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Secret Santa

Shoppers in downtown Plymouth could be in for a surprise visit from a Secret Santa.

Plymouth Downtown Development Authority staffers will be wandering the streets of downtown Plymouth during the holidays, handing out gift certificates to unsuspecting shoppers.

The gift certificates are provided by various downtown merchants.

"They're really intended as a 'thank you' for shopping in downtown Plymouth during the holidays," said Tony Bruscato, the DDA's operations director.

Honoring success

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meets Tuesday with plenty on the agenda under "Celebrating Success."

The board will recognize its partnership with the Robert Bosch Corp., along with honoring the state champion Plymouth-Canton marching band and the Plymouth girls golf team, which also captured a state title, the first in school history.

The meeting starts 7 p.m. in the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

Wings ringers

Hockey fans missing their Detroit Red Wings get a couple of chances Tuesday, Dec. 11, to see at least a few of their favorites when the Detroit Red Wings continue a seven-year tradition of friendly competition ringing bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

General Manager Ken Holland, Coach Mike Babcock and Maj. Mark Andersson, area commander of the Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division, will ring 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Northville Hiller's Market, 425 N. Center. Former Red Wings goalies Manny Legace and Chris Osgood, a Plymouth resident, will ring 5-7 p.m. at the Plymouth Kroger, 44525 Ann Arbor Road.

Photo contest

Enter your favorite holiday photo in a contest for a chance to win a \$20 gift card to a department store. Upload a picture of your house in lights, a visit with Santa or anything related to the holidays. Share the link with friends and see if you come out on top!

You and your Facebook friends are allowed one vote per day. To find the contest, go to our website, hometownlife.com and look on the right-hand side in our Don't Miss module. Clicking on the photo of the Christmas presents will take you to the contest page. The voting ends Dec. 30. Good luck!

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Appeals judges hear SAD arguments

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The battle over the Plymouth Community Fire Department has been settled, for now, in Township Hall and at the polls, but it continues at the Michigan Court of Appeals.

A three-judge appeals panel heard arguments Friday from both sides in the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township's case against the township over

ballot language for a proposed special assessment district, or SAD, that would've raised money to support the department. Voters overwhelmingly rejected the creation of a SAD in February; it was the citizens group's 2011 petition drive that got the issue on the ballot.

But CAG members argue the ballot language — which described a tax of up to 10 mills for fire department capital expenses and a millage with

no ceiling for maintenance and operations, with the rate to be decided by the township Board of Trustees — was improper, as their petitions called for a 1-mill, five-year tax (a mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value).

Township officials counter that the state law governing special assessment districts for public safety purposes required such language, and that voters' only decision was whether or not a

SAD should be created. Township officials, they said, would levy and administer such a tax at their discretion, with citizen input during an annual public hearing.

Attorney Gregory Stempien, arguing for the citizens group, said the case was about the right of citizens to petition local government through an election.

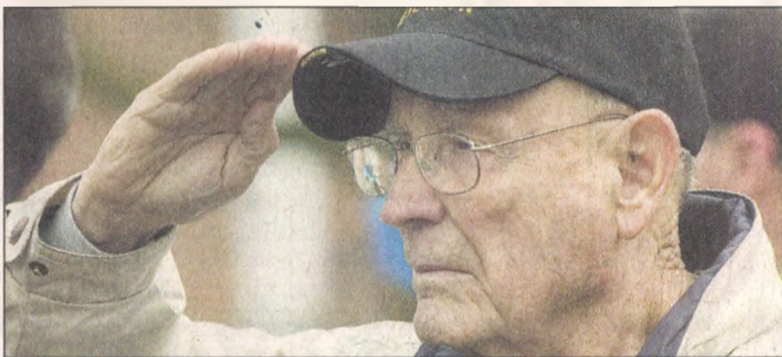
"They didn't have the authority

Please see SAD, A2

Always remember



Dennis Bielskis (above) salutes after placing a memorial wreath during Plymouth's Pearl Harbor Day remembrance Friday. World War II veteran Gene Overholt (right) renders a salute during the ceremony. The ceremony featured the laying of wreaths and playing of 'Taps' as a tribute to those who died at Pearl Harbor. For more on the ceremony, please see page A5.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Renovations mean new look, more space at plaza stores

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A total makeover has brought an expanded and updated supermarket, a bigger hardware store, more parking, a decorative streetscape and a gas station to the Plymouth Square Plaza.

The strip mall at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon is anchored by a Kroger store that, with an addition of more than 15,000 square feet, is now almost 79,000 square feet and the biggest Kroger in Michigan.

The expansion was in response to consumer demand, said Dale Hollandsworth, Kroger's Michigan spokesman, and provides more space in several departments, including the delicatessen, meats, produce and natural foods. Krogers



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The expanded Kroger includes room for FedEx Office and other stores.

around the state have been undergoing similar changes. "Natural foods have become a lot more mainstream. The demand for the natural products is growing substantially,"

said Hollandsworth. Several departments also were relocated and upgraded, he said. "The store updates allow

Please see PLAZA, A3

Local reps divided on right to work

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

State Sen. Pat Colbeck has been banging the right-to-work drum for the state of Michigan for a long time, even back when Gov. Rick Snyder was saying he'd stay away from it because the issue was "too divisive."

On Thursday, though, Snyder grabbed one of Colbeck's drumsticks and began beating the drum along with Colbeck and other House and Senate Republicans determined to push right-to-work legislation through in the lame-duck session.



Snyder

Snyder said during a Thursday press conference Legislators will proceed with right-to-work legislation for public and private employees — excluding police officers and firefighters — and that the bills will be introduced during the lame-duck session.

Legislators did more than introduce them. Both the House and Senate passed bills as part of a package that will, once Snyder signs them, make Michigan the nation's 24th right-to-work state.

The legislation means that, while unions would still have a right to form and to negotiate, workers could decline to join or pay dues to them.

Snyder said he plans to sign the bills when they reach his desk, which could happen as early as Tuesday. Colbeck, R-Canton, thinks it's the right thing to do.

"Michigan is the only state to lose population in the last census," said Colbeck, whose 7th District includes Plymouth and Canton and Plymouth townships. "By a wide margin, people are going to right-to-work states, because that's where the jobs are."

Other state results

Like Snyder did in his news conference, Colbeck pointed to Indiana, which enacted similar legislation earlier this year. In the first six months, Colbeck said, more than 70 new companies had expressed interest in setting up shop in Indiana.

"That's 74 new companies saying they want to invest in Indiana, and that's just in six months," Colbeck said. "That needs to happen here."

As expected, Democrats are fighting back. In a statement

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SAD

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to change what the petitioners asked for," Stempien told the judges. The ballot language, Stempien said, was township officials' attempt to "totally frustrate" the electoral process.

The creation of the SAD was rejected by voters Feb. 28 by a margin of more than 5 to 1. Two days later, the board met in special session and voted to lay off six PCFD firefighters, leaving the department with 15 firefighters, plus an inspector and Chief Mark Wendel. The department is currently at 13 full-time firefighters, plus the chief, but also has part-time firefighters, typically scheduling three a day during the busiest hours.

Township officials cited falling revenue, and the end of the city of Plymouth's participation in the fire department, which meant a workload reduction and the loss of nearly \$1 million a year, as reasons for the cost-cutting.

Arguing for the township Friday, Kevin Bennett said voters' only decision, when it comes to SAD proposals, is wheth-

er a district should be created. Bennett made a distinction between a millage election and a special assessment district vote.

"What the plaintiffs are trying to do in this case is create an ambiguity where none exists," Bennett said.

If successful, he added, CAG's effort would "disenfranchise the voters who elected the township board."

The case began a year ago in Wayne County Circuit Court, where Judge Gershwin Drain denied CAG's bid to have ballot language adhere to the 1-mill, five-year tax outlined in its petitions. Both sides had previously submitted briefs to the appeals court, which is expected to announce its decision within several months.

The appeals judges hearing Friday's arguments, at Cadillac Place in Detroit, were Kathleen Jansen, David Sawyer and Karen Fort Hood.

"It's an interesting issue and I guess you'll get our opinion on it," Jansen, the presiding judge, told the lawyers. "It's something we don't see too often."

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Ring of light

Candles will glow throughout Kellogg Park today (Sunday) for the 16th Worldwide Candle Lighting sponsored by The Compassionate Friends.

The local ceremony, sponsored by the TCF Western Wayne County (Livonia) chapter, takes place in Plymouth's Kellogg Park beginning at 7 p.m. The remembrance will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, poetry and songs. Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

PCAC EXHIBITS

Date/Time: Through Jan. 2; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursdays.

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

Details: The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces its December 2012 Exhibits: In the Main Gallery, a solo show, "An Exhibit of Drawings & Paintings by Jean-Paul Abou-Dib." Mr. Abou-Dib is a graduate of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, with a Masters Degree in Painting from Wayne State University. His paintings and drawings feature the human form in the style of classic realism, rendered in charcoal, graphite and paint. The December Front Wall exhibit will feature drawings, paintings and photography by the PCAC adult art students of instructors Denise Cassidy (acrylics classes), Pam Grossmann (drawing and painting classes), and Christina Evans (photography and painting classes).

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

WORK

Continued from page A1

released by the House Democratic Caucus, Democrats said they were "disappointed in the tactics that the House Republicans are employing at this time with access to the floor. The House Dems are standing firm when it comes to protecting the middle class families in Michigan. Governor Snyder and Legislative Republicans would rather cave into special interests and institute Washington, D.C.-style politics by pushing the toxic and divisive partisan wish list of the extremists within their own party than create jobs or fight for fair wages and benefits for all residents."

State Rep. Dian Slavens,

D-Canton, said studies show states with right-to-work laws have lower incomes and fewer benefits than states without such laws.

"I think this is really going to hurt not only the state, but middle-class families," Slavens said. "It's going to take away collective bargaining rights ... (Unions) have taken so many concessions just to keep their health care, their dental. They're willing to talk about anything through collective bargaining. It's a slap in their face."

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, disagrees with Slavens. Heise, who said his position has followed Snyder's right down the line, said the legislation makes Michigan more competitive for job creation and empowers workers.

"This is the 21st century ... Workers are more mobile, sophisticated and

educated and they should have the freedom to choose," Heise said. "It's also important for unions to be responsive to their members. This will force them to be more transparent and more accountable."

"Most polls have shown employees are willing to stay as a dues-paying union," he added. "This empowers individual members to decide whether or not this is a good fit for them."

'Lame' approach

While Slavens joined other Democrats in opposing the bill, she was equally dismayed by the tactics Republicans used to pass the bills.

"It's especially shameful to do this in lame-duck," Slavens said. "They're doing all of this bad legislation (cuts to the personal property tax, changes in public education, etc.) in the last three weeks. It's wrong

for the state. There are so many big issues that need weeks and months to work on, and they're doing it in two weeks."

"They have the votes, and they're doing what they can," she added. "When you rush legislation through without taking your time, there are a lot of unintended consequences, and our state cannot afford that."

Colbeck, though, echoed what other Republicans said: The issue has been on the table for a long time and legislators have had plenty of time to educate themselves.

"I've been studying it for more than a year myself," Colbeck said. "I don't look at it as a traditional lame-duck. The chambers didn't really change all that much, so it's more just an extension of the current session."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wide aisles make it easy to navigate the expanded parts of the store.

PLAZA

Continued from page A1

Kroger to conveniently offer quality products to people who may have a limited time to shop," said Aidi Thwany, the store manager.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume says he's hearing good things from residents about the larger Kroger.

"They like the improvements to the store, they've just got to learn the aisles better," Reaume joked.

At a little over \$10 million, the Kroger renovations extend outside the plaza and to include the brick pillars, decorative fencing and greenery on the right of way on both Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon. The look is similar to the streetscape along Ann Arbor Road near Haggerty, and Reaume said township officials are planning to extend the look further in the corridor.

Plymouth Square Plaza also has a new building in front of Kroger for several tenants, including FedEx and a Great Clips hair salon, that moved from a building that was



Paul Flis straightens items on the shelves in the expanded bakery department. Flis is a Canton resident.

torn down to make way for more parking spaces. Gone, too, is the Big Boy restaurant that fronted Ann Arbor Road.

Another \$1 million went into the Kroger gas station at the plaza's corner, where a vacant bank building was razed. The Kroger gas stations are increasingly popular, and there are 47 in the state.

"If possible, we would put them in virtually every remodel we have," said Hollandsworth. In partnership with Shell stations, the station offers fuel discounts to regular Kroger shoppers, who accumulate points on a rewards card, he said.

The store, with a work

force of 219, has hired 11 people in the last 30 days, Hollandsworth said, and employment there is up 30 people from a year ago.

In addition to more display space and room for greater product variety, the Kroger renovations also brought energy-efficient lighting, a new interior decor, and refrigeration systems that recycle the heat energy they capture back into the store's heating system. The store is an Energy Star building, Hollandsworth said.

The Kroger includes a pharmacy, a floral shop, a Starbucks and a Charter One Bank branch.

The rest of the Plymouth Square Plaza

Giveaways mark Kroger expansion

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Kroger will celebrate the expansion of its Plymouth Township store Wednesday with a gift-card giveaway and an appearance by an author with a half-century of behind-the-scenes stories of the Detroit Red Wings.

The store on Ann Arbor Road at Sheldon anchors the Plymouth Square Plaza and has just completed a \$10 million expansion and updating that brings it to nearly 79,000 square feet. The expansion makes it the largest of Kroger's 130 stores in Michigan, according to Dale Hollandsworth, the supermarket chain's spokesman in the state.

Kroger also added a gas station, offering deep discounts to regular Kroger shoppers through a points system, on the Sheldon-Ann Arbor Road corner after tearing down a vacant bank building there, plus a new building fronting Ann Arbor Road that houses several sub-leasing tenants, including FedEx and a Great Clips hair salon.

The supermarket expansion added more than 15,000 square feet to the store. Several departments were relocated and upgraded, and more space is dedicated to produce, delicatessen items, meats, natural foods, alcoholic drinks and bulk-food items, Hollandsworth said.

The store has a specialty cheese shop, an expanded baked goods section, a sushi bar, an updated Starbucks, a sandwich shop and more.

"The Plymouth Kroger has been remodeled and expanded to enhance the customer experience for convenience and product selection," said Aidi Thwany, the store manager, in a press release.

Hollandsworth said the expansion was planned around consumer demand and changing tastes, and that stores around the state are undergoing similar changes.

Kroger will have a grand reopening on Wednesday, when a \$10 gift card and a reusable shopping bag will be given to each of the first 300 shoppers. The doors open at 6 a.m.

Later, John Finley, former team physician for the Detroit Red Wings, will appear to sign copies of his new book, *Hockeytown Doc: A Half-Century of Red Wings Stories from Howe to Yzerman*. Finley will be at the store from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

There has been a Kroger at Plymouth Square Plaza since 1990, when a store opened in a former Great Scot supermarket there. The current building opened in 1999, and the older building was torn down.

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Other buildings on the property are upgraded.

includes the Travel Leaders travel agency, the Better Health Store, and an Aco Hardware store that was expanded in the spring.

Reaume said the original plans for a plaza makeover focused only on Kroger, but that township officials pushed for them to include the entire plaza. The plaza is privately owned by Allstate Development.

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'Mr. Peace' Kevin Szawala speaks to Hulsing Elementary School students about diversity during an assembly Wednesday.

Speaker focuses on diversity

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

When Kevin Szawala asked the Hulsing Elementary School students gathered Wednesday how many of them would like a nice, clean \$20 bill, hands shot up all over the room.

After sneezing on it, dropping it and stomping on it, Szawala picked it up and asked again how many would want it. Hands remained raised.

It's just one of many demonstrations used by Szawala, 27, a motivational speaker, author, poet and radio show host who made the first of six monthly appearances at Hulsing to help students further learn about the six "pillars" of the district's Character Counts initiative.

Wednesday's assembly focused on diversity, getting children to accept each other regardless of race, ethnic origin or other differences between them.

"The point is, sometimes if people aren't as talented as us in a sport, or they don't dress the same way, we choose to separate from them," said Szawala, who also goes by "Mr. Peace." "We don't think they're worth as much. But when it's something like money, everyone is still right there."

Szawala hopes to help students learn to appreciate others for their individual characteristics, be they race, clothing or ethnic.

"There's diversity, as well, within ourselves," said Szawala, founder of Being Who I Want 2 Be, LLC. "It comes down to seeing somebody's heart

first. Then you accept them from there."

Szawala has done his program in the district before, and Hulsing Elementary principal Jim Johnson was happy to have him come back, and to schedule him for the next five months, as well.

Johnson pointed out Szawala emphasizes the same components, or pillars, of the Character Counts program, then elaborates on them.

"It's a terrific thing," Johnson said. "He uses a lot of good visuals to make his points. He does a terrific job of connecting with the kids."

The school's Building Equity Leadership Team (BELT) will now continue discussions with students about what they learned in the assembly, holding mini-discussions

with each grade level to see what students got out of the assembly.

"We don't want it to be like they just went to assembly and then didn't do anything with it," Johnson said. "We're making a solid attempt to extend that and do something with it."

Szawala returns Jan. 14 with his "Doing Your Best," program, which parallels the district's "Responsibility" pillar. Subsequent programs (with their pillars in parentheses) include Truthfulness (Fairness), Feb. 11, Kindness and Empathy (Caring) March 11, Can I Trust You? (Trustworthiness) April 15 and Anti-Bullying (Respect) May 13.

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ON CAMPUS

Northern Michigan

Brett Lampson of Plymouth has earned his bachelor's degree in Media Production and New Tech from Northern Michigan University.

Hope College

Hannah Mielke of Canton, a senior at Hope College, served as a play coach for the 78th annual Nykerk Cup competition.

