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COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

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Bear toss

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Plymouth Community United Way is able to brighten the holidays of low-income families and individuals in Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne County with gifts of food, toys and warm winter items. The stuffed animals, toy trucks, nonperishable items, hats, gloves, and scarves were donated by local residents, businesses, service clubs, and Smith Elementary during drives and special events including the Teddy Bear Toss at the Plymouth Whalers game Dec. 1. The event netted 1,274 teddy bears when fans threw the stuffed animals onto the ice at the annual event in Compuware Arena. Plymouth Community United Way is still accepting hats, scarves and gloves as well as food donations. To help, call (734) 453-6879.

Men's Panic Party

Downtown Plymouth merchants are teaming to give men a chance to stop procrastinating and get their holiday shopping done with the "Men's Panic Party" 5-9 p.m. Monday. A variety of Plymouth shops will have wish-list items for significant others or men can purchase gift certificates and let them pick something out if you don't have gift ideas. Shoppers who present purchase receipts at any of the participating pubs and restaurants receive special drink and appetizer prices when they are finished shopping. Participating shops include Agio Spa, Bella Mia, Creatopia, Dearborn Jewelers, Hands on Leather, Isabella's Copper Pot, Kilwins, Magnolia Fresh Flower Market, Old World Olive Press, Simply the Best, Sun & Snow and TranquilTea. Participating restaurants: Compari's, Doyle's Tavern, Ironwood Grill, Panache 447, Penn Grill and Sean O'Callaghan's.

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Locals 'don't see the logic' in relaxed gun law

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

State legislation that would allow people with concealed weapons permits to bring their guns into churches, schools, day-care centers, stadiums and other places they now can't doesn't sit well with some local officials. The measure passed the state House of Representatives and Senate Thursday night and is expected to be signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. Although loosening the restrictions on where gun owners with concealed weapons permits can bring their guns, it does allow schools and places that are privately owned to enact their own gun bans.

"As an educational community, we're alarmed at the possibility that guns would be permitted in schools. I'm just in shock right now."

DR. JEREMY HUGHES
Plymouth-Canton Schools superintendent



"My initial reaction is, I'd be against it," said Plymouth Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington. "I don't see the logic in allowing people to easily possess weapons in places where there's not a real need for them to have weapons." The law wouldn't stop people who already might illegally bring guns into such places, the chief said, and complicates

things for police officers when they respond to gun incidents. "If we get called to these locations (because) there's a gunman, it's hard to determine who's the good guys and who's the bad guys if everybody has a gun in their hand when the cops get there," Tiderington said. Tiderington said training required for gun owners to get

concealed-carry permits is "minimal" compared to that required of law-enforcement officers, who are regularly on the shooting range. Jeremy Hughes, superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, said it was "hard for me to process" that lawmakers would think guns in schools would be a good idea on the same morning that a school shooting in Connecticut killed at least 27 people, many of them children. "As an educational community, we're alarmed at the possibility that guns would be permitted in schools. I'm just in shock right now," Hughes said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405



New Morning School students David Levine, left, Savanna L., Rob Stickler, Nate Butzu and Donnie Williams during their Wednesday powwow, the culmination of their study of American Indian culture. All of the school's students participated in the event, which included dancing, traditional American Indian games, a naming ceremony and a sampling of American Indian food.

Cultural curriculum

Lessons highlight students' study of American Indians

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

With stories, games, dancing and food, students at New Morning School in Plymouth Township celebrated the culture of the original Americans on Wednesday. New Morning's student "powwow" Wednesday morning was the culmination of a month-long study of American Indians and their way of life. The project encompassed several subjects, including language, history and art, and helped sharpen students' research skills and their ability to work together. "It was really amazing to see how cohesive the whole event really was," said Kate Olson of Romulus, the mother of first-grader Greyson Nicholl. "It seemed as close to Native American culture as you could get." Divided into six clans, each of which included students from preschool, elementary and middle school and was led by middle schoolers,



