Newburgh Road. Pat-ti's family asks that attendees of her visitation and funeral service wear something with pink on it. Her family kindly suggests that memorials be made in her honor to the Michigan Cancer Research Fund. For more information, or to share a memory with Patti's tamily, please visit:

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

McKEEHAN, LOWELL G.

Age 84, of Livonia, passed away November 19th, 2012. Born Feb. 13th, 1928, in Rockholds, Whitley County, KY. Husband of Mary M. McKeehan, beloved father of Brenda (Harold) Todd, McKeehan. Donald Dennis (Donna) McKeehan, and was predeceased by youngest son Raymond "Ray" McKeehan in 2004. Survived 2004. Survived by sisters Azalene (Elmer - dec.) Teague of Chattanooga, TN, Wilma (Harold) Faulkner of Williamsburg, McCormick of Hendersonville, TN. Predeceased by brother William "Bill" McKeehan (Freddie Mae - dec.) of Detroit, in 2008. Also survived by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Mr. McKeehan proudly served his country in the Korean War, and received the Purple Heart military award for injuries sustained. He was a lifelong member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Masons. His very active D.A.V. affiliation included serving as the Michigan State Commander for the term 1992-1993, National Executive Committeeman for the 10th District (Michigan) 1994-1996, and as a National Service Officer. Mr. McKeehan also served as a Board Member on the Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund for several years, was commissioned an honorary Kentucky Colonel by the Governor and Secretary of State of Kentucky, and also enjoyed membership with the Kentuckians of Michigan social organization for many, many years. Memorial service to be held Sunday, 11-25-2012, at 1:00 P.M., at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 114 Hall, 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI, 48150. Interment to be private for family members, at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI at a later date. Family requests all donations please be made to: D.A.V. Chapter 114, 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150



WILKIE, DAVID SEATTER

Age 66, November 18, 2012 Beloved husband of Linda. Loving father of David (Amy Jo) and Michael (Julie). Dear grandfa-ther of Jacob, Nicholas, Jessica, Wyatt and future granddaughter Libby Lou. Dear brother of Leonard (Maureen) and Irene (Donald) McDougall. David was a U.S. Navy Vietnam Veteran and 30 year veteran of the Livonia Police Department. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Tuesday from 1 p.m. until Funeral Service at 7 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to DAV. Please share a memory of David at:

www.rggrharris.com.



FLETCHER D., Jr. Born June 26, 1908, died

November 16, 2012, age 104. Formerly of Philadel-phia. A graduate of Phila-delphia Textile College and employee of Collins & Aikman for 24 years. He was a textile engineer for General Motors Styling Division. He served as a U.S. Army Captain in WW II, and was a member of the Birmingham Masonic Lodge #44 F & A.M.; former treasurer of the Birmingham Senior Men's Club and an Elder at First Presbyterian Church-Birmingham. Beloved husband of the late Bernice L Beloved for 62 years. Father of Richard L. and Shirley E. Grandfather of Hannah D. A Memorial Service was held on Friday, November 23 at First Presbyterian Church 1669 W Maple Road, Birming hain. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at

DesmondFuneralHome com ATDESMOND SONS



WERTH, PHYLLIS A.,

November 22, 2012 age 54 lost her seven year battle to colon cancer. Loving care giver to her brother Christopher. Loving sister to Susan (Norma), Pauline Bedwell (David), Paul Jr. John (Nancy), Jerry (Tammy). Loving Aunt to David Bedwell (April), Meagan, Sammantha, Jessica, Ashley Bedwell, Tyler, Brandon, Kaitlyn and Paul III. Great Aunt of Clare Bedwell. Preceded in death by her loving parents Paul and Dorothy, and her nephew Nicholas. Phyllis was a devoted Vice President Banking Center Manager at Comerica Bank for 38 years. Visitation Sunday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Instate Monday 10:00 AM until the Funeral Mass at 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd, Plymouth (at Beck). Entombment at Riverside Ceme Memorial contributions may be made to Services to Enhance Potential, Northwest Unit (S.T.E.P.). 32229 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

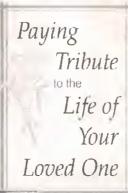
To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Memoriam



LOU ANN (GISNER) BOUCHIE

Daughter of Oscar and Marie Gisner. Born on July 6, 1937 and passed away on August 10, 2012 in her home on Pine Island Cove, St. James City, Florida. Leaving behind her son, Russell, and two grandsons, two sisters. There will be a memorial on December 2, 2012 at Calvery Baptist Church in Plymouth, Michigan. This will be at 2:30 for more information call 734-674-8666, her sister Alice.