The Nykerk Cup competition, an annual Hope College tradition since 1935, involves freshman and sophomore women competing in the areas of song, oration and drama. Participants practice for 3½ weeks before the competition. The freshman and sophomore teams are coached by juniors and seniors respectively. Moralers, men of the same graduating class as the women, encourage the teams in their efforts.

This year the freshman class of 2016 won the competition. Mielke, the daughter of Bruce and Jennifer Mielke, is a graduate of Lutheran High School Westland.

Bucknell University

Kathryn M. Janda of Plymouth has been honored as a Homecoming Hostess at Bucknell University.

A senior majoring in Spanish, Janda is the daughter of Elizabeth and David Janda of Plymouth and a 2009 graduate of Salem High School.

Janda has served as a member of the Bucknell Brigade to Nicaragua, a campus tour guide and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

Janda is one of eight seniors, chosen for their commitment to service, academics, leadership and extracurricular involvement, and for their loyalty to Bucknell, selected by the student body. They were honored at and attended various events throughout the recent Homecoming Weekend.

The Homecoming Host and Hostess program, established 43 years ago, has been expanded to create engagement opportunities for students to participate in every aspect of Homecoming. They will serve as ambassadors to their peers, alumni and other constituents throughout the remainder of their senior year and post-graduation as they transition to alumni.



Abigail Vidmer (standing, from left), Tricia Sherrard, Grace Ragold and Katie Janda (of Plymouth) and (seated, from left) Nick Stetz, Theodore Mottola, Zack Beltran and Nick Pistone were honored by Bucknell University.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Veterans, family and friends gather to remember the attack on Peal Harbor, 71 years ago.

Ceremony honors Pearl Harbor vets



Friday's ceremony featured the traditional rifle salute by local Vietnam Veterans.

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

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

And on Friday, local veterans gathered to try to make sure that day is not forgotten.

"We try to make life a bit more meaningful as we remember our debt to those who served," veteran Stew Israel said during his speech.

Israel pointed out veterans are not only wounded by the physical ills of war, but by other ailments that set upon them upon their return, and in the intervening years. These "wounds" include things like depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injuries, psychotic disorders and thoughts of suicide, Israel

pointed out.

The veterans program, he said, "allow us to go out and see to their injuries."

Israel pointed out the Plymouth Elks have made some \$6,800 in donations and touched the lives of some 8,000 veterans through their various programs.

"We try to help them regain their dignity and respect," Israel said. "We don't forget our wounded."

Friday's ceremony was 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.

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Former publisher to sign copies of his new book

When W. Edward Wendover was the publisher of the *Community Crier* back in the day, he was known at least partly for picking on the city of Plymouth and its police department.

Now, his fictional newspaper staff beats the Plymouth Police to the punch in Wendover's new book, *Murder at the Penniman Deli*, for which he'll make a book-signing appearance this week.

Wendover said the book, which uses more than 500 Plymouth-Canton-Northville people in re-creating old Plymouth, is a story about "the Plymouth newspaper staff that solves a string of murders 'half-a-deadline' ahead of the Plymouth Police."

In a press release Wendover called the book "A 'histor-

ical fiction' murder mystery that romps deliciously through Plymouth."

He said the "satirical story names real names while the staff of the newspaper races to solve the mystery half-a-deadline ahead of the Plymouth Police."

Although it uses actual names and places in Plymouth, Wendover said in his release, "this yarn is all fiction, and mysterious fun, except to the victims, of course."

Wendover will sign copies of his book, *Murder at the Penniman Deli*, during his appearance 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, at E.G. Nicks restaurant, on Forest in downtown Plymouth.

Wendover said the book, being published by Blink Twice of Livonia, also features 35 recipes.

Canton teen arrested for resisting police in Plymouth

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton Township man faces two charges of attempting to resist police in an incident that stemmed from an encounter with Plymouth officers during the Plymouth Community Fall Festival in September.

Mark Makara, 18, was arrested in Canton on Nov. 11 and arraigned two days later by Judge Mike Gerou in 35th District Court on two counts of attempting to assault, resist or obstruct police. The charges are high misdemeanors each punishable by up to one year imprisonment.

Makara is free on a \$100,000 personal bond and

is due back in district court for a hearing on Monday, Dec. 17.

Plymouth Lt. Jamie Grabowski said Fall Festival incident began when two officers approached a male in the downtown parking deck. He was smoking and appeared to be under 18, Grabowski said.

The male provided identification, and when officers found there were warrants for him, he ran, and several officers providing security at the festival chased him, the lieutenant said.

One officer found the male in the back yard of a house in the area of Maple and Jenner streets, Grabowski said, and gave chase and then fell on top of him as the two

climbed a fence. The male then kicked the officer several times, tearing equipment from his belt, and ran, Grabowski said. The officer was not injured.

Having identified a suspect, police obtained two warrants for Makara, and the Western Wayne Community Response Team, a surveillance and fugitive apprehension unit made up of officers from several jurisdictions, tracked his movements over a weekend, Grabowski said, and arrested him at his mother's house. The CRT is led by Sgt. Todd Siepenko, a Plymouth Township officer.

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Think long term when investing

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: All this talk about the fiscal cliff has made me very nervous and, as a result, I have liquidated my entire portfolio. I am now 100 percent in cash. Before I get back in the market I want to see if and how this is resolved. In liquidating my accounts I made a couple of mistakes and I need your advice. I had a few investments that I sold that had gains but I held the stock for less than a year. Is there any way I can avoid paying taxes at my ordinary income bracket as opposed to the capital gain rate? I held the investments for a little over 11 months. When I liquidated my investments I had my broker send me a check which I have put into the bank. I put the money into a one-month CD. The problem is some of that money was IRA money and I did not use an IRA CD. Is there anything I can do to avoid paying the taxes on the IRA money?

A: There is nothing that you can do with regards to the capital gain situation. The holding period in order to receive the favorable capital gain rate is one year. Unfortunately, there are no exceptions to that rule. Therefore, there is nothing that you can do to avoid the tax consequences. However, if you have losses on your other investments you may be able to offset the gains with your losses.

It is always more preferable to pay tax at your capital gain rate vs. ordinary income. Currently, the maximum capital gain rate is 15 percent, while the tax rate on investments that you hold less than a year, in most



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

cases is nearly double. With regards to your IRA, you do have an option. Under the law, if you withdraw mon-

ey from an IRA you have 60 days from the time that you withdraw the money to roll it back into an IRA. Go to the bank that you purchased the CD at and have the money transferred into an IRA. As long as you're within the 60-day period there'll be no tax consequences. That doesn't mean that you don't have to report the transaction on your tax return, because you do. However, there is no tax liability.

I recognize many people are concerned about the approaching fiscal cliff. There certainly have been enough articles and news stories about the potential consequences. Most of the articles have talked about the doom and gloom that would happen if we reached the fiscal cliff. There have also been articles written that take the opposite view — that it wouldn't be so bad if we went over the financial cliff.

I fall somewhere in between. If there is no deal I believe there will be a negative reaction in the market. However, I don't see it having long-term implications. I see it more as short-term volatility. Keep in mind that one of the consequences of reaching a fiscal cliff is that there would be a substantial reduction in federal spending. We all know the government spends too much money and that politicians have a very difficult time in cutting expenditures. If a compromise is not reached and government spending is reduced is not such a bad thing. The negative effects of going over the fiscal cliff is that 90 percent Americans would end up paying higher taxes. This is somewhat offset by the fact that spending by the federal government would be reduced.

It would be nice if we could avoid risk but, unfortunately, that is not possible. Every investment strategy has risks associated with it and the problem with focusing too much on the short run is it ends up costing you in the long run. Therefore, don't make any rash moves and don't focus on the short run. Think long term. 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 email him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



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KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R)
FRI/SUN/TUE-TH 12:05, 2:45, 5:00,
7:25, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:50
SAT 7:25, 9:40 MON 12:05, 2:45, 9:40

3D LIFE OF PI (PG)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 30 TICKET 4:25, 9:45
LIFE OF PI (PG) 11:00, 1:40, 7:05
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RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG)
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Vendors flocking to home expo

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Dozens of home-improvement companies already have signed up for a Canton effort to link them to area residents pondering home projects ranging from extreme makeovers to minor repairs.

As many as 40 vendors already have committed to Canton's 12th annual Home Improvement Expo, though the number is expected to swell to 125 as landscapers, roofers, energy-saving companies, plumbers and others beat a mid-January deadline to register.

The latest Home Improvement Expo happens 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 2, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at Summit on the Park, on Summit Parkway west of Canton Center.

"We're starting to get some momentum going," Canton Building Official John Weyer said Thursday.

Canton Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Paden said the event offers one-stop shopping for local residents and companies who might pair up for home-improvement projects.

"It's definitely a benefit for the Canton residents to see those vendors, and many of them are from the Canton community," he said. "It's a good way for the township along with the chamber to showcase the goods and the services that are right here in the local community."

It's free to visitors, though Weyer said vendors pay a \$150 fee to participate. Applications already are online at www.canton-mi.org, and more information also is available by calling (734) 394-5200. The event is sponsored by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Chamber of Commerce and the Observer

& Eccentric Newspapers.

Weyer said visitors can find new ideas for numerous home-improvement projects such as replacing windows, changing lighting, altering outdoor landscaping or saving money through energy-efficient products.

"It's just kind of a wealth of information we can share with the public, and we have experts on hand to do workshops," he said. "It's good for anyone who owns a property, whether it's a condo or a single-family home."

Moreover, people ready to take the plunge into do-it-yourself home repairs can learn about the municipal codes and permits that govern such work.

Among the highlights of this year's Home Improvement Expo:

- Murray Gula, Host of "Your Home with Murray Gula" on WDFN-AM (1130).

- Joe Gagnon "The Appliance Doctor" from WAAM-AM (1600).

- How-to workshops.

- Live wood-carving demonstrations.

- A hands-on children's project center.

- Multiple raffles, including wood projects made by Canton Construction along with the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters.

- A free Expo advertisement booklet available at a welcome station. It's filled with vendor coupons, a map of the show, workshop schedules and several home-improvement tips.

- Attendees receive a free, reusable canvas bag. Those who attended last year's event are encouraged to reuse the bag they received. The first 100 people to reuse last year's bag get a free one-day pass to Canton's Summit on the Park.

For more information, call (734) 394-5200.

dclem@hometownlife.com
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Researcher's work could result in sharper MRIs

Diagnoses of cancer, heart disease, stroke and rheumatoid arthritis could happen faster with technology being developed by a Wayne State University researcher.

Plymouth resident Matthew Allen, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is seeking to commercialize a class of contrast agents that can enhance the effectiveness of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

Contrast agents are injectable "drugs" containing a paramagnetic element that creates temporary magnetic differences between similar tissues, enabling



Allen

them to appear differently in an MRI scan. Of about 60 million annual MRI scans worldwide, 40 to 50 percent currently use contrast agents; the rest can show tissue differences without them.

Current technology uses a class of contrast agents based on the element gadolinium, but it fails at higher magnetic field strengths. As a result, scientists cannot take advantage of hardware advances that could shorten scan times and produce higher-resolution images using higher field strengths.

Allen pointed to a recent study that found 93 percent of cortical brain lesions in samples from multiple sclerosis patients with a high-field magnet, compared to just 30 percent with a lower-field magnet.

One of his projects, "Evaluation of the Toxicity of New Contrast Agents for Ultra-High Field Strength Magnetic Resonance Imaging," focuses on the rare earth element europium as a basis for contrast agents. Like gadolinium, however, europium by itself is toxic to humans and therefore must chemically "caged" before being injected.

Allen's research team will try to do that in laboratory tests during the first portion of the project before testing the new contrast agents.

The property Allen is most interested in is making those cages tumble more slowly within a solution, allowing more time for magnets to conduct scans.

Allen's team is working to address an unintended consequence of adding a biphenyl group to side of HSA — the displacement of a water molecule — which complicates the scanning process.

Allen's research is supported in part by a grant from the Michigan Initiative for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



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New SC trustees plan to make a difference

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Although the three newest members of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees come from different backgrounds, they all agree on one thing: the tremendous value that the community college provides for residents in surrounding communities as well as the state of Michigan.



Gilligan

"We are so fortunate to have this fantastic resource right in our own

backyards," new Trustee Gretchen Alaniz said.

Livonia residents Alaniz and Eric Stempien, an incumbent since June 2012, were both recently elected to serve a six-year term on the board. Terry Gilligan, also of Livonia, was elected to serve a partial term ending December 2014, filling the vacancy left by the retirement of long-time Trustee Mary Breen.

The Schoolcraft College District includes the school districts of Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth-Canton.

The trio brings a broad spectrum of career experience that mirrors the diversity of the occupations of the district's residents: Alaniz has had a long career in manufacturing, while Stempien is an attorney with experience in both private and corporate practice. Gilligan, who holds a position with the Pipefitters Union Local 636, has a background in skilled trades.

It is a mix that has



Gretchen Alaniz of Livonia was elected last month to a six-year term to the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

many positive implications for the college and its surrounding area, Gilligan said.

"I am hopeful that we can continue to develop some strong programs that result in putting people to work in good positions that pay a fair wage," he said.

Career preparation

"Schoolcraft does a great job of preparing students for transfer to a four-year university. However, let's face it — a four-year degree is not necessarily for everyone. People need to know that there are career opportunities in skilled trades that allow you to make a nice living," he said.

Gilligan, married to wife Barb, is the father of two children, Allyson, 19, and Joe, 21, both of whom attended schools in the Livonia School District. His son is currently pursuing a degree in culinary

arts at Schoolcraft.

After growing up in Dearborn, Gilligan moved to Livonia with his wife in 1993. He has been a journeyman pipefitter for the past 24 years and has worked in various capacities for the pipefitters union, most currently as a business agent, which includes acting as a career facilitator for high school students.

"Many students have no idea that these types of career opportunities exist, so we are trying to raise awareness among those who may not be interested in a four-year degree. You can complete a certification or a two-year degree and still have the chance to make a good wage," he said.

Gilligan said that he is looking forward to the opportunity to become involved with the welding program and set up a program to identify quality students in order

for them to qualify for apprenticeship programs that can enable them to earn a wage while still learning.

He is also hoping to work with Schoolcraft instructors to develop a curriculum for a Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program.

First-time candidate

While this is the first time that Gilligan has run for public office, he said that it was his experience working with the college that provided the impetus to seek election to the board. He has had experience serving on committees and boards such as the joint apprenticeship training committee, as well as serving as the chairman on the political action committee. He has also served in various trusteeship capacities in the past, and currently serves as a trustee of the Insurance Trust Fund.

Gilligan also said that

Please see TRUSTEES, A9

Stempien follows in parents' path

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Newly elected Schoolcraft College Trustee Eric Stempien believes that a having a top-notch community college is a significant asset for area residents.

"Schoolcraft provides so much for so many in the community," he said, from degree and certification-granting programs to community education and affordable classes for those on a path to a four-year degree. "We are very fortunate to have Schoolcraft in our community."

Growing up in Northville, one of the college's feeder districts, "It seems like I've always had a connection to Schoolcraft. When the position became available, I did not hesitate. It is important for me to continue to have that connection," he said.

Family service

Stempien's connection, however, goes deeper than community ties. The Stempien name is well-known in service to the Schoolcraft community. Eric's parents, Gregory, an attorney in Northville, and Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Jeanne Stempien, both served as trustees and as chairpersons of the college board.

Eric Stempien was appointed to the board in June 2012 to complete the final year of a six-year term of board member Patricia Watson, who retired.

An attorney for Superior Ambulance Service in Warren, Stempien is a graduate of the Uni-



Stempien

versity of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School.

Serving on the board of Schoolcraft was a natural fit, said the married father of two daughters, ages 5 and 6.

"Now my own children are able to take advantage of the great classes that Schoolcraft offers through their community education programs," he said.

He said he looks forward to being a part of the budget process.

Tuition

"I want to focus on holding down tuition," he said.

Explaining that of the college's three sources of revenue — money from the state, property taxes and tuition — student-paid tuition is the only factor that within control of the board.

"And there is no way that we can balance the budget on the backs the students," he said. "We need to be there for the community — that is why it is called a community college, after all — so we have to find some way to hold down tuition."

Serving the community, he said, means not pricing classes out of reach for community members.

"This has got to be our short-term focus," he said.

Regarding long-term focus areas, Stempien points to increases in state-of-the-art technol-

Please see STEMPIEN, A9

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Wayne Chamber honors Plymouth's Franks

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

As a businessman, Wayne Mayor Al Haidous thought he was "the most loved man" in the city. Thursday, he acknowledges that it wasn't the case. That honor goes to Paul Franks, owner of William C. Franks Furniture.

"It's a great honor to stand here with such a great man," said Haidous who joined the Wayne Chamber of Commerce in presenting Franks with a Lifetime Achievement Award. "I wish I could find something stronger to say than thank you. This doesn't realize your commitment to this city." The award was one of



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Franks of William C. Franks Furniture (left) and Wayne Chamber board member John Rhaesa listen as Wayne Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Dobrowski talks about her house full of Franks furniture at the chamber's annual Holiday Luncheon.

three presented Thursday by the chamber at its annual Holiday luncheon. Richard Smith,

an independent agent with Estate Preservation Insurance, was honored as the Business of

the Year and the chamber's Ambassador of the Year. "Thank you for being

a pillar of the community," said chamber board member John Rhaesa in announcing the award. "What a great, stable business you have been for the community."

"I was completely surprised," said Franks, who at the end of the month will close the store founded by his parents, William and Betty Franks, in 1963. The closing comes two years after the furniture store was leveled by a natural gas explosion. Two employees were killed and Franks was injured in the blast. Since then, the business has operated out of its warehouse.

Franks admitted that the decision was a difficult one, but the closing

doesn't mean he will be riding off into the sunset. "I'll still be around the community," said Franks.