New Morning students play a traditional American Indian game, a version of a shell game, on Wednesday during an event that marked their study of Indians.

the students played traditional Indian games, danced and participated in opening and closing ceremonies. They displayed artwork, made ear-

Please see **INDIANS, A2**

Officials not pleased with tax phase-out

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Consider the alternatives. That was Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume's reaction to legislation that will phase out Michigan's personal property tax, a tax businesses pay on equipment and furnishings, over a 10-year period. The tax currently provides roughly \$780,000 a year to the township, about 6 percent of its general fund revenue. In the city of Plymouth, the total is about \$350,000. Reaume said the phase-out, with a mechanism for partial or even full replacement of lost revenue, is preferable to two other proposals that had been floated by the Legislature recently. "It's not pleasant," he said. "We'll have to live with it, and we'll probably need some cuts, more belt-tightening." The measure was approved late Thursday by the state House of Representatives and now goes back to the state Senate, which passed a slightly different version earlier in the week, for concurrence. Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to sign it. Reaume said another proposal discussed recently would have abolished the personal property tax with no replacement. "That's a pretty tough pill to swallow," he said. The other, he said, would have adopted an accelerated depreciation schedule that would have quickly pushed down the value of the business and manufacturing equipment being taxed. The approved legislation allows

Please see **TAX, A3**

Plymouth officer cleared in shooting death

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth police officer who shot and killed a 25-year-old man who was attacking him with a tire iron in Plymouth Township in October has been cleared in the incident. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy's office is declining to press charges in the case, Maria Miller, Worthy's spokeswoman, said Friday. Neither the officer's name nor the name of the man killed, a township resident, have been released.

The shooting occurred around 11 p.m. on Oct. 14, a Sunday, outside Sparr's Florist, on Joy Road just west of Lilley. Police were responding to a report of a man breaking windows at a nearby home, and the Plymouth officer was the first to arrive on the scene. The city and the township share a public safety dispatch system, and officers sometimes respond to calls in each other's communities. Michigan State Police Sgt. Joe White, who investigated the shooting and turned his findings over to Worthy's office, said

the officer arrived, got out of his patrol car and confronted the man, who was brandishing the tire iron. The man ignored repeated orders to drop the tire iron, White said, and rushed the officer, quickly closing a space of about 15 feet. The officer shot him once in the chest, he said. White said video from the officer's patrol-car camera shows the officer retreating and the man attacking him at a "dead run." "You can clearly hear the audible commands to drop the weapon," White said.

The shooting itself is not seen on the video, White said, as it occurred just after the man left the camera's view. White said the officer was not equipped with a Taser, which delivers a temporarily disabling electric shock. The man was transported by ambulance to Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, where he was pronounced dead about 1:30 a.m. Oct. 15. The officer was not hurt in the incident. Plymouth police officials could not be reached for comment on Friday.


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MIKE LAVENDER

Students at New Morning School in Plymouth Township take part in their powwow Wednesday as part of their study of American Indian culture. The students are, clockwise, from left, Donnie Williams, Bryce Fasi, Olivia Arico, Emma Jones, Sofia Ghanbari and Chris Timlin. They were joined by parents Lynn Jones, kneeling left, and Marisa Downs, in costume, right. Downs is also a teacher at the school.

INDIANS

Continued from page A1

lier, that included Indian-style masks, paintings and dioramas of the different kinds of housing American Indians used.

They also sampled American Indian foods such as venison jerky, corn muffins and squash soup, and went to a naming ceremony, in which they received medallions and were given names like Gentle Eagle, Singing Rain and Leaping Deer. "They loved it. I stayed through the lunch hour, and all the kids at lunch were talking about their Indian names," said Olson, whose son's Indian name was Leaping Jaguar.

Students also got to share their experiences from the powwow with others while holding the "talking stick," or speakers staff, a method some aboriginal peoples used to exchange views in public in an orderly manner.