RELIGION CALENDAR

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

November

CONCERT:

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, located at Woodward Ave., and Albany, south of Nine Mile, in Ferndale

Details: Twelfth Night Singers, an a capella choral group, will present its Christmas concert. The singers, under the direction of Mimi Gass, will perform secular and sacred works, including several celebrating the joy and cheer of the Christmas season. A free-will offering will be taken. The group, now numbering 39 voices, was founded in 1980. Members perform in Renaissance costume at churches, for service agencies and institutions

Contact: (248) 544-4631

December

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12, and 19

Location: Loía Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The meditation them is the begin-

nings of the Gospel of St. Matthew, St. **Luke and Revelation**

Contact: (734) 968-3523

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. 7 Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for seniors and students, 12 and over, free for children under 12

Contact: www.detroitlutheransingers.com

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 perform-

Contact: (248) 647-2380

CONCERT Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 Location: Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for seniors and students, 12 and over, free for children under 12

Contact: www.detroitlutheransingers.com

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile,

Details: Jan Krist will perform. The church is partnering with the Detroit Area Diaper Bank for the performance and is encouraging guests to bring infant or adult diapers to the concert for donation to the Bank. Admission is a suggested \$10 donation at the door.

Contact: (734) 425-2800; www.trinitychurchoflivonia.org

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: Doors open at 10 a.m. with an early bird sale starting at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820

Wayne Road, between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: 6th annual cookie walk will offer cookies at \$7.50 per pound, along with other baked goods. Early bird admission is \$2

Contact: (734) 427-2290 **GRIEF SUPPORT**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3 Location: Room C-319 of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, just west of Haggerty, in Northville; park in the

"C" parking lot **Details:** "Hope for the Holidays" seminar is for adults who are grieving and for those who would like to help them. The seminar will include a "Time of Remembrance"

candle lighting ceremony Contact: New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115

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: "Grieving with Great Hope" workshop. 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 OLGC

Contact: (734) 453-0326; olgcparish.net **WIDOWED FRIENDS**

Time/Date: 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. dinner, Wednesday, Dec. 12

Location: Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 W. Seven Mile, three blocks west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Cost is \$15 and includes buffet, beverage dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards games and conversation until 9:30 p.m. Reservations by Dec. 5 Contact: Call Cookie at (248) 357-2183

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-

New Life Community Church

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

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer

Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000 St. Michael the Archangel

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

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. livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

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

Northville

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

CLOTHING BANK Canton Christian

Fellowship

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m. second Wednesday Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and

Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women

and children) for those in need Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.Canton-CF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

With bells on

Ladywood students run, walk for **Arthritis Foundation**

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

Ladywood High School students will be out in force Saturday, Dec. 1 for the Arthritis Foundation's annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis in Northville.

"It's a holiday tradition at our school," said Tracey Mocon, principal. "When you're walking, everywhere you look there's a Ladywood. They are out there raising awareness for a great cause.'

Mocon, a 1993 Ladywood graduate, recruited students for a run/walk team eight years ago, when she was an English teacher at the school. Both of her parents have arthritis. Her mother has rheumatoid arthritis and her father suffers from osteoarthritis.

"We had a smaller group that first year - 40-45. But it has become a tradition and we've just continued to grow. These are wonderful young ladies. They really care, they give back and they live out the Felician core values," she said.

Ladywood is an all-girl, Catholic college-preparatory high school in Livonia,



Ladywood team members include Tracey Mocon, (left, back row), the school's principal, and Sabine Hutter, a junior, Brigid Jacob, (left front row) a junior, and Sarah Wojnarowski, a senior.

founded by the Felician Sisters. The Jingle Bell Run/Walk is just one of a myriad ways that Ladywood students, following the Felician tradition of Christian service, give back to the community.

Parents, friends and family join the student walkers and runners, making the Ladywood team the biggest and most supportive contingent in the Northville event. The group has raised approximately \$4,500 annually and often draws more than 100 participants.

Festive event

Students wear their Ladywood T-shirts, varsity jackets and sweatshirts and sometimes dress in holiday costume as Santas, elves and gift boxes, for the event.

JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK

What: A festive 5k run or walk to raise funds for the Arthritis Foundation and awareness of arthritis When: 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1

Where: Northville Downs Race Track, 301 S. Center, Northville

Details: Early registration is \$30. It's \$35 the day of the

Contact: Download a registration form from www. arthritis.org and click on the Northville walk

Everyone dons jingle

Brigid Jacob, 16, of Livonia, wore jingle bells around her ankles and dressed in layers for her first Jingle Bell walk/run last year. The Ladywood junior said she "ended up loving" the event and now helps recruit other students to participate.

"It's a great cause and it's fun to have everyone together and just hanging out," she said. "I feel like everyone is more aware now. You see people come together and you see how many people are affected by it (arthritis).'

No cure According to the Arthritis Foundation, the disease is the leading cause of disability in the Unit-

ed States, striking one in

five adults. In Michigan, it affects more than 2.5 million adults and 10,300 children.

Osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis, is a progressive degenerative joint disease characterized by the breakdown of joint cartilage. Risk factors include being overweight, having a history of joint injury and age. It affects nearly 27 million Americans, most over the age of 45.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic disease characterized by the inflammation of the membrane lining the joint, which causes pain, stiffness, warmth, swelling and sometimes severe joint damage. It also causes inflammation throughout the body and affects the heart and other organs. An estimated 1.5 million individuals have rheumatoid arthritis in the united States.

Arthritis consists of more than 100 different diseases or conditions that destroy joints, bones, muscles, cartilage and other connective tissues, making physical movement painful and difficult. There is no cure.

Mocon said her parents feel the painful symptoms of the disease "every day."

"But if you didn't know them, you'd never know it because they continue living life and they are very active," Mocon said. "They have a very positive outlook."

She said her parents also draw inspiration from the Ladywood Jingle Bell team.

To participate in a Jingle Bell walk, Dec. 1 in Northville or Dec. 15 in Bloomfield Hills, visit www.arthritis.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

November

ALZHEIMER'S AND ZUMBA

In observance of National Alzheimer's Month, Lenore Wengert will sponsor a ZUM-BA event, 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30, at World of Pole, 32669 Warren Road, Suite 6, Garden City, to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. The cost is \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door. For more information contact Wengert at (734) 765-5448 or Patty at the World of Pole at (734) 306-0909.

LUPUS SUPPORT

The Lupus Alliance of Michigan will hold a support group meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Meetings are free and designed to assist people with lupus and their family and friends to get connected with one another, and to get a better understanding of this disease and how to fight it. For more information visit www.milupus.org, or call (800) 705-6677.

December

NEUROPATHY SUPPORT

The Southeast Michigan Neuropathy Support Group's next meeting is 7 p.m. Dec. 18, at the Civic Park Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. The group meets the third Tuesday of the month. The group is aimed at individuals with any kind of neuropathy. Questions? Call Len McCulloch at (248) 474-2763 ext 22.

THYROID CANCER

Thyroid Cancer Support meets monthly and is free for all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family and friends. Its next meeting is 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 1641 Charlevois Drive, Troy. For more information, contact Gwynne at (248) 515-0348. Or



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...to shop the NEW **DXL Casual Male stores!**







rue 21 (ULTA

Santa Claus!

Come see Santa at Santa's Shop located beside Golfsmith and TJ Maxx! Saturday & Sundays December 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16 10 am - Noon, 1 pm - 3 pm

Official Toys for Tots Drop-Off Location (Novi Town Center office, 26132 Ingersol Drive)



Den Monday thru Sunday Check Store for Holiday Hours novitowncenter.com



SIMON'

Novi Town Center Nova Michigan

Factors to Consider Before Accepting a Job Offer

Content provided by OfficeTeam

Searching for a job is hard work. Scanning help-wanted listings, researching companies, sending out customized cover letters and resumes and attending interviews can be tiring and time-consuming. If you're like most job seekers, you're excited - or at least relieved - when your efforts result in an employment offer.

In some cases, a pressing need for a paycheck may outweigh any potential drawbacks to a new role, especially given the uncertain economy and rising prices for gas and food. But if you are in a position to be selective, you must consider every angle before rushing to accept a prospective employer's offer. After all, a new full-time job usually isn't a short-term affair. Following are some guidelines to help you determine whether to accept a job offer or wait for a better opportunity:

Scrutinize the job description

Carefully reviewing the job requirements, key tasks and responsibilities, as well as whom you will report to, may be the single most important step in assessing an offer from a potential employer. Ask yourself these questions:

- · Will you enjoy the day-to-day duties of the position?
- · Will you be challenged?