"I think I have a house full of your furniture," said Wayne Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Dobrowski in presenting a proclamation on behalf of Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara. "We're going to miss you. We wish you the best."

She added that McNamara will formally present the proclamation, approved by the Wayne County Commission, when Franks is honored at the Tuesday, Dec. 18, Wayne City Council meeting.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

Retiree takes his time with 129-year-old grandfather clock

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Harry Burt has restored 25 grandfather clocks, but the one that he's currently working on is special – there are only two in the world.

The 82-year-old resident of Novi's Fox Run is putting the finishing touches on a two-weighted, 129-year-old American clock built in Rhode Island by Walter H. Durfee.

"It's coming along pretty good," said Burt recently after a day in the retirement community's hobby shop.

Burt said he's cleaning it up and overhauling the movement. He doesn't strip the mahogany finish at all; he only hand rubs it and removes the grime from the metal parts.

"His clocks were so well finished when they were made," said Burt.

"They look like they just came out of the factory today."

He's restoring the clock to its original condition, including a functioning pendulum to sound each hour.

So what makes this particular clock, which Burt purchased in September from a California owner, so unique?

"The American grandfather clock industry came to a screeching halt in 1815, and only the wealthy could afford them at that time," explained Burt. "In the 1880s, Durfee made the Rolls Royce at that time – even up to today, actually – with high quality, style, design and now historical value."

For nearly 50 years, Burt and his wife, Jo, have been collecting clocks. He learned of the Durfee through is



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Fox Run resident Harry Burt, 82, has spent a lot of time in the last three months restoring to good working condition this 1885 Walter Durfee grandfather clock. The clock, made in Providence, R.I., was found by Burt in California, and the lifelong Michigan resident plans on giving it to a grandson after it's displayed at Fox Run for a while.

his membership in the National Association of Watch and Clock Collec-

tors. The Burts are particularly fond of clocks from the E.N. Welch Manufacturing Company,

which made clocks in the 1860-1895 period, but he won't reveal how many clocks are in his collec-

tion overall.

"Collectors don't tell," he said. "Now we're limited by space, and the major collection I have given to my grandson, who is 30. I restore them for him."

The Burts moved to Fox Run in August 2011 from Rochester. Jo doesn't work on the restorations, but Burt spends time in the hobby shop along with about 55 other men who belong to the community's hobby club.

"After I moved in, I was looking for something to keep me occupied," said Burt. "I asked if I could restore a grandfather clock here. I heard about the Durfee, purchased it and had it shipped."

A former auto parts supplier to Detroit's Big Three automakers, the Redford native has published articles about Durfee, who made clocks for around 20 years.

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

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"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!

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Trainer Emily Cilibrase works with husband David Cilibrase, doing pushups and her father, Glenn Kaatz.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Trainer Emily Cilibrase works with Ana Quintana and Meghan Parnell.

YMCA Boot Camp gets, keeps participants in shape all year long

Some people are being proactive about burning off those extra calories from eggnog and Christmas cookies.

Instead of waiting until after the holidays to get in shape, they are working out now.

A group of six to 10 men and women participate in a weekly Boot Camp at 10 a.m. every Saturday at the Livonia Family YMCA.

"People come and go," said Eric Farquhar, membership and marketing director.

"As it gets colder, the group grows and it will continue to grow especially after the first of the year when everyone has health and fitness on their mind."

The group exercise



John Stewart and Glenn Kaatz work with medicine balls during the workout.

class, taught by personal trainer Emily Cilibrase, has been meeting for about two years. Partici-

pants range in age from about 20 to over 60.

Plymouth attorney John Stewart, who is in his early 60s, is one of the class members who have consistently attended since last Christmas.

He said he has lost 17 pounds and has gained mobility and flexibility. "I can stand up in church now, I stand up in court now as an attorney and not look like an old man."

He said it has also given him a more positive attitude, as mental and emotional health go hand-in-hand with physical health.

The class is for members, and the fee depends on the level of participation, Farquhar said.

For more information, call the Y at (734) 261-2161.

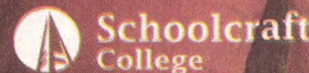
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Marc Chagall Lithograph in Color on Wove Paper Titled "Day In May" Lot #100



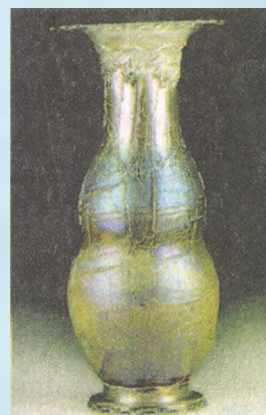
William Mason Brown Oil Painting On Canvas Lot #101



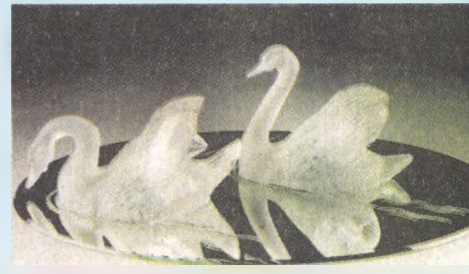
Georg Jensen Sterling & Labradorite 3 Piece Suite Lot #102



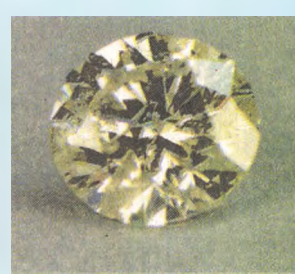
A Philip & Kelvin Laverne Bronze Occasional Table Lot #103



A Rare Tiffany Lava Glass And Sterling Mounted Vase Lot #105



Lalique "Miroir Cygnes" Clear And Frosted Glass Swan Center Piece Lot #104



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Restoring a legacy

Wayne County Parks reviving 'specimen' trees in historic Bennett Arboretum

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Back in October, Elizabeth Iszler walked along a trail in Bennett Arboretum and marveled at autumn's glory amid towering trees and rolling hills.

"This is a beautiful place," said Iszler, who was hired back in April as the landscape architect and design manager for Wayne County Parks.

Under Iszler's leadership, the county is taking a fresh look at Bennett Arboretum, which is located in the northwest portion of Edward Hines Park in Northville Township. In addition to its rolling topography and green vistas, Bennett Arboretum contains more than a hundred trees planted back in the 1930s when the park was a major destination for Wayne County families. It also contains an interpretive trail system, wetlands and plenty of wildlife.

Over the years, nature has taken its course in the arboretum and many non-native plants and trees have sprouted up, and in many cases have now overrun the "specimen" trees planted decades ago.

According to Wayne County Parks Naturalist Carol Clements, those trees were brought in from all over the world. In fact, Clements said more than 400 trees were planted during Bennett Arboretum's heyday. Some were native to Michigan and America, but many were imported from Europe and even



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elizabeth Iszler walks through Bennett Arboretum in Hines Park back in October. Iszler, with Wayne County Parks, is working to preserve and restore the remaining "specimen" trees dating back to the 1930s. The arboretum is located in Northville Township.

China.

"We still have 104 of those original trees, including a beautiful fern-leaf beech and an acanthopanax tree from Asia," Clements said. "We've lost a lot of trees, but we still have some great collections left, including beech, maple and oaks collections." She also mentioned a very rare Manchurian maple, which she was told are almost impossible to get these days.

The problem in many cases is finding them.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Under Elizabeth Iszler, Wayne County Parks is restoring the specimen trees in Bennett Arboretum, which were planted in the 1930s.

With brushy invasives like buckthorn and honeysuckle growing in thick stands, some of the trees have become hidden to those using the park.

With her landscape architecture background, Iszler brings a new perspective to Wayne County Parks. She was immediately struck by the uniqueness of the arboretum area, and hopes to shine a new light on its legacy.

"There aren't a lot, if any, county arboretums in the state. It's a big part

BENNETT ARBORETUM FACTS

- Established in 1930s by J. Merle (J.M.) Bennett, who worked for Wayne County Road Commission as director of Wayne County Parks and Forestry
- Located in the northwest portion of Edward Hines Park, in Northville Township
- Michigan's oldest public arboretum
- 104 of the original 470 or so specimen trees from the 1930s still remain

of the history of Hines Park," said Iszler, a Novi resident. "The fact that it is here offers a great opportunity. I would really love for people to get out and experience it."

Iszler has initiated a restoration plan that will help people do just that.

People who frequent the park or who drive Edward Hines Drive will begin to see that plan go into effect as early as January when the ground freezes. That's when a contractor will begin going out to the arboretum to remove the invasive plants and trees. The work should continue into the spring, when workers will also prune the specimen trees and bring them back to health. There are also plans to add more signage that will explain both the history and natural features of the arboretum.

"People will really

Please see BENNETT, A13



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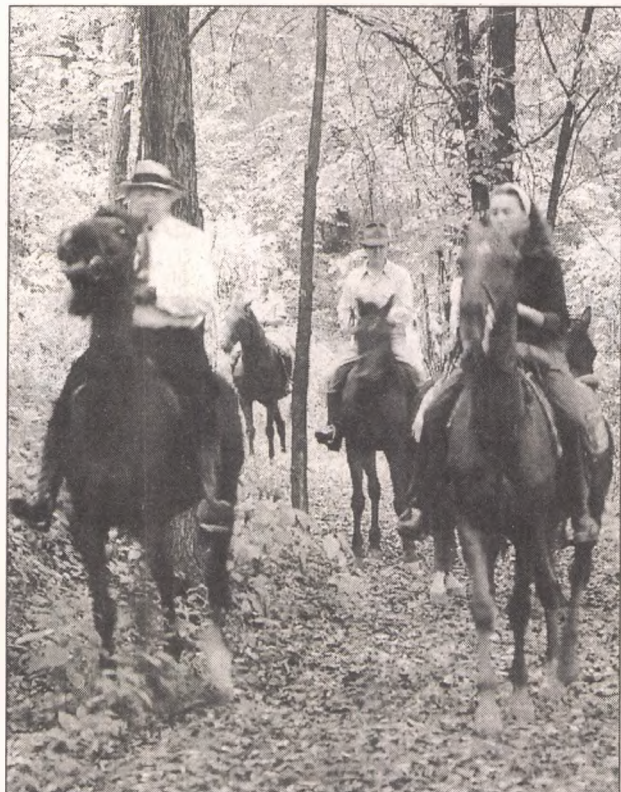


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BENNETT

Continued from page A12

notice the changes by summer," Iszler said. Bennett Arboretum was the brainchild of J. Merle Bennett, a visionary who joined the Wayne County Road Commission in 1922 at a time the county was starting to develop its roadside plans. Bennett became nationally recognized as a pioneer in roadside development, writing several books on the subject and even getting the state of Michigan to enact the "Roadside Tree Protection Act." He was fascinated by forestry, and was personally responsible for the planting of thousands of trees across the county, and especially along the Middle Rouge Parkway, which we now know as Hines Park. It was Bennett's idea to create an arboretum featuring unique trees from around the world. According to Clements, back in Bennett's day, Hines Park was a major attraction for Detroiters. The arboretum was the site of popular bridle trails for horseback riders, as well as tobogganing and skiing. Annual Soap Box Derbys were also held on the steep roadway next to the arboretum.



Bennett Arboretum's bridle trails were a popular attraction for years after being established in the 1930s.



This photo from the 1940s shows how popular Bennett Arboretum was in its heyday when many Wayne County residents used the area's bridle trails and tobogganing hill across the street at Cass Benton.

"This was the place to be in the '30s and '40s. It was kind of like going up north is today," Clements said. While Wayne County Parks has done a couple of recent surveys of the arboretum with the help of University of Michigan students, Iszler and Clements believe they will know even more after the invasive plants are removed. In addition to restoring the specimen trees, the master plan calls for creating wetland and prairie ecosystems that weren't part of the original plan.

New trees will also be planted to supplement the various collections, though the focus will be on adding native trees. Iszler said she is excited about the future of Bennett Arboretum. Her goal is that more people discover what a jewel the county has, even though it hasn't always been treated as such. "Hopefully this is just

the beginning," Iszler said. "My hope is to add to the educational component of the arboretum. I think this would be a great place to bring school kids to learn about nature. "Perhaps the best part of the arboretum is that it's free, and it's open to the public."

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Workers plant some of the specimen trees in Bennett Arboretum in the 1930s.

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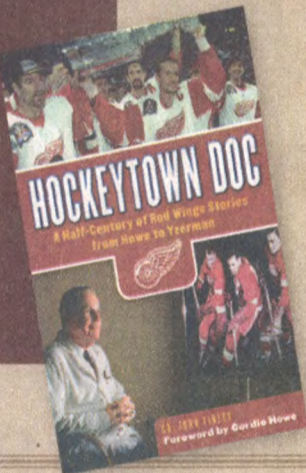


WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

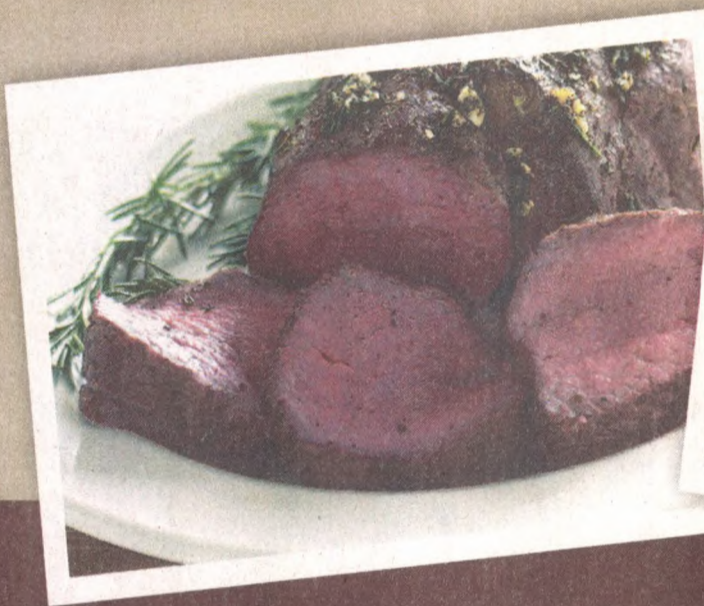
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Salem holds on in opener

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Fans settling into the bleachers at Salem High School a little late Friday night might have thought the Rocks were on their way to a mercy win over Wayne Memorial.

It was 13-3 Salem following a driving bank shot by 6-4 senior center Ahmad Khalid and the Rocks were up 17-5 after one quarter.

But the season-opener for Salem's defending KLAAs champions turned into more of a white-knuckle affair as the Zebras roared back with their pressure game all over the floor.

Wayne cut the lead to six points in the fourth, and threatened to get closer several times. Yet the Rocks hung on for a 67-56 boys basketball victory.

"It was never settled, they were in the game the whole time," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "They played hard, they weren't going to lay down."

"But that's the way it's going to be this year, you know? Teams are going to battle like heck to beat us."

Leading the Rocks with 21 points, 13 rebounds and three steals was 6-7 senior forward Chris Dierker. Leading Wayne with 20 points was Josh Lowry.

Providing a spark

Dierker sparked Salem down the stretch, keeping the Zebras at bay with strong moves to the basket.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It was a frenetic pace Friday night, as demonstrated here as Salem's Chris Dierker (No. 23) hangs on to the ball despite the efforts of several Wayne Memorial players.

Please see SALEM, B3

Heldmeyer tops at Siena

Beth Heldmeyer, a 2009 Plymouth grad and senior at Siena Heights University, was named the team's most outstanding cross country runner for the second year in a row.

During her career, she was a four-time NAIA national qualifier, all conference, academic all conference and WHAC Senior Champion of Character Award. She will graduate in the spring with a degree in nursing.

K of C free throw contest

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with all age-group contestants recognized for their participation in the event, which will progress through local, district and state competition.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call Dave Lengel at (734) 516-4930; or e-mail dlengel2@yahoo.com.

Priebe's return lifts Wildcats to road victory

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

It doesn't take an expensive x-ray to prove Plymouth senior guard Josh Priebe's recently-injured left shoulder is fine and dandy.

The final stat sheet from Friday night's 66-34 Wildcat victory over Redford Union will work just fine.

With only four practices under his belt and just a couple weeks removed from separating his non-shooting shoulder during tryouts, Priebe put a hurting on the Panthers, scoring 24 points

on 9-of-11 shooting.

The impressive road triumph evened the Wildcats' record at 1-1. The game was the season opener for RU.

"I felt good during warm-ups tonight, I got a good practice in yesterday and my shots were falling tonight," said Priebe, who poured in 28 points in Plymouth's season-opening loss to Walled Lake Western on Tuesday. "My teammates were getting me open shots. The screens were good and they were getting me the ball in transition. Without them, I wouldn't have done as well as I did."

What made Priebe's performance even more impressive was that he came off the bench.

"It was different, but I don't mind it because you get to watch and see how the game is going," Priebe said of his reserve role. "It takes a little bit of the pressure off."

Early run

Harassed by the Wildcats' in-your-face style of defense, the Panthers turned the ball over 21 times and never found an offensive groove.

RU led 4-2 two minutes into the contest before Plymouth reeled

off a 9-0 run to seize the momentum for good.

"Everybody played hard, but nobody played particularly well, except in a few spurts," said RU head coach Randall Taylor. "We have a lot of inexperienced and new guys on the team, so there is still a lot of teaching to do."

RU was led by senior guard DeAngelis Rodgers' 13 points. Junior Jacob McKiddie added nine — all in the first half.

"I really liked our defensive effort tonight," said Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup. "We

Please see VICTORY, B3

Rocks finally get room to call their own

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Music blared inside one end of Plymouth Cultural Center following Salem's recent comeback win over Canton.

Happy hockey players also mulled around in bright, spiffy, improved quarters made possible by a \$740,000 renovation to their locker room — which transformed it from ordinary into something they're proud to say is theirs.