Olson said teachers, parent aides and even grandparents pitched in

OPENING THE DOORS

What: New Morning School open house

When: Jan. 14-18

Where: New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty, just north of Schoolcraft, in Plymouth Township

Why: School officials said the week long open house will give parents a chance to speak to staffers, see classrooms and get more information., stop in at classrooms to see how students are learning, and find out more about New Morning's philosophy.

Contact: For more information, call the school at (734) 420-3331.

to help make the powwow a success. One student's grandmother, for example, had made all the medallions for the naming ceremony by hand out of clay.

"Our school has always really tried hard to make this a family here, a community, and the little things we do like this are ways to support that," she said.

Elaine Kennedy, New Morning's founder and the head of the school, said the powwow fit nicely with the school's philosophy of activity-oriented learning.

"When there is sense and meaning to what students are learning, the

research says they're much more likely to retain it," Kennedy said.

The powwow and the preparations behind it, Kennedy said, were a warm-up for New Morning's annual Museum Day, which is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 10. For Museum Day, each student takes several weeks to research a subject of his or her choosing and create a display on what they learned. On Museum Day, the projects are displayed for visitors, and the students are standing by to talk about their work.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH



Ringin' true

Former Detroit Red Wings goaltenders Chris Osgood and Manny Legace posed for photos and rang the bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign this week at the Plymouth Kroger. They raised nearly \$2,800, but it wasn't enough to stave off the team of Coach Mike Babcock and General Manager Ken Holland, who raised more than \$13,000 at Hiller's Market in Northville. Babcock and Holland successfully defended their bell-ringing title in the annual competition. Four pairs of Red Wings representatives raised \$24,438.69 during the event.

"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.

COLBECK HOURS

Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 6-7 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and his district manager Ryan Eggenberger will hold office hours in Plymouth. Colbeck and Eggenberger will be available to talk with residents and to assist with any problems related to their interactions with state government. No appointment is necessary.

Contact: For more information or to contact Colbeck, visit www.morninginmichigan.com or call (734) 335-0673.

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.

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth

Details: Meetings of the Plymouth-Canton Neighborhood Group are open to sewists of all levels. The Jan. 3 meeting features "Creating and Applying Bias Binding." The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer." The March 7 meeting features "3D Flying Geese."

Contact: For more information, email ASGPC@comcast.net

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.
Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church,

14951 Haggerty, Plymouth
Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

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

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

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

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

DIABETES SUPPORT

Date/Time: 2nd Thursday of the month, 2-3:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.

Contact: Call Fern Vining at (734) 454-0859.

MAGIC SHOW

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 29, 7 p.m.
Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

Details: Las Vegas magician and Michigan native Aaron Radatz presents his One Man Show of magic and comedy with a holiday flavor that is geared to entertain the entire family. Radatz is no stranger to the metro Detroit area with performances over the years for General Motors, Chrysler, Soaring Eagle Casino, Andiamo's, Jeff Daniel's, the Detroit Tigers, and several others. Tickets range from \$18 to \$24 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5460.

Contact: For additional information, visit www.aaronradatz.com.

TAX

Continued from page A1
communities in which personal property makes up at least 2.5 percent of the total taxable value to recoup up to 80 percent of the lost revenue through the state's use tax, which is levied on hotel rooms and mail-order purchases, among other things. It also allows local communities to ask voters for a special assessment for the remaining 20 percent of lost PPT revenue, provided the money would go toward public safety.

Both Plymouth and Plymouth Township appear to be eligible for replacement revenue.
"I don't know if we'll be entitled to 100 percent of that, or just a percentage," Reaume said.
The measure also provides for the creation of a new level of government, through a statewide vote scheduled for 2014, to administer the taxes used as the PPT replacement.
"There are a lot of unknowns here," and the full repeal and replacement of the PPT hinges on several other issues falling into place, Reaume said.