· Is the level of responsibility appropriate considering your experience?

· Are you willing to make any required lifestyle changes (e.g., travel, longer commute, rigid work hours) that may affect your quality of life?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, accepting the position might not be in your best interest. While some negative factors can be overlooked - a slightly lower starting salary than you prefer, for instance - fundamental problems with the job itself are a definite deal-breaker.

Evaluate the company

The work environment affects how you feel on a daily basis, so make sure it's one you feel comfortable in. If, for example, you strongly prefer a conservative corporate culture with set hours and established processes, you probably won't be happy in an informal atmosphere with "fly-by-the-seat-of-your-

pants" business approach.

Also consider the work styles of your future boss and co-workers. If you sense that you and your potential colleagues have conflicting styles or personalities, tread carefully. While differences in character and opinion can result in better group dynamics, frequent disagreements often lead to unproductive and unhappy work teams.



Review the compensation package

How does the salary compare to what you made in your last position or what others in your specialty and with the same skills earn? Take a look at the benefits package, too. How generous are the perks? Keep in mind that attractive benefits can sometimes outweigh subpar compensation.

Or perhaps you're offered a job that requires you to work long hours but offers the option to telecommute. Being able to work from home several days a week may give you the time you need to attend to personal obligations and compensate for the rigid work schedule. Additionally, if an offer meets most of your requirements but doesn't include a benefit that's

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important to you - such as tuition reimbursement for a professional certification you seek - it doesn't hurt to ask if that perk can be included in your employment agreement.

Ask about opportunities for growth

There's nothing worse for your career than getting stuck in a dead-end job. While a so-so role may be fine in the short term, holding a position that does not allow for advancement for an extended period of time can take a toll on your health and happiness.

Try to get a realistic idea of the growth opportunities available within the company. For example, have people who held the job before you moved up with the firm? Where did your prospective manager start out? If the answers to such questions don't seem to support a policy of promoting from within, you may want to continue your job

Careful consideration of the issues discussed above will help you decide whether to accept, reject or negotiate a better offer. If, after evaluating each of these points, you are still unsure which way to swing, go with your gut. If your intuition tells you that something is a little off, conduct some additional research or ask more questions of the hiring manager before making your decision. Moving into a new role is a big step, and you want to enter the arrangement knowing all the facts. With a thoughtful analysis of the pros and cons, you'll be able to make the best decision for your career.

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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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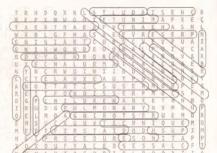
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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Volt, eAssist, All-Electrics Will Be GM Strategy Now



By Dale Buss

General Motors is saying "uncle" in a key area of vehicle electrification: conventional hybrids. At the same time, the automaker indicated that it'll redouble efforts to stake out a brand-defining posi-

tion on one end of the electrified-vehicle spectrum, in highly electrified so-called "plug-in" hybrids like Chevrolet Volt and in all-electric vehicles.

The move essentially is surrendering the conventional-hybrid field to Toyota, which created and is dominating that segment with the Prius sub-brand. Interestingly, GM's move — ceding what once was a prime battlefield in green cars, where it invested heavily — comes at the same time that its cross-town rival, Ford, has just introduced an entirely new hybridonly brand, C-Max, to battle Prius in the U.S. market.



An all-electric version of the 2013 Chevrolet Spark is being introduced this month at the Los Angeles

Mary Barra, GM's product chief, told reporters today that the company has narrowed its future development plans to emphasize plug-ins like Volt, and EVs such as the all-electric version of the new Chevrolet Spark that GM will unveil at the Los Angeles Auto Show this month. Both kinds of cars are propelled only by batteries, while conventional hybrids rely on a combination of an electric motor and a gasoline engine.

"We need to make educated bets on which technologies hold the most potential for creating values for our customers and our company," Barra stated, echoing remarks she recently made to Autoline.