Hines Park Lincoln in Plymouth sponsored the majority of the project.

"It's awesome, we can come here and stay as long as we want," Rocks' senior defenseman and captain Kyle Downey said. "Before, we kind of got rushed out by the next team. Now, we can stay around and watch extra film."

"Or just chill in the

'It's really a family-like environment and it really helps more than people realize. It creates bonding time for the players.'

ALEK ZULTOWSKI,
Salem hockey player

locker room, listening to music or playing X-box or something."

'Family' room

Also smiling and thrilled to come to the rink thanks to the team's royal blue-and-improved confines is senior forward and co-captain Alek Zultowski, who scored the tying goal against Canton in that hard-fought contest on Nov. 24.

"The locker room is awesome," Zultowski said. "We owe so much credit to the coaches for really taking initiative and getting it for us."

"It's really a family-like

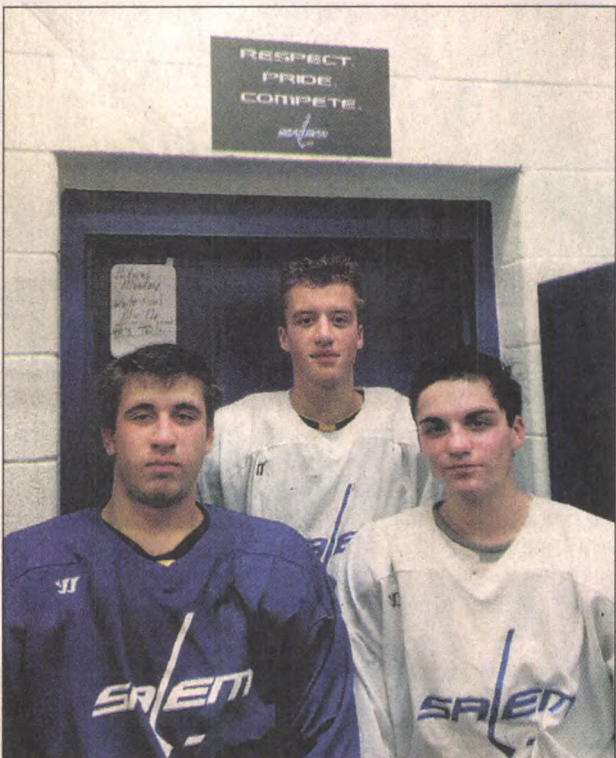
environment and it really helps more than people realize. It creates bonding time for the players."

With a nod, he added with emphasis "That's our room."

An assist for that welcome change goes to Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, who pushed for his team to get what Canton and Plymouth (and the PCS Penguins girls team) already have at Arctic Edge Arena.

Ossenmacher and his coaching staff also gave up their office space in

Please see LOCKER, B4



Proudly standing in front of the entrance to their renovated locker room at Plymouth Cultural Center are Salem hockey players (from left) Colin Pietron, Jason Newel and Noah Saad.

Jeff Jones pitcher clinic

Detroit Tigers pitching coach, along with the Livonia Stevenson baseball program, will stage two sessions of pitching clinics on Sunday, Jan. 20, at the high school fieldhouse.

Session 1 (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. until noon followed by Session 2 (13-18) from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Former pro pitcher Dave Marcon, a member of the Stevenson coaching staff and owner/scout for Indy Pro Showcase, will also assist Jones in covering the proper throwing mechanics, fielding, warm-up and drills for pitchers.

The cost is \$40 person.

For more information, call Stevenson head baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.



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Young Chargers log miles, championships

The Park has quite a winning feeder system in cross country. Central Middle School's seventh and eighth grade boys and girls cross country teams won respective Plymouth-Canton Middle School League championships at Cass Benton in late October.

And with that success, stressed Chargers' coach Ryan Ballard, an impressive combined group of more than 100 seventh- and eighth-grade harrisers found out how rewarding it is to set team goals and go out and achieve them.

"Before we school was out for the summer, we held a team meeting," Ballard noted. "We talked about how much work you have to put in the off-season if you want to be a league champion and if this was something they really wanted to set their focus on."

"The student-athletes agreed that they would do whatever it took to become a champion."

Every Sunday during the summer, a parent set up a voluntary run at Fiegel Elementary. Those runs were very well-attended.

Each runner kept tabs on how they were doing by logging the number of miles they were completing each week.

"Top runners were asked to run 15-20 miles a week," Ballard continued. "I had one athlete who ran 20-plus a week and (he) ended up getting injured."

That runner, eighth grade captain, Peter Bushaw, missed most of the season as he recovered from the injury and go back into shape. But did he ever, finishing fifth in the league meet.

Something to cherish

Ballard, who is head coach along with Bob Dinan and assisted by Kristie Eagles and Lauren Medley, said the youngsters dumped water over him



Central Middle School boys cross country runners, shown competing against Pioneer this fall, only lost one meet all season and won the league championship.



Members of Central Middle School's girls cross country team compete this fall against Pioneer Middle School. The Central Chargers won the league title.

in the aftermath of their ultimate victory.

"It was great to see how excited they were and that their hard work paid off," he explained. "There were a lot of hugs and pictures taken to celebrate the moment."

The next

day at Central, "there was a definite sense of excitement in the air" and morning announcements touted the championships.

Ballard emphasized that the kids "understand that winning a championship does not happen too often, so they defi-

nately took time to cherish the moment."

The coach said the youngsters' positive attitude provided a winning intangible, too.

Humor helps

"On the way to Cass Benton our busses passed the hill



Central Middle School runners Luke Kurilli (left) and Nick Socha were the top two runners all season for the championship boys team of seventh and eighth graders.

on Five Mile that we always trained at," he recalled. "I told the kids to thank the hill because that was one of the main reasons we would win the league championship."

At that point, Peter Bushaw muttered "I have a love-hate relationship with that hill," cracking up the rest of the team.

"The whole bus started to laugh," Ballard continued. "And at that point, I was pretty confident we would win the championship."

Top runners of the Chargers' boys team were Bushaw, Nick Socha, Luke Kurilli, Mikey Schwartz, Julian Thornton, Alex Kroll and Tezman Armstead.

Top girls were Courtney White, Katie Rucker, Rachel White, Rachel McCally, Abby Rhoades, Claire Curvin and Makayla Helmer.

The future is bright, too. Sixth graders Braden Heimbaugh and Casey McCord finished 1-2 in every sixth-grade race and had respective personal bests of 9:23 and 9:25.

There are five schools in the Plymouth-Canton Middle School League. In addition to Central, other schools include Pioneer, Discovery, East and West.

Titans sign Thompson for women's golf team

The University of Detroit-Mercy women's golf team won three tournaments in the fall and next season could be even better as head coach Terri Anthony-Ryan announced that All-State golfer Sarah Thompson of Canton has signed a National Letter of Intent with the Titans.

"She is a winner," said Ryan about the Plymouth High School senior. "She was a very good high school player and she will come here looking to compete for a spot immediately."

Thompson earned All-State honors in 2011 and 2012, helping lead the Wildcats to a Division 1 state championship. She tallied an 80.1 average as a junior and a 76.6 as a senior to end her prep career.

She was a four-time All-KLAA performer as well as a three-time all-scholar athlete. She set Plymouth's school record with a 3-under

68 to win the Next Tee Invitational at the Knollwood Country Club and was also medalist at the 2012 Kensington Lakes Activities Association Tournament, carding a 73.

At the 2012 regional at Pine View Golf Course, she posted a 78 earning runner-up at the event.

"She is just a great fit for the program and she is only going to get better," Ryan added.

Detroit ended its fall season with three victories in four tournaments and will now get ready for the 2012 spring campaign.

Plymouth varsity girls golf coach Dan Young was elated about Thompson's UDM opportunity.

"Sarah is an outstanding golfer and even better person," Young noted. "She has been one of the area's best golfers for years and will be a great addition to the University of Detroit squad."



Plymouth senior Sarah Thompson (seated) recently signs her national letter of intent to go to University of Detroit-Mercy, where she will play for the women's golf team. Standing behind her are (from left) Plymouth girls golf coach Dan Young, Carol Thompson (mom), Mark Thompson (brother) and Tom Thompson (dad).

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SALEM

Continued from page B1

"He got into a little bit of foul trouble in the first half, so we had to sit him down," Brodie said. "He was fresh and had a chance to observe what was going on out there (and) he took control the way he should in a game. "It was tough for them to stop him as he was going to the rack."

According to Zebras head coach Mike Schuette, whose team dropped to 0-2, the first-quarter struggles (including 0-for-6 from the free-throw line) were largely due to having players unaccustomed to Friday night lights.

"I've got a very young team," Schuette said. "I think I have just one player that played a lot last year (Jawan Snipes) and one player who played minimally last year."

"They're still getting used to the tempo, the intensity of the other team and what we have to do to keep up with it."

Schuette liked the way his team fought back, outscoring Salem 30-25 over the middle two quarters to trail 42-35 after three.

"I thought in the second half, our intensity on the defense and rebounding was so much better than the first half," he said. "It is a learning process."

Both teams made plenty of turnovers and were off-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eyeing the rim Friday night is Salem's Cam Werner (No. 22), being guarded by Wayne Memorial's Brian Williams (No. 25).

target in shots around the basket — with the speed and intensity forcing some of those miscues.

Helping the cause

Salem hit 25-of-52 field goal attempts (48 percent), while Wayne made 21-of-62 attempts (31 percent).

"Early on it was a track meet. Part of that is our team likes to run, but it was also first-game jitters," Brodie said. "There were a lot of turnovers, fumbled passes. We kind of rushed things."

Dierker and Khalid (eight points, 12 rebounds) were strong on the boards, as Salem held a 47-31 rebounding edge.

All players on Salem's squad saw action. Other players making solid contributions to the

win included senior guard Austin Whitted (eight points), senior forward Cam Werner (eight points) and junior forward Brady Cole (six points).

Tallying 10 points for the Zebras was Brian Williams, while Jackie Muhammad and Rafael Parks scored six and four, respectively.

"It was their second timeout, they had a little more savvy than us at times," Brodie added. "But I was proud of the kids for keeping their composure and finishing it off at the end."

"It could have gotten close and scary."

Salem will visit Ann Arbor Skyline on Tuesday.

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Chiefs open with solid win

Canton opened the varsity boys basketball season in grand style Wednesday, with a 79-70 victory over Detroit Renaissance.

A balanced attack — with five players scoring in double figures — sparked the Chiefs.

They built a 39-21 halftime lead, largely by being able to ward off full-court pressure from the Public School League opponent.

"Our ability to handle their full-court pressure early allowed us to get some easy shots," Chiefs head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We continued to shoot the ball well all game."

The Phoenix tried to

rally in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Chiefs 31-20 thanks to a number of Canton fouls.

"Defensively we have to do a better job of defending without fouling," Reddy continued. "Their 40 free throw attempts kept them in the game."

Reddy said the victory also indicated the Chiefs can hold their own against tough non-league teams.

"I'm very pleased with the win in the first game especially since first games are difficult," he noted. "I loved the way we competed and didn't back down. We definitely showed some toughness."

Leading Canton with 19 points was point guard Josh Mayberry, who also tallied five assists.

Contributing 15 points was 6-5 junior forward Davon Taylor.

Jordan Nobles, a 6-8 junior forward, chipped in with 14 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Also in double figures were sophomore guard Greg Williams (13 points) and senior guard Ryan Planey (10 points).

Senior wing guard/forward Scott Gring led the Chiefs with 10 rebounds and added six points.

Canton connected on 24 of 37 (64 percent) in two-point field goals along with 25 percent (4-16) from beyond the arc.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Prep pucks for Gleaners

Plymouth's and Salem's prep boys hockey teams (JV level) are teaming up to help fight hunger.

They will be facing each other 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, in a "Black vs. Blue Hockey Night" at Plymouth Cultural Center, culminating the first annual Gleaners Food Drive.

Admission will be the donation of five canned goods, which will be sent on to the Gleaners Food Bank. Game two (7 p.m.) will feature the Plymouth and Salem alumni teams.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. will be a third Plymouth-Salem game, pitting the current varsity teams. An admission fee will be required for the varsity contest.

Plymouth's prep hockey program is spearheading the Gleaners Food Drive (Salem and Canton are involved in similar endeavors for the holidays). Leading up to Dec. 21, Wildcat players will be canvassing neighborhoods to collect cans. A goal of 1,000 cans for Gleaners is the team's ultimate goal.

For more information, contact Rick Covault at (313) 319-3606.

Mira closes out her four-year career with 23 assists, which ranks ninth in the GVSU record book.

Mira was also named to the All-Midwest team and is a two-time All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection while also earning Defensive Player of the Year honors as a junior.

GVSU Junior defender Kayla Kimble (Livonia Stevenson) also earned second-team All-Midwest honors for the 20-2-3 Lakers, who fell 2-1 to UC San Diego in the national semifinals.

Football training

Nike Combine Training for High School Football players to prepare for the 2013 season and preparation for SPARQ, Michigan Preps, and NUC testing protocols.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine. This training session will be on Sundays beginning Jan. 27 at D1 Sports in Bloomfield.

To register go to www.coachjacksonspeed.com or for more information contact Coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

TVO volleyball

The Triple-Threat Volleyball Organization junior program for girls ages 7-10 begins Wednesday, Dec. 5 at Riley Upper Elementary School, located on Five Mile between Middlebelt and Merriam roads.

Team practices will be from 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays at Riley.

For more information, call club director Gary Smart at (734) 432-5959; or e-mail tvovolleyball@sbcglobal.net. You can also visit www.tvovolleyball.com.

MU softball camp

Madonna University will hold a series of winter softball camps (ages 7-18) including:

Hitting - 9-11:30 a.m. (Session I) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (Session II), both on Saturday, Dec. 22 at the MU Activities Center. (The cost is \$30.)

Fundamentals (Camp I) - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26; Fundamentals (Camp II) - noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. (Cost for each is \$125 by Dec. 1; or \$150).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com.

VICTORY

Continued from page B1

were getting in the passing lanes and making life difficult for them. We made it like playing in

a hornets' nest — they were getting buzzed from all different directions."

In terms of the game's standouts, the stat sheet didn't tell the entire story, according to Soukup, who praised the effort of Deji Adchigi.

"He didn't score, but he got his hands on a lot of balls," Soukup said. "He does things that don't necessarily show up in the scorebook, but the coaches notice them. He contributed in a lot of ways, especially defensively."

Wildcats edged in overtime

Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team lost 66-60 in overtime Friday to host North Farmington, despite 21 points from guard Kylie Robb.

The Wildcats (0-3) led 21-20 at halftime as both teams had difficulty finding the range.

Things heated up in the second half, however, with Plymouth building a seven-point lead late in the fourth quarter.

North Farmington tied the game on a three-ball with 10 seconds remaining and outscored Plymouth 10-4 in overtime for the win.

Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear said a key down the stretch was Robb fouling out. She "was electric in the

second half."

Sophomore Leah Kliczinski stepped up with 13 points, 11 in the second half, along with five rebounds. Tionee Johnson led the Wildcats with seven boards.

HURON 55, SALEM 24: A tough first quarter, where Salem managed just two points, set the tone Friday night at Ann Arbor Huron.

It was 24-12 at halftime and the River Rats took complete control in the third, outscoring the visiting Rocks 19-6.

"We had trouble scoring in the first quarter," Salem coach Fred Thomann said. "We had three or four shots at the rim that we couldn't make."

Leading Salem (0-2) in scoring was Jamyra Wilson, with seven points. Shara Long added six while Bree Beaver led in rebounds with seven.

The Rocks will host Dearborn Divine Child on Tuesday.

MARIAN 44, CANTON 30: The host Chiefs (1-1) had trouble getting untracked Thursday night against Bloomfield Hills Marian.

Canton fell behind 14-7 after one frame and stayed relatively close until being outscored 11-4 in the third, which gave the Mustangs a 36-22 edge.

"To the kids credit they hung in their and kept fighting all night," Chiefs coach Brian Samulski said. "We just couldn't get anything going."

"We didn't handle their pressure well, our passing, catching, and cutting wasn't sharp."

Paige Aresco led Canton with 14 points, while Rachel Winters and Alanna Brown contributed six and five points, respectively. For Marian, Kilyn Bulluck tallied 13 points and Kamry Peake chipped in with 10.

Another tough challenge awaits the Chiefs Tuesday, as they visit Grosse Pointe South (ranked No. 1 by the Detroit News).

Heldmeyer tops at Siena

Beth Heldmeyer, a 2009 Plymouth grad and senior at Siena Heights University, was named the team's most outstanding cross country runner for the second year in a row.

During her career she was a four-time NAIA national qualifier, all conference, academic all conference and WHAC Senior Champion of Character Award. She will graduate in the spring with a degree in nursing.

Mira named All-America

Grand Valley State University senior Alyssia Mira was recently named to a pair of All-America squads in women's soccer.

For the second time, Mira garnered a spot on the Daktronics NCAA Division II third-team after leading the Lakers with nine assists to go along with three goals.

Mira, a midfielder, was also named to the NSCAA/Continental Tire All-America Division II team for the first time after helping the Lakers, an NCAA Final Four team, to 18 shutouts.

Rocks, 'Cats go 1-1 at quad

Salem's varsity wrestling team went 1-1 Wednesday at the Plymouth-hosted quad meet.

The Rocks edged Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 39-35, but dropped a 45-27 decision to Belleville.

According to Salem head coach Pete Israel, it was a good team opener despite having key wrestlers Mitchell Marshall (140), Hamed Abed (145) and Conner Thornbury (152) unable to take part.

"Our younger guys fought well and our seniors Alex Arble, Tyler Gross, Riley Duxtader and Tony Agostini really stepped up," Israel noted. "I was also happy with James Upshaw's performance (1-1 at 160)."