Plymouth Finance Director Mark Christiansen reacted more bluntly to the pending PPT phase-out, calling it "an irresponsible act of the Legislature" that pits the state against its communities and doesn't deal with the hit to local budgets. The state has long taken a piecemeal approach to taxes, he said, by continuing to add layers of complexity.
"Could it ever happen that we could get tax reform and look at the whole (tax system) sensibly?" Christiansen said.

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Board honors Bosch for gifts

By Brad Kadrich
 Observer Staff Writer

Since opening its Plymouth Township complex a few years ago, the Bosch Corp., has struck up what is becoming a solid partnership with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

That partnership was on display again Tuesday, when the district's Board of Education honored Bosch for its most recent gift: A \$100,000 donation to the district's STEM Academy for engineering equipment.

"Bosch has supported a number of programs over the years, both financially and with human resources, as well," said Dr. Jeremy Hughes, the district's superintendent. "We thank you."

Hughes detailed some of Bosch's contributions:

- When Bosch first opened its Plymouth Township facility, the corporation donated \$10,000 to Farrand Elementary School.
- Last year, Bosch donated \$25,000 to the district. Some \$15,000 of that went to the ninth-grade science curriculum, while the other \$10,000 was spread among teachers



Honoring the contributions of the Bosch Corp., to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools are Cheryl Kilborn, Bosch's director of public and press relations; Kim Lindsey-Feagin, manager, government and community affairs; Kat Owsley, executive director, Bosch Community Fund; Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Jeremy Hughes; and Danielle Ramos, teacher leader of P-CEP S.T.E.M. Academy.

as individual grants for energy-efficient "green" projects.

• Bosch has long been a supporter of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's FIRST robotics team, providing both funding and technical support with Bosch engineers consulting on projects.

• Farrand Elementary School Principal Kay Elaster has been working with Bosch staffers on a reading program for students struggling with their reading proficiency.

More than 60 Bosch people have visited the schools, mentoring students and working with them on their reading skills.

"That has been a wonderful experience for us," Hughes said.

Hughes said this kind of support from the community is "absolutely essential" to the success of P-CCS programs. He said the district hopes to connect STEM students with "real, practicing engineers," arts academy with local artists and art

groups, and international students with the international companies in the area.

"The academies are intended to create real-life situations for students, and we can't do that without (community) support," Hughes said. "There's so much about these specialized academies that's going to require not only financial assistance, but help with people, too."

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Technology award

Annie Fu (Salem High School senior) and Rachel Xiang (Canton High School senior) earned the top prize at the 2012 Web Design Contest hosted by the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation.

The pair designed and launched a complete website to this year's theme of "Survival: Lost in Michigan's Upper Peninsula." They were awarded \$750 and a summer internship at Comerica Bank for their creative and technical design.

The purpose of MCWT is to inspire and support women as they enter, advance and contribute to Michigan's technology community.

Singing for seniors

More than 20 Field Elementary students will perform for elderly residents at the Waltonwood Senior Living Center on Cherry Hill Road in Canton 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.

The students will sing a variety of holiday favorites. The students also will visit with the residents and help make their holiday enjoyable. Field fifth grade teacher and student council advisor Bridget Nichols will lead the students and their families in this festive service project.

American Idol

Tickets are on sale now for the American Idol show featuring P-CCS students Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Salem High Auditorium.

This special concert will be performed by American Idol finalist Matt Giraud. The Season Eight American Idol participant will perform a fundraising concert at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. The P-CEP Choir also will join Giraud for several songs.

Tickets can be purchased on line by visiting the district's website at www.pccs.k12.mi.us and clicking on the web banner about the concert. Tickets are general admission and cost \$22 each. Half of the proceeds from ticket sales will support the music program at P-CEP. The show is sponsored by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and UNITE Concerts.

Directors work, band performs in fundraiser

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters together with the Plymouth-Canton band directors at the three high-school Educational Park are hosting a fundraising event at McDonald's in Canton 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18.

The music educators from the high schools and

directors for the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band will be on hand to prepare meals and take orders at McDonald's located at 44900 Ford Road in Canton.