A few months ago, GM confirmed that it was shutting down its previous plans for future versions of a type of conventionalhybrid powertrain that has been offered in its pickup trucks and SUVs. But GM also has been introducing some new so-called "mild" hybrids that only lightly assist the

gasoline engine under its eAssist subbrand, including versions of the Buick Regal and Chevrolet Malibu; it will continue to invest in eAssist, Barra indi-

Barra conceded that the conventionalhybrid technology occupying the middle ground between plug-ins and EVs on one end, and mild hybrids on the other, remained "important, of course," the magazine said. But she emphasized that "plug-in technology will play an increasingly important role over the years to come."

In other words, GM is doubling down on its trailblazing investment in Volt and the extended-range technology that

supports it, as well as all-electric vehicles. Though Volt has been selling at the rate of only a couple thousand units a month, two years after its launch and in the midst of a doubling of gasoline prices, GM executives are confident that the car and its underlying technology will gradually catch on.

Toyota made a similarly large but oppo-

site bet recently, putting more resources behind Prius and saying that it will deemphasize EVs. Toyota faced a hiccup today with Prius because about 670,000 Prius hybrids were included in the company's second significant recall in a few weeks, of 2.77 million vehicles worldwide



The 2013 Buick Regal with eAssist remains a key part of GM's new electrification strategy.

to fix a possible water-pump problem and steering defect.

Meanwhile, only Ford still seems to be trying to do it all on the electrification spectrum.

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MIDWEST AUCTION **GALLERIES**

925 N. Lapeer Rd. Oxford, MI 48371 2 Day Auction of Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art To be held December 1st starting at 10:00am EST starting at 11:00am EST

To include over 1,000 lots of porcelain ranging from the Ming to early Republic Peri-od, high quality jade carv-ings, Chinese scroll paintings, Chinese scroll paint-ings from a private collec-tion by such distinguished ar-tist as Oi Balishi, Zhang Daqian, & Li Di just to name a few, fine examples of Chi-nese and Japanese ivory carvings. A very rare pair of Chinese Mint Coin Stamps bearing the image of Yuan bearing the image of Yuar Shikai, Important Tianhuano Shikai, Important Hannuang seal of Jiang Kong Yin, Nice collection of Chinese jewelry and furniture and much, much more not listed. As always lunch and cocktails on us!!!

Preview Period Wednesday, November 28th 10:00am-5:00pm EST Thursday, November 29th 10:00am-5:00pm EST Friday, November 30th 10:00am-5:00pm EST Saturday, December 1st 9:00am-Until Auction Start Sunday December 2nd 9:00am-Until Auction Start

For complete catalog & de midwestauctioning.com To set up a phone or absentee bid please contact us at (248) 236-8100
Or by fax at (248) 236-8396

Online bidding available at www.liveauctioneers.com www.proxibid.com www.auctionziplive.com www.artfact.com

not that a buyer's premium of 18% will be applied to all in-house bids And a buyer's premium of 21% will be applied to all on-line bids

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ESTATE SALE - Furniture small appliances, household goods, collectible, Christmas decor & morel 22365 River Ridge Tr., (River Pines Condos, 9 Mile & Orake). Fri. & Sat., Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, 9am-5pm.

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To include over 1,000 lots of porcelain ranging from the Ming to early Republic Period, high quality jade carvings, Chinese scroll paintings from a private

the image of Yuan Shikai, Important Tianhuang seal of Jiang Kong Yin, Nice collection of Chinese jewelry and furniture and much, much more not listed.

& December 2nd at 11:00am As always lunch and cocktails on us!!! Preview Period: Wed-Fri • Nov 28-30 10:00am-5:00pm EST

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collection by such distinguished artist as Qi Baishi, Zhang Daqian, & Li Di just to name a few, fine examples of Chinese and Japanese ivory carvings. A very rare pair of Chinese Mint Coin Stamps bearing To be held December 1st at 10:00am

Sat-Sun Dec 1-2 9:00am-Until Auction Start

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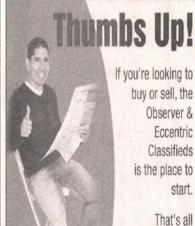
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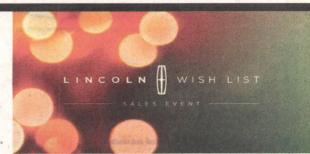
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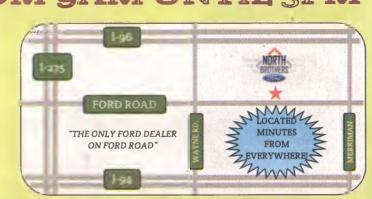
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