After losing the first five flights against Crestwood, the Rocks bounced back to win the next five.

Victories were registered by Duxtader at 152 (fall, 1:48), Upshaw at 160 (fall, 3:24), Gross at 171 (fall, 2:39), Mitchell Gross at 189 (10-1 decision) and Tony Agostini at 215 (fall, 38 seconds).

The teams traded victories the rest of the way with Salem prevailing at 103 (Drew Lindsey, fall, 4:42)

WRESTLING

and 119, where Alex Arble won by a fall in 2:34.

Against Belleville, Salem victories were collected by Caleb McCabe at 135 (fall, 1:39), Tyler Gross at 171 (fall, 1:15), Mitchell Gross at 189 (6-2 decision), Agostini at 215 (10-6 decision), Lindsey at 103 (fall, 4:42) and Alex Arble at 119 (fall, 2:34).

Wildcats split

Also going 1-1 at the Plymouth quad were the host Wildcats.

Plymouth dropped a 37-33 decision to Belleville and routed Crestwood, 50-23.

Jon Conn, Alec Breckenridge, Hussian Youssef and Joey Shaver defeated opponents in each match.

Although Mohamad Youssef, Jeff Harris and Treyvon Berry also collected two wins, those included several byes.

CANTON 53, KETTERING 21: Visiting Canton started the season Wednesday with this non-league victory at Waterford Kettering. Chiefs to win via falls included Ken Wooley (285), ally-byalski (140), Jacob Lorenz (152) and Dylan DeClue (160). All-stater Alec Pantaleo won on a technical fall, 24-9.

DUAL MATCH RESULTS

BELLEVILLE 37 PLYMOUTH 33
Dec. 5 at Plymouth

125: Joshua Vandeyar (B) pinned Daniel Ahearn, 1:15; 130: Jamonty Houze (B) injury default over Andrew Kallil; 135: Brandon Bellant (B) major decision over Blerim Mena, 14-4; 140: Jon Conn (P) p. Hunter Manke, 3:36; 145: Hussian Youssef (P) maj. dec. over Michael Morris, 13-0; 152: Alec Breckenridge (P) won by; 160: Joshua Wooten (B) p. Samuel Campbell, 0:24; 171: William Herring (B) p. Terek Tamimi (P), 3:31; 189: Joseph Shaver (P) dec. Brandon Underwood, 6-5; 215: Kyle Rodgers (B) p. Mario Gutierrez, 1:07; 285: Austin Tracy (B) dec. Adam Dulong, 6-4; 103: Mohamad Youssef (P) won by; 112: Jeff Harris (P) won by; 119: Treyvon Berry (P) dec. Austin Koehler, 9-7.

PLYMOUTH 50 CRESTWOOD 23
Dec. 5 at Plymouth

130: Spencer Schiftra (P) pinned Justin Slowik, 1:14; 135: Sejad Al-Hussain (C) technical fall over Blerim Mena, 5:43; 140: Jon Conn (P) decisioned Adee Alcodray, 9-6; 145: Alec Breckenridge (P) p. Terek Bazzi, 2:36; 152: Hussian Youssef (P) dec. Mohamad Salameh, 2-0; 160: Terek Tamimi (P) dec. Essam Alshayyan, 10-5; 171: Ahmad El-Sayed (C) won by; 189: Joseph Shaver (P) p. Ahmed Bitar, 2:30; 215: Ali Chami (C) p. Mario Gutierrez, 3:18; 285: Adam Dulong (P) p. Ali Beydoun, 2:21; 103: Mohamad Youssef (P) p. Zolfikar Bazzi, 1:59; 112: Jeff Harris (P) won by; 119: Treyvon Berry (P) tech. fall over Aly El-kalouby, 2:34; 125: Ali Hossein (C) p. Daniel Ahearn, 2:00.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 11
Salem at Skyline, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14
Northville at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Canton at Salem, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 10
Ladywood at O.L. Lakes, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 11
Divine Child at Salem, 7 p.m.

Canton at Grosse Pte S., 7:30 p.m.

PCA at Our Lady of Lakes, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14
Canton at Salem, 6 p.m.

Plymouth at Northville, 7 p.m.

Grosse Ile at Lady., 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Monday, Dec. 10
Ladywood at Liggett, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12
PCS Penguins vs. Grosse Pte S.

at City Arena, 7 p.m.

Stevenson vs. Salem
at Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.

6 & 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14
Ladywood vs. Port Huron
at McMorran Arena, 7:15 p.m.

South Lyon vs. Salem
at Ply. Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.

Churchill vs. Canton
at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15
Lake Orion vs. Plymouth
at Arctic Edge, 5 p.m.

Ladywood vs. W.L. Northern
at Kensington Valley I.H., 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Tuesday, Dec. 11
Memphis, Hamtramck, N'west
at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12
Canton at Novi-CC, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15
Redford Union Tourney, TBA.
Hawk Havoc Invitational

at Farm. Hills Harrison, 9 a.m.

Wayne County Tourney
at HYPE Recreation, 9 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Thursday, Dec. 13
Tecomseh vs. Plymouth
at Canton, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Tuesday, Dec. 11
Liv. Blue at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12
Salem vs. Canton
at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOWLING

Monday, Dec. 10
Ladywood vs. Regina
at Woodland Lanes, 3:45 p.m.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Wednesday, Dec. 12
Brighton Quad, 6 p.m.

Milford Quad, 6 p.m.

Howell Quad, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15
CCCAM at Northville, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Wednesday, Dec. 12
MU at Davenport, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14
(Crusader Classic at MU)

Johnson-Wales vs. Roch., 5:30.

Madonna vs. Grace, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15
(Crusader Classic at MU)

Rochester vs. Grace, 1 p.m.

MU vs. Johnson-Wales, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Saturday, Dec. 15
MU at Davenport, 1 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Wednesday, Dec. 12
Ply. Whalers at Soo, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14
Ply. Whalers at Sudbury, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15
Ply. Whalers at Barrie, 7:30 p.m.

TBA - time to be announced.

Penguins can't rally in time

Inconsistency hurt the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins in Tuesday's 4-1 loss to the Walled Lake Wild at Arctic Edge Arena.

"The girls did not play to their potential on Tuesday," PCS head coach Mary Beth Trainor noted. "It becomes frustrating for the coaching staff when you know the team isn't playing the way you know they can play."

"We have seen it in spurts but we need to figure out how to get them

to play three complete periods. Once we do that, we will start winning hockey games more consistently."

The Penguins fell behind 3-0 after two periods of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 2 contest before closing the gap to 3-1 on a third-period tally by forward Morgan Cusumano with 14:19 to play in the game. Assisting were Amanda Hoehn and Cortny McAadoo.

But Walled Lake's Kylie Armstrong scored her second goal of the night, chipping a shot past PCS netminder Becky Lough, who Trainor praised for her play.

Trainor said the 4-1 score "was not a reflection of how Becky played. She was left out to dry many times and came up with some big saves for us."

It didn't help matters that the Penguins (1-3 overall) hit the post several times.



Inside the renovated locker room are individual stalls complete with name plates as well as colorful team memorabilia displayed on the walls.

LOCKER

Continued from page B1

the process.

Meanwhile, players now don't have to wait for the locker room to clear out or rush after a game to leave before the next scheduled group arrived.

Downey noted another plus to the room, which workers finished over the summer.

"We don't have to worry about carrying our bags home," said Downey, pointing to individual stalls where gloves, pads and other gear can be stowed away.

Extra incentive

He said there wasn't any one aspect of the locker room that he liked the most.

"I can't really pinpoint one thing, I think the whole thing is great," Downey added. "I'm thankful because the coaches gave up a lot, they gave up their office space, basically, just so we could have our own

locker room."

Whether or not the locker room results in more wins remains to be seen.

But Ossenmacher already likes it that his players are gravitating to PCC earlier than ever for practices and games. Some begin arriving around 4:30 p.m. for a 7 p.m. contest.

"We've got 15 guys who went from not having a room at all to having a room," Ossenmacher said. "I think that added to the excitement of it. I don't think it will wear off, either. The locker room in hockey is a special place."

And the coach emphasized that Salem's special place wouldn't have been possible without the sponsorship of Hines Park Lincoln.

"They are a very strong supporter of all three (Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys) hockey teams and are a tremendous part of the Plymouth community," he said.

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During the summer, workers such as this one helped turn a nondescript locker room into one that Salem players happily call their hockey home.



'Razor' sharp icers

The Plymouth Squirt Razor Sharks from the Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association recently won the PCHA recently went 4-0 to capture the Thanksgiving 2012 Motown Cup. They defeated the Livingston Lightning 3-1 in the championship game. Members of the team are as follows: (front row, from left) Joshua Picciano, Quinn Hodges, Mitchell Patrick, Jack Fawcett, Aiden Powers, Dante Rieli with goalie Dylan Buckley stretched out on the ice with the trophy; (middle row, from left) James Monteith, Vinnie Marroni, Devon Hoehn, Jason Stults, Garrett Cygan, Brandon Trella, Sam Williams, Eliot Luchinsky, Christopher Huga, Andrei Grabowski; (back row, from left) assistant coach Mark Williams, head coach Chris Hoehn, assistant coaches Gene Grabowski and Marc Picciano. Not pictured is Nick Schoen.

Whalers fall 3-2 to Saginaw in OT

The Plymouth Whalers pummeled Saginaw goalie and Detroit Red Wings prospect Jake Paterson with 46 shots Friday night before 2,990 at Compuware Arena.

But Patterson stymied the Whalers time and time again, giving up just two goals as the Spirit won 3-2 in overtime. Plymouth's record dropped to 14-8-4-3, good for second in the OHL West Division behind Sarnia.

The shots were 34-21 Plymouth

after two frames, but the Whalers only nursed a 2-1 lead entering the third. Scoring for the home team were Tom Wilson in the first period (from Alex Peters and Matt Mistele) and Ryan Hartman to snap a 1-1 tie with 8:14 left in the second.

Assisting on Hartman's power play goal were Wilson and Gianluca Curcuruto.

Saginaw (13-15-2-2) finally netted the equalizer with 1:57 to go in the third when Justin Kea scored

his second of the night, sending the puck past Plymouth netminder Matt Mahalak (30 saves).

Then, just eight seconds from a shootout, the Spirit won the OHL contest on a marker by Nick Moutrey (from Eric Looke and Jason Shaw).

Plymouth lost 3-2 in a shootout Wednesday at Owen Sound. Scoring for the Whalers were Cody Payne and Simon Karlsson.

Canton edges Franklin, 4-3

In a KLA South Division game Friday at Arctic Edge, host Canton won for the first time this season with a 4-3 victory over Livonia Franklin.

Matt Taliaferro, Kurt Snow, Charlie Steslick and Cooper Rice scored for Canton (1-6, 1-5), which led 1-0 after one period and 4-1 after 34 minutes.

Franklin (2-3-1, 1-1) began its comeback on Richie Wiczorek's second-period goal from Dylan Smith followed

BOYS HOCKEY

by Jacob Decina's third-period goal from C.J. Cromie and Mike Diaz.

The Patriots cut it to one on Justin Makowski's goal from Ryan Pace and Diaz with 6:50 remaining, but couldn't score the equalizer.

Franklin sophomore goalie Matt Monendo made 34 saves, while Isaac Salinas had 21 stops for the Chiefs.

STEVENSON 3, CANTON 1: Sophomore goalie Andrew Rozenbaum

came through in his first varsity start turning away 21-of-22 shots giving Livonia Stevenson (6-1, 2-0) the Kensington Conference crossover victory Wednesday at Edgar Arena over the visiting Chiefs (0-6, 0-5).

"We got an outstanding effort from our sophomore goaltender," said Stevenson assistant coach Jay Thompson said. "Special teams, the power play and penalty killing were the difference in the game."


After a scoreless open-

ing period, Stevenson led 2-0 after two thanks to Devin Kelly's power play goal from Travis Harvey and Dominic Lutz at 8:21 followed by Tyler Irvine's short-handed goal from Lutz and Jake Kierdorf at 13:23.

Lutz made it 3-0 at 2:27 of the third before Canton's Matt Cox spoiled Rozenbaum's shutout bid on a goal from Dillon Schiamp with 10:52 remaining.

Canton goalie Isaac Salinas made 19 saves.

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Bottomless Toy Chest delights young cancer patients

Santa's helpers at The Bottomless Toy Chest gave approximately 100 toys to young cancer patients Friday, Dec. 7 at Beaumont Hospital's Rose Cancer Center in Royal Oak.

The organization also will deliver toys to Children's Hospital of Michigan on Tuesday, Dec. 11 and to C.S. Mott Hospital in Ann Arbor on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

"Something as simple as a new toy will make the ordeal these brave children face every day just a little easier and can give them the will and strength the fight back," said Mickey Guisewite, founder and executive director of The Bottomless Toy Chest. "It is also my hope and prayer that these new toys will also make the holiday season a bit brighter for these children and their families."

Each new toy donated to The Bottomless Toy Chest is gift-wrapped in cellophane and ribbon by a volunteer. The cellophane gift-wrap keeps the items clean for children with weakened immune systems. The clear wrap also allows kids to select from an array of choices, giving them a sense of control in a hospital environment.



Chelsee Aperku, 5, from Farmington Hills, who is currently undergoing cancer treatment at Royal Oak's Beaumont Hospital, carefully selects a brand new toy delivered from The Bottomless Toy Chest.



Maggie Cobb, 5, who is currently undergoing cancer treatment at Royal Oak's Beaumont Hospital, shows Mickey Guisewite, founder and executive director of The Bottomless Toy Chest, her new doll.

Beyond that, the gift-wrapping gives children who are under a great deal of physical and emotional distress, the happy experience of opening a

present.

The Bottomless Toy Chest is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization devoted to delivering art projects, crafts and

interactive toys to hospitalized pediatric cancer patients.

For more information visit www.bottomless-toychest.org.



Safe Kids offers tips for infant sleep time

Safe Kids Huron Valley recommends that parents and caregivers keep newborns and infants safe while sleeping, especially when visiting family and friends during the holidays.

Accidental infant suffocation that results from unsafe sleep environments has increased almost 30 percent over the past 10 years. In Michigan alone, 150 infant sleep-related deaths are reported each year. Tragically, babies have suffocated from sleeping in adult beds, on furniture, and with pillows, cushions, and blankets.

"These numbers reflect suffocation incidents that could have been prevented, stated Amber Kroeker, Safe Kids Huron Valley coordinator and injury prevention health educator for Mott Children's Hospital. "It's important to make sure your baby always has a safe place to sleep at night and during naptime even as you travel or visit others during the holiday."

Safe Kids Huron Valley recommends the ABC's of Infant Safe Sleep:

• **Always alone.** Your baby should sleep alone in a crib, bassinet, or portable crib. No bed-sharing with adults, other babies, or children.

• **Always on their back.** Your baby should sleep on his or her back. Babies can suffocate if placed face down on his/her belly.

• **Always in a safe crib.** The safest place for your baby to sleep is in a crib, bassinet, or portable crib that meets current safety standards. Use a firm mattress and tightly-fitted sheet in the crib, bassinet or portable crib. Take out all pillows, blankets, comforters, bumper pads, stuffed toys and other soft items. Use a sleep sack, which is a wearable blanket, instead of a blanket. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), recommends no blankets for infants, up to 12 months because blankets can suffocate them. When in doubt, take a portable crib with you if you're not sure one will be available.

For more information on infant safe sleep, visit www.michigan.gov/safesleep.

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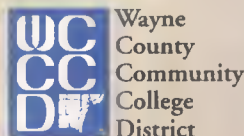
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Sewing for charity

Church, community group aid Hurricane Sandy victims

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia and the Plymouth-Westland Grange #389 will send 40 handmade totebags filled with comforting items to victims of Hurricane Sandy this month.

"We started out making 20 and we ended up with 40," said Sharon Strebbling, Grange president. "We had four Grange members working on it and one is a family that gets their kids involved. The four came to the church to work and we also had three more working out of their homes."

Jean Coleman, a church member, said eight women from Timothy Lutheran also worked on the project at sewing sessions offered three times weekly for a month.

The church and Grange volunteers created blankets, quilts, totes and pillows. Each tote also will include a hat, gloves, a scarf and a plastic bag filled with toiletry items.

Sewing for charity is nothing new for church and Grange members. Volunteers at the church created quilts earlier this year for Lutheran World Relief and will continue that effort beginning next

month.

The Grange "has always been involved in community service," Strebbling said. "The Grange was teaching classes out of Maxwell's (Art & Treasures) the last four years, teaching people how to sew by making (charity) items, making quilts for veterans, the school for the blind."

When Maxwell's closed its doors in Garden City a few months ago, the Plymouth-Westland Grange lost its meeting place and scrambled to find a new home and location to store its fabric.

"We had to find a place to put it all or get rid of it. I couldn't see it go into the trash, so we ended up helping four churches and this was one of them," she said, referring to Timothy Lutheran Church.

The church used the donated fabric to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and then turned its attention to the Grange's project for victims of Hurricane Sandy.

"I do a lot of Facebooking because of Grange," said Strebbling, explaining how the Hurricane Sandy project began. "Someone (on Facebook) picked up that there is a need out there and they (hurricane victims) were



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sharon Strebbling (foreground), Debbie Foley and Jean Coleman work on quilts for victims of Hurricane Sandy.



Saturday morning is a busy day for church volunteers Gerry Rowden (left), Debbie Foley and Jean Coleman.



Kaaryn Falardeau scallops the edge of the material.

not getting what they needed. When I heard that, I made a connection

in Michigan." Sam Corrado of Westland, a friend of the

Grange, plans to drive the items to New Jersey where he'll deliver them to families in need.

The project wrapped up Saturday, Dec. 8 at the church.

Grange members get together to work on handmade items for the community during workshops from 6:30-9 p.m. Thursdays at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road. The organization's next regular meeting is 6:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland.

For more information about the Plymouth-Westland Grange, call Strebbling at (734) 748-0569. Visit the National Grange website at www.national-grange.org. Visit Timothy Lutheran Church's website at www.timothy-lutheranchurch.com.



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Hanukkah traditions mark rededication, freedom

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Forget what you know about your favorite Hanukkah traditions.

Melissa Ser may surprise you with a few new "little known facts" about the holiday.

"Hanukkah is coming and I thought let's do a workshop — one hour and offer it twice — and go beyond what people might know," said Ser, director of congregational learning at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills. "Sort of get into everything you wish you would have learned when you were in school but you didn't. And now you don't even know where to begin asking."

Hanukkah celebrates the victory of a small band of Jews, "the Maccabees" over the Syrian Greek army in 165 BCE. It also marks the rededication of the Jewish Temple that the Greeks had occupied before they were vanquished. According to tradition, a miracle also occurred when the Jews lit the lamps in the reclaimed Temple — there was just enough oil for one day and yet it lasted for eight days.

The holiday began at sundown Saturday, Dec. 8 and runs through Dec. 16. During the eight-day festival, individuals give gifts, make special foods, and light menorah candles.

Ser led the "Little Known Facts About



Chanukah" workshop on two consecutive Wednesdays at Adat Shalom. She started the final session last week with hip, pop Hanukkah music videos by the Maccabees and Ein Prat Fountainhead, remarking "It's not dreidel, dreidel dreidel, is it?" She distributed a "typical" explanation of Hanukkah, along with recipes, and then took a closer look at a few traditions, including the dreidel, a spinning top game played at the holiday. Each side of the top bears a Hebrew letter that helps direct how the game is played. Letters represent the words nothing,

all, half and put in. Ser said the traditional story about dreidel's origin places it in ancient times, when the conquered Jewish people were forbidden to study the Torah. They studied it anyway, but kept the game on hand to fool the Greeks or Romans into thinking they were simply gambling.

"No, I hate to tell you this, but that story is an elaborate explanation of a non-Jewish game that Jews adopted," Ser said. "The game was played around Christmas time in Europe ... totem or tea totem. By 1801

there were four letters on this spinning top and they represented four words in English. Our Eastern European game of dreidel is directly based on the German equivalent of the totem game. "Does it matter? No, it's still a nice game and we play it."

Hanukkah gifts
Gift-giving for Hanukkah likely started in Europe, she said. "It probably came from Christmas and other customs, such as giving money for good luck. But it really took off with the commercialization of Christmas."

Ser used passages

Ser said the traditional story about dreidel's origin places it in ancient times, when the conquered Jewish people were forbidden to study the Torah. They studied it anyway, but kept the game on hand to fool the Greeks or Romans into thinking they were simply gambling.

referring to Hanukkah from the Talmud — the book of Jewish laws — along with sections from the books of Maccabees, to suggest that the story about oil lasting eight days helped to "connect all the pieces," from stories about the first destruction and rededication of the Temple, to the second rededication in the Maccabee's time.

"What this story is about more than anything else is continuity," she said, adding that it served as a "connection that people could grasp."

"People like miracles. There was a miracle but I don't think it was the oil. The miracle is not that a small band of Jews was able to defeat the army. The miracle to me is that they decided it was important enough and they valued their traditions enough to rise up against certain defeat and win," she said.

"My challenge to you is, now that you have all this background, how are you going to make it relevant for your Hanukkah?"

Good deeds

She suggested incorporating "something

positive," such as good works into Hanukkah celebrations. Ser, her husband, and their sons "co-adopted" a family through Jewish Family Services for the holiday this year. Other good deeds for Hanukkah might include a donation to a food bank or volunteering at a feeding program, such as a soup kitchen or Meals on Wheels, on Christmas day, freeing up Christian volunteers to spend the time at home with their families.

"These are things we can do that add meaning to our Hanukkah celebration," she said. "There is nothing wrong with perpetuating the story of the miracle of the oil and making latkes and giving gifts and spinning the dreidel. But it's important to know that the message of Hanukkah is that it was so important for our people to keep their customs alive, that they fought in a battle that they were sure to lose and they were willing to lose it all in order to try to succeed."

Visit Adat Shalom's website at adatshalom.org. Listen to the pop Hanukkah songs at www.maccabees.com and www.foheads.com.

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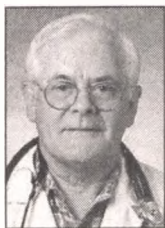
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Consumer advocacy needed now more than ever

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

In my many years of writing this column and my almost 30 years of doing a radio show I have seldom been in tears doing my enjoyable work. Last Saturday I received an on-air phone call from Dr. Sase who lives in Ann Arbor. He described the following scenario:

"We received a call from an air duct cleaning company who said they could clean our air ducts for a special price. We were taken by their phone call and committed to have them do the job. They came to our home and quoted a price of \$800 to do the job and after I explained



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

that it was too costly, they did the work for \$600. After they were finished, we have been seeing moths flying all around the different rooms. It appears that we have been scammed by a very unethical air duct cleaning company and can you help us?"

He went on to tell me that he is 90 years old and suffered a stroke some months ago. His wife is 88 and they live in a modest home of 1,200 square feet. Suddenly he burst out crying while talking to me and that is all it took to get me in the same frame of mind. Now, isn't this enough to give you a picture of what happened to this good man and his wife?

I have written in the past about crooked air duct cleaners and how it is a national concern and how all consumers should be aware of whom the bad guys are. Here is a typical story that is not going to end until I get myself involved. I have already

made arrangements for a reputable company to go to the doctor's home and give me a detailed report on the quality of the work performed by the bad guy. Once I get this report I am going to visit Dr. Sase and take him to his district court and help him file a small claims case so he can get his money back.

As you can tell, I haven't mentioned this bad guy's company name and all I know right now is that he is located in Livonia. It might be possible that he reads this column and I want him to know that I'm coming after him. Once I prove in a court of law that he ripped off this particular consumer and senior citizen I am going to write the second chapter of this story. I am also going to contact some friends in the television industry and don't be surprised if you learn more about this company from watching the nightly news.

Now let me give you a refresher course on my past. Today I am a senior citizen, retired on fixed income but I used to be one hell of a consumer advocate. I used to work for Esther Shapiro, the retired director of Detroit Consumer Affairs and she was about as tough as they come when it comes to dealing with unethical business dealings. I spent years working as a fraud investigator with Attorney Generals Frank Kelley and Jennifer Granholm and I helped put some nasty people on hold. The television industry used me many times to help them set up sting operations which helped consumers become more aware and educated on how some services are too good to be true.

In this State of Michigan, consumer protection is almost a thing of the past. There are no more consum-

er protection agencies that help people with problems like the one described above. You have to fend for yourself and God help you if you happen to be old and not as sharp as you once were. In the old days it wouldn't take this long to solve a problem like a rip-off company so described. I would just pick up the consumer and drive over to the crook's business office, explain what the problem was, introduce myself and get the distraught homeowners money returned on the spot. Maybe the guy who is now in trouble is reading this column and if so, he can send a check for \$600 to Dr. Sase in Ann Arbor. He can do it now or do it later. 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

Therapy choir offers free concert

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan (TCM) will hold its annual holiday concert, 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, at The Sanctuary of Villa Maria, 15131 Newburgh, Livonia.

The TCM is an a capella therapy singing group comprised of individuals who are challenged by traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities and related special needs. The group has given free concerts throughout Michigan for more than a decade. It has been featured in five PBS television specials and it performs annual at the Capitol in Lansing. It was awarded a legislative proclamation denoting the first week of March as "Choir Therapy Awareness Week".

The upcoming concert will feature a sample of the TCM Choir membership and volunteer voices. Visit www.therapychoirs.org for more information.

GARDEN & NATURE

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

Craft workshop

Stop by the Nature Center in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills and create your own natural wreath and holiday gifts using materials found in nature. Create a holiday wreath using grapevine and greens, make a nature ornament and then decorate a cookie to take home. Kids' crafts will also be available. The Nature Holiday Craft Workshop will be held 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15 and is designed for all ages. Children must be supervised by an adult. Pre-registration is at <https://recreg.fhgov>.

Participants also can drop in throughout the morning and pay at the door. However, space is limited. The fee is \$8 per person or \$25 per family. All materials will be provided; (248) 477-1135 or e-mail asimons@fhgov.com.

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 hillanddale.org for more information.

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Help Wanted - Medical

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RN
Taylor Non-Profit has a full-time opening for a Registered Nurse. Fax resume to The Information Center at 734-287-7861

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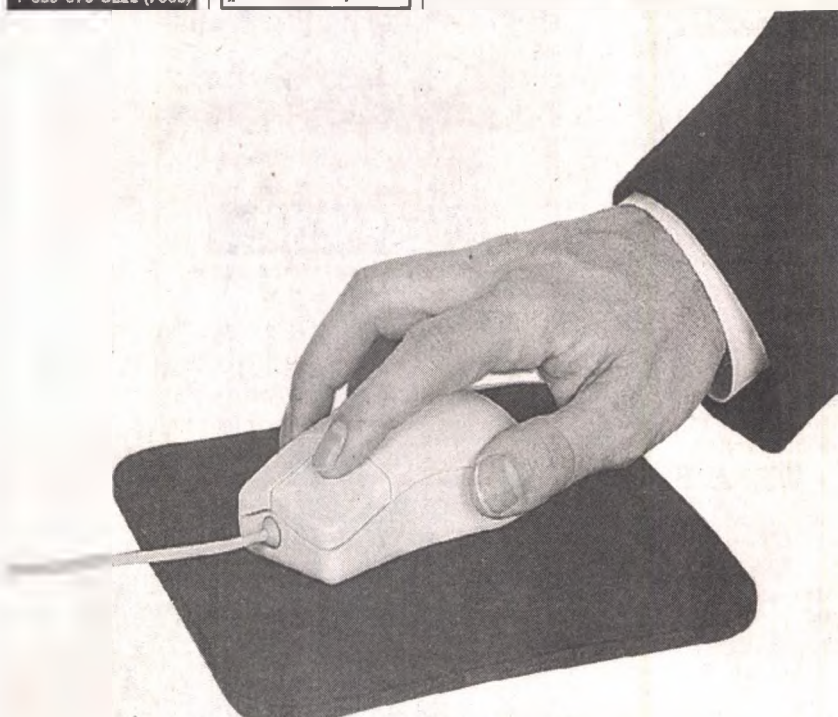
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Annual ball raises funds to help fight kidney disease

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKF) drew its largest audience ever — nearly 800 attendees — to the 8th Annual Kidney Ball: Motown Magic on Saturday, Dec. 1, at the MGM Grand Detroit. The event raised more than \$618,000.

The Motown-inspired evening included a cocktail hour with an expansive silent auction, dinner, an exciting live auction, and live entertainment by the Jerry Ross Band. The silent auction raised more than \$55,000 from more than 250 items that were sold. The live auction raised more than \$70,000.

Blanche Mack from Meijer and Myra Moreland, president of Revstone, co-chaired the event. Many local celebrities were in attendance such as R&B soul singer/songwriter KEM, former Detroit Lions offensive tackle, Lomas Brown, as well as special guest, Chef Aaron McCargo, Jr. who hosts the show *Big Daddy's House* on the Food Network. He was on hand courtesy of Fresenius Medical Care North America.

"We have been told that the Kidney Ball is the most fun gala in the region," said Dan Carney, president and CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. "We strive to provide our guests with an unforgettable experience while keeping in mind that the Kidney Ball is an important fundraiser for our organization and for spreading awareness about kidney disease throughout Michigan. From the efforts of our event chairs, to our dedicated committee, and wonderful volunteers, the NKF is lucky to have so many friends and supporters."

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is the largest affiliate of the National Kidney Foundation in the United States.



Matt and Kelly Gerlach of Plymouth



Jason and Sheila Jackson of Livonia



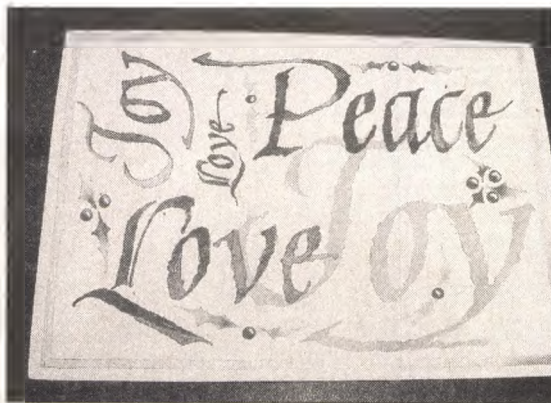
Blanche and James Mack of Canton



The Brandon family of Farmington visits with Santa at the annual Kidney Ball. Family members are parents James and Debi, daughter Katie, and their son, Tommy. The Brandons also are active in National Kidney Foundation of Michigan walks.

For more information about the NKF's programs and services throughout Michigan, visit www.nkf.org or call (800) 482-1455. NKF is also on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube at @KidneyMI.

Holiday greetings



Wigs4Kids is selling greeting cards that feature a universal message of peace, joy and love. They are packaged in a reusable red tulle bag sealed with a gingerbread ornament and cost \$10. Save on two packs of cards at \$15. The Wigs4Kids program provides wigs and support services at no cost to Michigan children experiencing hair loss from medical disorders and treatment. For more information visit wigs4kids.org.

MUSIC SHOWCASE BENEFITS NEEDY CHILDREN

Students from Axis Music Academy's three locations, Southfield, Canton and Birmingham, will take the stage to raise money and awareness for the Axis Music Foundation at the school's student showcase and fundraiser, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Majestic Theater's Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Tickets are available in advance at any Axis Music location or at the showcase. Cost is \$5.

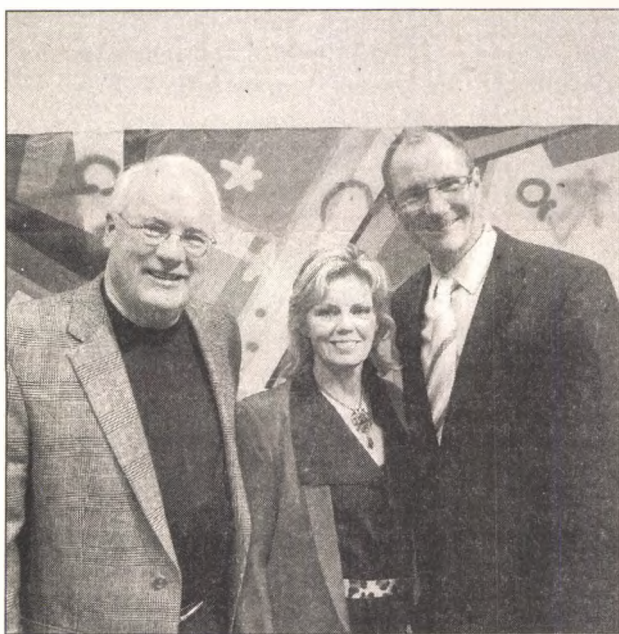
Axis Music Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, established earlier this year to help raise money, resources and awareness of the importance of music education for students of all ages, levels and backgrounds.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will fund students in an innovative pilot program that teaches music to underprivileged children.

"Many of these students find it severely challenging to get up and perform in front of an audience," stated Andrea Antone, director of marketing and events coordinator for Axis Music Academy. "The idea of this program is to tap into their creative ability in a focused and productive manner and build their confidence through the creative process."

Students learn to write music, record, produce and perform at Axis Music Academy. For more information visit axismusic.com.

At Cranbrook



JULIE YOLLES

Farmington Hills residents Kerry and Susan Feiten, Cranbrook Schools Board of Trustee, attend the "New (and then) Again" benefit for the Cranbrook Art Museum, at the Museum in Bloomfield Hills. That's Gregory Wittkopp, (right) director of Cranbrook Art Museum and Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research with the Feitens. He recently was awarded the 2012 President's Award at the annual Michigan Museums Association Conference in Muskegon.

ONLINE PHOTO GALLERIES

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

STARTING AND STOPPING MEDICINES

A common problem for a physician is giving instructions to a patient who started a drug then stopped the medicine, and now wants to return to it. This situation occurs when a person on a medicine, say methotrexate, needs an operation such as a knee replacement. Surgeons want patients off their rheumatoid arthritis medications, because these drugs interfere with healing and place the patient at risk for infection.

In such instances the question arises of how long before the operation to stop the arthritis drug and how long after can the patient restart the drug?

No good rules exist. If a patient has taken methotrexate or an anti-TNF medicine for 6 months to a year or more, the likelihood is that the body has stores of the drug so that stopping the medicine for a week or two would not change the risks the medication to surgery. However, stopping the drug a month or 6 weeks before surgery brings on the chance of an arthritis flare which would lead to impairment and decreased activity. It means the patient would not be in maximum good condition to withstand the stress of operation.

In certain instances resuming a medicine after temporary cessation is not simply a matter of a return to the same schedule as before the interruption. For example, Arava, a medicine used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, needs a loading dose of 5 tabs/day x 3 days before going to a single dose daily. No rules exist to guide a physician on the length of time off drug is needed before restarting with or without a loading dose.

The question of what drug regimen to use is easy to ask, but difficult to answer.

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Milestones



Fondaw-Havens

Robert and Cathy Fondaw of Livonia are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jordyn Marie, to Preston Mathew Havens, son of Kathy Havens of Holt. A graduate from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Jordyn is working toward a master of counseling degree at Oakland University. Preston is a graduate of Michigan State University and also holds a master of economics degree from Central Michigan University. He is employed in Falls Church, Va., with the Lewin Group as a research consultant. The couple plan to live in the Washington, D.C., area after the wedding, which is planned for September 2013.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

December

ADVENT SERMONS

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. Sundays through Dec. 23
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia
Details: Rev. Paul Stunkel will focus on "Why? The Prophecy, The Stable, a Virgin," Dec. 9; "Why? Shepherds and Wise Men," Dec. 16; and "Why? Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Family, and featuring a live nativity, Dec. 23
Contact: (734) 422-1470

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, and 19
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: The meditation them is the beginnings of the Gospel of St. Matthew, St. Luke and Revelation
Contact: (734) 968-3523

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 and 19
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market in Farmington Hills
Details: A pre-service meal will be served at 6 p.m.
Contact: (248) 553-3380

BELL CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9
Location: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia
Details: Classical Bells performs, with The Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door
Contact: www.seatyourself.biz/stmatthewslivonia; (734) 422-6038

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, west of Inkster Road, Livonia
Details: This service is designed for individuals who struggle with the holidays. It is for those who may be grieving, for those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or just struggling with the holidays in general. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service
Contact: (734) 422-1470

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19
Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Rd. in Garden City
Details: The service, held near the shortest day of the year, the winter solstice, is geared toward those grieving for the loss of a loved one, a failed relationship, job loss, or loneliness and depression. The service offers an opportunity to recognize challenging situations and yet receive words of hope for the coming year. This service of hope will include prayer, readings, and special music along with lighting of candles
Contact: (734) 427-3660

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All-you-can-eat pancake and French toast breakfast also will include ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice and milk. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10. The St. Theodore Men's Club is sponsoring the breakfast
Contact: (734) 425-4421

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16
Location: First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: "One Quiet Night" is a dramatic musical, written by Tony Wood and Heidi Petak and arranged and orchestrated by Richard Kingsmore. It's directed by Ron Newsome. Admission

is free
Contact: (734) 981-6460
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 23
Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield
Details: Annual Christmas pageant will include the Christmas story, special music and the Praise Dance Team. Light refreshments will be served after the service
Contact: (248) 569-2972 or e-mail firstbaptist@fbc-detroit.org

CLOTHING BANK
Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton
Details: Free clothing and shoes to those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480 or (734) 927-6686

CONCERT
Time/Date: 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9
Location: Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Listen to the chancel choir, orchestra, handbells, ensembles and soloists from Ward's music department and sing along on selected songs. No ticket required for this Christmas concert
Contact: (248) 374-7400

CONCERT
Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, 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 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9
Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia
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

CONCERT
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16
Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, located on northbound Southfield service drive just north of Eight Mile, Southfield
Details: The church's Chancel Choir and guest oboist, harpist, cellist and singers present the cantata, "The Advent of Hope, The Birth of Peace." Light refreshments will be served after the service
Contact: (248) 569-2972 or e-mail firstbaptist@fbc-detroit.org

COOKIE WALK
Time/Date: Doors open 8 a.m., sale starts 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 15
Location: Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 Seven Mile, between Farmington Road and Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Come early for coffee and conversation. There will be a large quantity of European cookies, nut, poppy seed, and apricot rolls, pierogies, sweet bread and stuffed cabbage available for purchase
Contact: (248) 476-3432

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

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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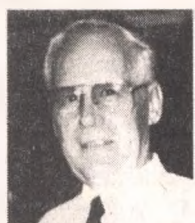
BASS, CLARENCE EDGAR

Chelsea, Michigan. Age 97, died Friday, November 30, 2012 at Chelsea Retirement Community. He was born January 11, 1915 in Oconee, Illinois, the son of Edgar & Clarissa M. (Neathery) Bass. Clarence was a mechanic, and a member of the Operating Engineers Union for 65 years. He worked for commercial contractor Darin & Armstrong (now known as Walbridge Aldinger Company). Clarence was an avid outdoorsman, and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and hunting for more mushrooms. He had an innovative mind and enjoyed repurposing items around the house for a new and creative use. He was a wonderful gardener, and took pleasure in supplying his neighbors with vegetables each summer. On June 25, 1937, he married Esther Chamberlain, and she preceded him in death on Dec. 27, 2008. He was a loving father to Nancy (Donald) Kwasny of Howell and Michael (Kimberly) Bass of Chelsea; proud grandfather of Mark (Lisa), Brian, Taylor and Lauren; and great-grandfather to Matthew and Hannah. A private memorial service will be held at the Chelsea Retirement Community Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice. Arrangements by: Cole Funeral Chapel



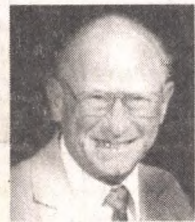
BERTSCH SMALLIDGE BROWN JOAN

7/7/1929-12/3/2012
 (83) was born to Ralph E. Smallidge and Grace E. (Humphrey) on July 7th 1929, at Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Her family lived in Flint and Ypsilanti and after attending Ypsilanti High School, Joan attended Michigan Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Teaching and a Master's degree in Special Education. In 1977, she earned a second Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Michigan. She enjoyed a very fulfilling teaching career which spanned four decades beginning in Grand Rapids in the early 1950s. She was not only a classroom teacher but also a homebound teacher--for students with illness or disability--and finally a consultant in special education compliance for Oakland County Schools. Joan is predeceased by her only sibling, Patricia (Sutton) and her first husband, Ian H. (Scott) Brown, Jr. whom she married in 1953. Joan and Scott lived in Midland and Birmingham before making their home in Farmington Hills in 1958. Joan is also predeceased by her second husband, Thomas Bertsch, whom she married in 2001. Joan is survived by her three children: Daniel (Claire) Brown, Lawrence (Connie) Brown and Rebecca (Edward) Brinskele and her three step-children: Frederick (Elaine) Bertsch, Maggie Hunkele and Lawrence (Diann) Bertsch. Joan is also survived by her seven grandchildren: Amanda, Caitlin and Bill Brown and Paige, Jake, McCall and Walker Brinskele and six step-grandchildren: Ethan and Parker Portice, Sarah Renee (Dave) Hytinen, Heather (Tim) Muir and Matthew, Michael and Thomas Bertsch and step-great-grandchild: Liam Muir. Joan was an energetic, inspirational and loving mother, wife, grandmother and friend as well as a gifted teacher and an accomplished gardener. She will be dearly missed. A memorial celebrating the life of Joan Bertsch will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 2012 at 11 a.m., with visitation at 10 a.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, 121 South Harrison, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Memorial donations suggested to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org). Arrangements made by Case (casefuneralhome.com). Saginaw, Michigan.



BOYD, HUBERT J.

Dec. 2, 2012; age 85 of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late Lois. Dear father of Danny (Maureen), Norene (Michael) Hanchett, the late Kathleen Mary & Keith Allen. Brother of Francis & the late Claude, Gerald. Loving grandfather of Melodie (Jason) Alery, Darin Albany, Amy (Bernard) Rizkallah, Angela (Vincent Kutscheid) Albany, Danielle (Roberts) Short, Bryan (Tonya Shotwell) Boyd, Danny Boyd. Also survived by 9 great grandchildren. Family will receive friends Sat. 12 noon until time of Memorial Service at 3 pm at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family requests memorials to Odyssey Hospice. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com



CHAPIN, GORDON CLARK,

Age 91 of Plymouth, December 3, 2012. Beloved husband of Elizabeth (Dinkel) Chapin. Dear father to Ann (Bruce) Cavender of Northville and Clark (Karen) Chapin of Plymouth. Grandfather to Robert (Susan) Cavender of Livonia and Bill (Anna) Chapin of Oakland, CA. He was preceded in death by his wife and brothers, Martin and John. He was the son of Martin G. Chapin and Margaret (Clark) Chapin of Detroit and was born on February 19, 1921. Gordon graduated from Detroit's Redford High School in 1939 and Wayne State University in 1948. A veteran of the US Army, he served in Europe during WWII as part of the 109th Maintenance Company (Medium). He was an engineer who helped develop the first domestic automotive disc brake system while employed by Kelsey-Hayes in Romulus. He was active at the Plymouth Historical Museum and Risen Christ Lutheran Church. An active sailor, he served as Commodore for Portage Yacht Club in Pinckney and sailed 18-ft Interlake Class sailboats until age 85. He was honored by Portage Yacht Club in 2006 for his years of service. Visitation Fri 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 W. Ann Arbor Road, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 or Risen Christ.
 To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

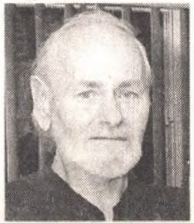


CLARK, TREVA N.

Age 87, November 30, 2012. Loving mother of Dennis (Penney) Clark, Lynne (Ron) Almos, Karen (Fred) Layton and the late Brandon Clark. Dear grandmother of Angie, Arianna, Bonnie, Derek, Amie, Jayme, Ryan, Andrew, Laura and Lisa. Dear great-grandmother of 10. Sister of Larry, Dixie, Bob, Sharon and Larry. Funeral Services were held for Treva on December 3, 2012 at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. Please share a memory at: www.rgharris.com

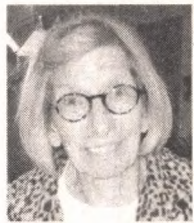
GULLEDGE, BETTY JANE

Born April 16, 1929
 Died November 23, 2012
 Born in Henry County, Ohio our loving mother was preceded in death by her parents: John Henry and Lula May Swalley. Her brothers; Robert & Donald Swalley. She moved from Ohio to Michigan then began working as a home health care aid until her late 60's when she retired. She leaves behind to mourn her passing 5 children: Roger Hurd, James Hurd, Linda Rabe, Pamela Bynum, and Sheryl Pritchard, followed by her 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many close friends. She is dearly loved and will greatly be missed. Services will be held at Husbands Family Funeral Home 2401 S. Wayne Rd. Westland, MI 48186; followed by a lunch-in Sat. Dec. 8th 2012 at 2:00. Rest In The Arms Of The Angels Mom.



LEMA, JERRY ROBERT

63; of Redford; December 5, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Darlene Foshie Lema; sons, Jerome William-Victor Lema and Anthony Joseph Lema; father, Jerome Lema; step daughters, Saasha Shanice Brown and Chandra Carolyn Brown; grandchildren, Nicklas and Alyssa; step grandchildren, Aubrey, Austin and Chase. Sadly, Jerry was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Lema. Funeral service Monday, December 10, 10am, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., btwn. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River, downtown Farmington. 248-474-5200. Visitation Sunday 2-8 pm. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorial gifts suggested to Wounded Warrior Project, woundedwarriorproject.org. heeney-sundquist.com



MARKEY, DOROTHY M. M.D.

December 5, 2012, age 87. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Frank R. for 53 years. Dear mother of Tanya Gold (Gary), Christine Parcels (Jeff), Micheline, Marcia, Michael and the late Peter and Steven. Grandmother of Rebecca Mellem (Adam), Natalie Dosch (Jordan), Elliott Parcels and Graham Parcels. Great-grandmother of Aidan Mellem and Camden Dosch. Funeral Mass Monday 10a.m. at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon at Woodland, Birmingham. Visitation at church begins at 9a.m. Memorial tributes to St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf, 1809 Clarkston Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63017. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500
 View obituary and share memories at: DesmondFuneralHome.com
 A DESMOND SON

SADOWSKI, ANTHONY F.

Age 64, December 1, 2012. Resident to Westland. www.edwardswansonandsonfuneralhome.com

SLOCUM, WILLIAM R.

Age 89 of Birmingham, passed away November 19, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Barbara. Loving father of Gail (Keith) Logsdon and G. Scott Slocum. Dear brother of John (Mary) Slocum and the late Robert. Proud grandfather of Molly and Kelsey. There will be a memorial service 10:30 AM Saturday, December 15 at Greenfield Presbyterian Church, 2312 Greenfield Road, Berkley (1 Blk. S of Catalpa). Share your memories at www.sawyerfuller.com

SMALLEY, KENNETH E.

Age 59, of Garden City formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away after a three year battle with cancer November 15, 2012. Husband of Gail, brother of Nancy (John) Rambow, uncle to Christopher (Lora) and Sandra Rambow, great uncle to Brooke Rambow. Son of the late Edward and Mildred (Brown) Smalley. A memorial service is scheduled for December 15, 2012 at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City at 11:00 am.



TAIT, JOHN FINLEY

Age 86, of Dearborn MI, died on November 29, 2012 in Dearborn John was born August 31, 1926 to George H. and Anna L. (MacDonald) Tait in Birmingham, Michigan. Along with his father and brother Ron, John worked for the Detroit News for 25 years, as a flyman, journeyman pressman, then production manager for the News and Free Press. In 1978 he moved on to Stone-Consolidated Corp. in Chicago, and retired in 1995. Mr. Tait is a graduate of Catholic Central, Wayne State University in Detroit, and Illinois Benedictine in Lisle. John married Ruth Elizabeth Parkilla on April 1, 1948 at Sacred Heart Church in Dearborn, MI. Ruth passed away in May 1995. They raised their ten children in Dearborn, Bloomfield Hills, MI, Downers Grove, Ill, and Oscoda, MI, Green Valley AZ, Indianapolis, IN. He was Commodore of the Green Valley Yacht Club. His flag retired to Boston Mass. Mr. Tait is survived by daughters, Anne Elizabeth, Patty Kowalski, Barbara (Mark) Cataldo; sons, George, John, Douglas, (Jayne), Robert (Joy), William (Joyce), Steven (Mary) Tait, Michael (Susan); 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one sister Anna Tait; wife Martha Anne Tait. He was preceded in death by wife Ruth; sisters Barbara Tait and Mary Guimond; and brother George Tait. Interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Oscoda, MI.

In Memoriam



SUMMERS, TODD R.

June 27, 1962 - Dec. 8, 2007
 Five years later, dear Todd, no words can express how much you are still missed and loved.

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Thank You!

Thanks to all of you who submitted a toy during Scoop's Toy Drive. All of the gifts were given to Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford and Orchards Children's Services in Southfield.

Holiday Season Photo CONTEST

Send Scoop a photo along with a short note of how you spent your Holiday Season. If selected you could win \$25 Gift Card to Toys R Us!

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Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!
 * Required for Birthday Club

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- | | | |
|----------------|---------|-------|
| Kamar Taylor | Inkster | 12/9 |
| Antonio Biggs | Livonia | 12/22 |
| Michael Brooks | Detroit | 12/25 |
| Damien Dailide | Canton | 12/27 |

Wanted!

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about? Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight.

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Coordinator/Contributing Writer:
 Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager
 Design/Layout:
 Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?
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S	P	O	O	N	D	I	P	K	E	O	R	R	F
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W	N	D	D	E	O	E	S	F	O	N	E	O	S
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Did You Know?

THIRTY-FOUR TO THIRTY-SIX MILLION CHRISTMAS TREES ARE PRODUCED FOR THE HOLIDAY EACH YEAR.



Courtesy of Metro Creative

What's the Difference?

There are five things different between picture A and picture B. Can you find all of them?



Courtesy of Metro Creative



Answers: 1. missing arm 2. bigger hat 3. no mouth on middle snowman 4. extra buttons on left 5. snow is falling

Lucky November Winners!

What are you thankful for?

I'm thankful for life, liberty, and to be all that I can be in this big world we live in. I thankful to have two loving parent that love me unconditionally. We may not have everything that we want, but we have each other. And that is a blessing. Love you Scoop.



Khalil Ali
 Detroit, Age 13

What are you thankful for?

I'm thankful for my family because my family takes very good care of me and they also give me a lot of love and care.



Damien Dailide
 Canton, Age 9

Deadline for submissions:

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, Mi 48170

All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Media by close of the business day on December 28th.

or email your form to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.



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Based in New York, Shen Yun Performing Arts was founded with the mission to restore 5,000 years of divinely inspired Chinese culture, which has been mostly destroyed in China under communist rule. In fact, a show like Shen Yun can no longer be found in China today.

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—*Christine Walevska, cello virtuoso*

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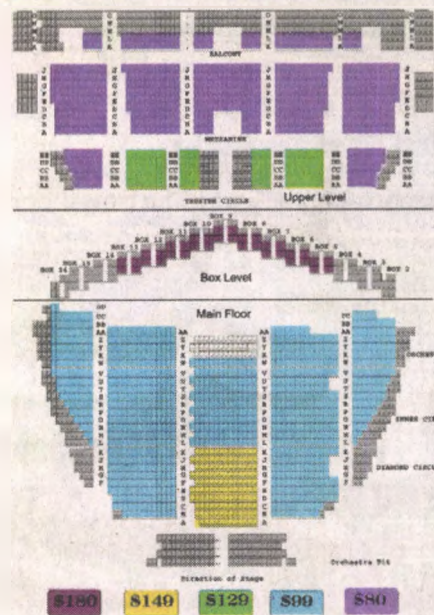
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DATES & TIMES

Thu	Jan 24,	7:30pm
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Sat	Jan 26,	2:30pm
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Sun	Jan 27,	2:00pm

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No Degree? Seven ways to sell your experience

Rachel Zupek
CareerBuilder.com writer

Becky Blanton, 53, has worked for five media companies, been an assistant advertising director for a Fortune 500 company and owned her own newspaper. She's also currently writing a book called "Staying Hungry: The Official Guide for Never Settling for What Life Puts on Your Plate," about grit, determination and perseverance.

Though she has some college education under her belt, Blanton doesn't have her college degree. She does everything she can to gain experience by attending conferences, workshops, seminars and job training classes and shadowing friends at work.

Blanton is not alone in lacking a college degree. In 2007, 46.6 percent of the labor force had less than a high school diploma and 69.9 percent had no college degree, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. While getting an education is certainly important, many people argue that it's not the degree that's important; it's what you learn and how you apply it.

"There are many myths about what a degree can do for you," says John Murphy, author of "Success Without a College Degree." "Too many college grads depend on the promise that their degree is a 'golden ticket.' Employers know that vague degrees, such as English literature, humanities, sociology and liberal arts have little to do with the practical world. The things that get jobs have more to do with attitude, first impressions and experience than a diploma."

Blanton agrees that a diploma

is not the most important thing to an employer. She says that not having her degree has never been a disadvantage.

"I have only been turned down from one job because of a lack of a degree and that was teaching journalism at a college," Blanton says. "Experience, not education levels, is what employers are after. They want to know you can do the job. I had to work a little harder, learn a little more and go the extra mile to show employers I could do the job. I learned the people skills, attitude and job skills to succeed and didn't rest on my 'I have a degree' laurels that so many people do."

If you don't have a degree and you're looking for ways to land a job in spite of it, here are some tips on how you can sell your experience, regardless of your education.

1. Be a problem solver

"Millions graduate with vague degrees that only attest to one's ability to read books and take tests, but not necessarily solve problems," Murphy says. "Industry experience conveys that you can solve problems for an employer right away or with little learning curve. Examine your experience and spell out how you helped solve problems, any problems. Competitors with degrees won't be able to compare."

2. Tell your 'Rocky' story

"Not having an impressive academic pedigree — or any degree at all — can be a plus if you've found a way to succeed to this point without one," says Sean O'Neil, principal of One to One Leadership, a sales and man-

agement training and recruitment company. "The more you can demonstrate your success relative to more pedigreed peers the better. You can paint yourself as a self-made professional, as compared with the silver-spoon Ivy Leaguer who had all the odds in their favor."

3. Be open to education

"Many companies have favorable back-to-school plans for their employees. If you're speaking with a prospective employer that places a large emphasis on academics, you might want to indicate a desire to take advantage of their plan," O'Neil says. "Demonstrating a desire to make up any gaps in your résumé while on the job might just tip the scales in your favor."

4. Don't make it a big deal

"Don't make it such a big deal and it just might not be," says Bill Gaffney of the Amara Group, a recruiting and coaching company. "If it is an impediment to you, then you are going to reflect that when you talk with the company. There are really very few companies where the degree will stop [someone] from hiring a person if they are the best out there."

5. Focus on achievements over education

"If you don't have a degree, it's very important for you to shine in every other aspect of your résumé," says Cathy Severson, career counselor and owner of Retirement Life Matters. "Don't settle for a list of tasks, but really demonstrate how you can

do the job better than anyone else can. The best way is to do this by providing concrete evidence of how you have excelled at similar tasks in the past through accomplishments."

6. Prepare your success stories

"For the interview, prepare several stories of success that showcase how you have accomplished tasks similar to others who possess a degree," says Barbara Safani of Career Solvers. If you are a sales professional, for example, focus on how you exceeded your sales targets and have done as well as or better than your colleagues. If you are an accountant, prove how you have uncovered errors and recouped money for the company — despite the fact that you didn't formally study accounting. If you are a high school graduate competing against a recent college graduate, talk about the experience you have garnered in part-time or summer jobs or full-time jobs you had while others your age were at college, she says.

7. Create a combination résumé

"The most important task is to market your key skills and accomplishments to the employer by creating a résumé that focuses on your contributions to your previous employers and your experience that is most relevant to the position



for which you are applying," says Winifred Winston, certified professional résumé writer. "By creating a combination résumé that lists your relevant skills and experience first, you are sure to capture the hiring manager's attention. You initially want the employer to be able to fold your document in half and just by reading the top portion they know you are someone they should contact to schedule an interview. Does that top portion list education? Not necessarily."

Rachel Zupek is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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Homes For Rent

LIVONIA Schools 3 bdrm, 2 car garage, c/a. Fully renovated, all new. No smoking/pets. \$1050/mo. 248-569-4751

\$399* moves you in until FEBRUARY 1st 2013!
3 & 4 bedroom/2 bath rental homes.
All appliances
Washer/dryer & A/C!
Pets welcome!
\$0 App Fee
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Great Northville Location
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REDFORD 1/2 Off 1st Month's Rent
Large 1 bdrm.
C/A, storage
Tons of closet space
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WESTLAND: Brick ranch, 1-275 area, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, air decorated, clean, no pets. \$675. 734-591-9163

WESTLAND: Livonia Schools. 3 bdrm brick ranch, 1.5 bath, bsmt, painted, fenced yd. \$825. No Sect. 8. 248-661-9062

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FARMINGTON HILLS OWN OR LEASE \$575/mo OR LESS
• Site Rent Included
• 3 bdrm, 2 full baths
All Appl. • We Finance
• New & Pre-owned avail.
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248-231-0801
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FARMINGTON HILLS: Room to rent, house privileges. \$375 incl. cabine/utilities. Call: (816) 277-7386

INKSTER/CHEERY HILL RD. Mature person Private. Ig upper, furnished studio room. TV, microwave, bar, refrigerator, a/c, \$85/wk, \$200 Sec. Dep (313) 561-3922

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NOW - DOWNTOWN: 4800 sq. ft. office, \$5/sq. ft. **WAREHOUSE:** 2400 sq. ft., \$4/sq. ft. (248) 219-1930

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CANTON 7500 Canton Center Rd. 2.5 acres w/ building. Former Century 21 Gold House for rent \$1800/mo. Sale req. 734-320-7500, 734-891-9380

Garage & Mini Storage

CANTON-GARAGE FOR RENT 6 months, \$200/mo 1 year, \$175/mo. 734-320-7500

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Brick - Block & Cement

MASONRY REPAIRS, TILE WORK. Exc. work. Great prices. 30 yrs. exp. Ref. Lic/Ins Call Mike 248-513-0027

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BARRY'S CARPENTRY 25 yrs. exp. Start to Finish. Lic/Ins. (248) 478-8559 barrys carpentry.com

Carpentry

GROUT REPAIR \$50/UP

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A-1 HAULING Move scrap metal, clean basements, garages, stores, etc. Lowest prices in town. Quick service. Free est. Wayne/ Oakland. Central location. 248-547-2764, 248-559-8138

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PAINTING BY ROBERT • Wallpaper Removal • Int • Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair • Staining. 25 yrs. exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

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Happy Ads

I Love To Teach! Tutoring Available. All ages. My area or yours. Affordable. Call Tonia at 734-748-7271. terkos@mymadonna.edu

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Absolutely Free

Arabian horse - 20 years old FREE! Have owned her for 13 years, shots up to date, has been boarded at same location all her life. (248) 444-9773

KITTENS TO GOOD HOME! 3 mos old litter trained. People friendly. Loves kids! (248) 408-2656

Garage/Moving Sales

ESTATE SALE: Sat. Dec. 15th, 8-5pm CASH ONLY! 6882 Fish Lake Road, Holly MI 48442. Entire household must go! Furniture, antiques, game room, taxidermy trophy mounts, patio sets, freezers, tools, hunting gear, men's clothing and tons more!

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

BEDROOM SET Beautiful wood bedroom set. Full/queen bed, nightstand, chest of drawers & dresser w/3 section mirror. Value is \$1,000, asking \$300. Call until 8pm (248) 763-2928 jmschoel962@gmail.com

CHAIRS: by S. Bent 6 chairs, 5 Males & 1 Captain. Excellent Condition. \$290. 313-565-2335

COMPUTER: New screen, sacrifice \$125. Dining rm set, 6 chairs, table, china cabinet - \$95. 2 window air cond., 5,000 BTU - \$40/ea. 2 lg. Jensen speakers, reclining couch, new, \$175, best lg. TV w/stand, \$60. 734-367-0556, 734-744-5313

FORMAL DINING: Bernhard lg china, server, table, 2 ext. 8 chairs. Formal glass top coffee table, dark gold, lg gold mirror. All estate, call 586-574-9037

FURNITURE: Microwave cabinet w/storage, \$100. Oak round dining table, 2 leafs, 2 chairs, 42", \$250. Hoosier, over 100 yrs old, best offer. Olympic queen mattress, best offer Entertainment center/bar \$150. 313-532-9681

HIGH END FURNITURE SALE incl. chry bdrm, dining room. Also Victorian furniture & marble tables. 734-301-6951

Appliances

REFRIGERATORS \$150 & up! 60 day warranty/delivery! Call: (734) 796-3472

Bicycles

BIKE - Eddie Bauer MongOOSE woman's mountain bike 2003. rarely ridden. Asking \$150. Manual included. 734-981-5793

Exercise Fitness Equip

EXERCISE ROOM EQUIP 1 Water cooler, hot & cold stainless and black, 1 Toshiba TV, VHS and DVD player built in, 1 small all black mini fridge, 1 Tentrui Rowing Machine, 1 Tentrui Exercise Bike, 1 Tentrui II, 1 Stepper Machine, 1 Wind Cycle Bike. All excellent condition and all excellent working condition. 248-330-7899, 248-538-0859. **TO VIEW BEST OFFER ON EACH BY DEC 9**

Recycle This Newspaper

WALDOCK TREE FARM

We Grow: Caanan, Concolor, Corkbark, Fraser, Korean Fir, Black Hills, Blue and Norway. All trees shaken, wrapped & drilled for free! Large trees up to 16'. Wreaths, Homemade Donuts, Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa. Cider and a Gift Shop in our warm barn. Open Fri. Sat. & Sun. 9am til Dark. 3050 Dutchler Rd. Howell, Take D-19 (at I-96, exit 137) S. to Coon Lake Rd. W. to Dutchler Rd. Follow the signs. For more info & a map. (517) 546-3890 Waldocktreefarms.com

Cheapskate Charley's Smaller deals on exceptional 8 Mile & Van Dyke (Bel-Air Centre) PHONE: 313-263-1740

FURNITURE - Sofa Sleeper, full size, asking \$50. Reclining couch and loveseat, asking \$750. (734) 981-5793

TABLE, oak, pedestal with 6 chairs

SNOWBLOWER Ariens 8 hp power driven. 734-673-1890

Musical Instruments

ORGAN - Lowery Festival. With bench. Exc. cond. Has less than 40 hrs of play. \$1500/best offer. 248-782-7453

PIANO - KIMBALL UPRIGHT: With bench, good cond. \$300/best offer. Call: (248) 982-7030

PIANO, Upright Piano w/bench, med oak. Excellent condition. \$600/best. Great Christmas gift. Call After 5 PM (734) 765-5531

Wanted to Buy

Cash for Vintage/Antique Items. Jewelry (fine & costume), Christmas, coins, sterling, glass, linens, military, sports, toys, books, audio, scientific instruments, more! Lots to complete estates. Highest prices paid. Fair, honest, courteous, older gentleman. Richard: 248-795-0362

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PETS

hometownlife.com

Cats

DOLL FACE PERSIAN KITTEN, male, blue/silver tabby, very healthy. \$650. 248-594-5811

KITTENS - TWO Must stay together or gray & white female cat. All fixed. 248-738-4901, 248-214-9898S

Dogs

COCKER PUPPY - AKC Black female. Champion parents. 10 wks. \$600. 810-724-3723

ENGLISH BULLDOG PUPS 11 wks., purebred, shot, 1 female/1 male, onicapanames@gmail.com or 734-420-0372

SHIH TZU PUPPIES - AKC Ready for Christmas. Variety of colors. 248-636-5133

SHORKIE POO Adorable Puppies! Male & females. \$400 each. Will grow to be approx 7-9 lbs. Raised in a loving home. beautiful! Parents on site. 248-836-8108.

Reach even more potential employees with an Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Recruitment Package!

For details call 1-800-579-7355

WHITES

cars.com

Snowmobiles

SNOWMOBILE TRAILER R&R 4 place aluminum snowmobile trailer with snow shield. \$1500. 248-851-3959

Trucks for Sale

CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2010 Sateen Silver, pl. pw, and 4WD! Ready to work hard for you! Only \$19,500. 888-372-9836

LoLaRiche

DODGE Ram 2003 2500 SLT, Blue/Gray, 69k miles, runs good, strong engine 5.9L, 6 cylinder, auto trans. Asking \$4,000. (813) 421-0328

FORD F-150 2003 1371120A, S/Crew, Lariat, 4x4, off rd. pkg., cap. Fully inspected. \$13,988. North Brothers Value Lot 800-586-7931

FORD F-150 2010 13T5049A - Ford Certified, 4X4, platinum, super crew, 4WD, navigation, moon, leather. Only 3,000 miles, 1 not a misprint! Rates as low as 1.9%. \$39,888. North Brothers Ford 800-586-7931

FORD F-150 2011 XLT 12T6166A - Ford Certified, 4X4, super crew, 4WD, auto a/c, full pwr, chrome pkg. 10,000 1 owner miles, rates as low as 1.9%. \$29,888. North Brothers Ford 800-586-7931

FORD F350 1979 w/snow plow, V-blade, strong 402, V-8, 56,000 miles, no rust. \$3500/best offer. 313-353-9593

GMC YUKON XL 2008 Gray, 85k, 4x4, only \$24,995. **BOB JEANNOTTE** BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

Mini-Vans

HANDICAP VANS - USED. BOUGHT & SOLD. Mini & full size. I come to you. Call Date anytime, 517-882-7299.

Vans

BUICK TERRAZA 2005 Red, loaded, 87k, Only \$8,995. **BOB JEANNOTTE** BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

CALIBER 2011 White, 37k \$13,995. **BOB JEANNOTTE** BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

DODGE CARAVAN 2005 Excel cond., 99k, \$5,500. Call: (734) 717-6257

FORD E-150 2008 White, 65,000 miles, good cond. \$11,500. Call: 248-933-8954

4 Wheel Drive

HUMMER H3 2009 White, Roof, 4x4, \$22,500. **BOB JEANNOTTE** BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

NORTH STAR PREMIUM CHRISTMAS TREES

3ft - 12ft Trees:
• Douglas, Fraser & Concolor Firs
• Scotch & White Pine
• Blue & White Spruce

Potted trees, Tree stands, wreaths, roping, & grave blankets.

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

7300 N Wayne Rd Westland N of Warren, next to McDonald's (734) 578-7038
Open 7 days a week! 9am-9pm 10% OFF WITH AD!

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Ford, dealers step up the retailing of branded merchandise



By Dale Buss

Ford redoubled efforts to sell its growing collection of non-vehicle branded merchandise for Cyber Monday and got a satisfying result: The enterprise saw roughly an 80-percent increase in revenue over 2011.

The Cyber Monday success, on November 26, also reflects long-term moves Ford has been making to leverage its Ford Collection to the broader advantage of the company and its brands and vehicles. Ford's targets are major mass-merchandise U.S. retailers and their consumers, of course, and its own dealers.

Among the hottest items on Cyber Monday were a Mustang hoodie, a basic Blue Oval sweatshirt, a "Mustang Alley" street sign and a classic-Ford GT500 t-shirt. And at bricks-and-mortar outlets and online at retailers ranging from Walmart to Toys R Us, a radio-controlled toy F 150 Raptor was one sizzling item.

For dealers, Ford has just launched a dedicated web site where they can order Ford Collection merchandise at reduced general prices, as well as use quantity price discounts and "monthly specials" — all leading to higher margins for dealers when they retail the wares in their showrooms and service departments. An early-bird interest by some dealers helped contribute to Ford's jump in Cyber Monday sales over a year ago.

Ford also is arranging for dealers to be able to offer Ford Collection shopping to their customers on their own web sites, further tying dealers into a company strategy that already has built licensed

merchandise into a \$1.5-billion annual business from about \$1 billion in 2005. Dealers receive 20 percent of the proceeds of all Ford Collection sales that are accessed through their own web sites.

"We're trying to get dealers more involved in selling our officially branded merchandise," Amy Wilds, Ford's licensing marketing manager, told me. "We're also focused on educating dealers about the program."

To that end, Ford also now is sending out "street teams" of specialists to visit dealerships, help them set up stronger spaces for selling Ford Collection gear on their premises, and assist them with merchandising and marketing the stuff. "When we announced these programs at [recent] Ford Dealer Council meetings," Wilds said, "there was a lot of excitement around them."

In advance of Cyber Monday, Ford also stepped up its social-media activity promoting the Ford Collection to American consumers, who turned around and made more purchases of Ford wares through mass-merchandisers ranging from Walmart to Toys R Us, both online and in the stores.

A variety of radio-controlled Ford miniatures have been popular this holiday season already. So have prominent video games that feature Ford models, including Microsoft's just-launched Halo 4. Fisher Price promoted a Ford Raptor version of its venerable Power Wheels toy as a Black Friday special, and many retailers picked up on the promotion to make it a strong seller, said Mark Bentley, Ford licensing manager.

The company has about 400 licensees now, up from about 300 just a few years ago. The licensing crew granted about 18,000 product approvals last year, up from about 15,000 just two years ago. And retailers sold about 45 million individual pieces of Ford-branded merchandise last year, up from about 40 million pieces just five years ago.

Ford won't reveal how much that \$1.5



The Ford Collection web site is a portal for dealers and consumers.

billion contributed to its own top line, but it's certainly a hefty — and growing — chunk of change. And more important, rising interest by licensees of all sorts in leveraging the equity in the Ford brand and vehicles "is one of the best measures of brand health," Jim Farley, Ford's global CMO, said recently.

In fact, until recently, anything related to Mustang was Ford's most popular brand for licensing, and "Built Ford Tough" and other marks related to Ford pickup trucks were No. 2. Ford's Blue Oval was No. 3.

But over the last few years, the Blue Oval itself — which recently was taken out of hock from Ford creditors because of how the company's credit ratings have improved — has leapt to the No. 1 request of licensees.

Bentley said that, this season, Ford also has "been selling a lot of 'man cave' items through Hobby Lobby, from signs to coasters to pint beer glasses — anything a man would want.

And for the most rabid fans of Ford and its vehicles, also available is the licensed customized garage. "That's not cheap," Bentley said.



The Mustang remains by far the most popular model for Ford branded merchandise.

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