Members of the 2012 State Champion Plymouth-Canton Marching Band will be perform-

ing live during the three-hour event. The public is welcome to attend. A percentage of all food sales will be donated back to the Music Boosters and the band programs.

The fundraising event is being hosted by the Music Boosters to help the Plymouth-Canton

Marching Band with upcoming expenses associated with the extra curricular marching band program. The Marching Band program at the three-high school Educational Park is funded primarily through member fees, donations, and fundraising activities.



FRANK RUGGIRELLO

Matt Giraud, who finished fifth in American Idol's eighth season, headlines a February concert that will also feature Plymouth-Canton singers and musicians.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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



subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

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TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

In leaving, Schofield challenges W-W board to 'focus on children'

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

When Cindy Schofield joined the Wayne-Westland school board she thought she knew quite a bit about how the district operated. She now knows differently.

Last Monday evening, Schofield made her last comments and cast her last vote and challenged her colleagues to "focus on the children." One of the district's longest serving board members, she is stepping down after 12-1/2 years on the board.

She was honored by her colleagues and school officials at the board's last meeting of 2012.

"I will miss you terribly," board President Car-

ol Middel told Schofield in presenting her with a plaque in recognition of her years of service.

"In fact, I even tried to come up with a committee, a job, a title of school board trustee emeritus, so I could constantly tap you for the wonderful ideas, the things you have learned over the years and the skills and expertise you have brought to the board. You will be missed, but I have your phone number," said Middel.

Schofield was elected to the school board in 2000 and successfully ran for re-election in 2004 and 2008. Due to a state law which moved school elections to November in even years, her final term was extended an addition-

al six months.

"I want to thank the community for electing me three times to this position," said Schofield. "I was honored each and every time that you put your trust in me. I tried always to respect the office and remember that I represented the Wayne-Westland Community Schools whether I was sitting in a board meeting, attending a school function or shopping in the local grocery store."

School Superintendent Greg Baracy called Schofield "a visionary" who was always calm and persistent.

"She made many contributions to the district, but more importantly to the children we serve,"

Baracy said. "I'm deeply thankful for what she has given to us."

In closing the meeting, Schofield acknowledged the "many wonderful parents and students" she has met, and the district administrators, teachers and support staff "who have always had time to listen to my crazy ideas and answer my questions."

She cautioned board members about the "many individuals or groups who will try to pull your focus from the children" and reminded them to "focus on the big picture not the minutia."

"Remember you have been entrusted with our community's future," she said.



School board President Carol Middel presents a plaque to outgoing board Secretary Cindy Schofield, who is leaving the board after serving more than 12 years.

Museum hosts genealogy seminar

The Plymouth Historical Museum will host the fifth in a series of genealogical seminars to help family historians of all levels research their ancestors Saturday, March 23.

This workshop, sponsored by Ancestry.com, features the mother and daughter duo Loretto Szucs and Juliana Szucs Smith.

Loretto (Lou) Szucs has worked for Ancestry.com for 20 years; worked for the National Archives in Chicago; served on national and state advisory boards and boards of five genealogical societies, including the Federation of Genealogical Societies; and is author or editor of more than a dozen books including The Source; They Became Americans; and Chicago and Cook County Sources.

Lou will be speaking on "Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com" and "Beyond The Federal Census: Using Non-Population and State Censuses to Find Your People."

Juliana Szucs Smith has worked for Ancestry.com for more than 14

years. She holds a certificate from Boston University's Online Genealogical Research Program, and is currently on the clock working towards certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Juliana will be speaking on "Common Surnames" and "What to Do With Your Discoveries."

The seminar begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. There will be limited seating and the event will fill up rapidly. The fee for the day, \$45, includes the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the Museum's special exhibit, "Made in America," during lunch and the afternoon break.

The price goes up to \$50 after Dec. 31. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the museum's website at http://www.plymouth-history.org/events/Genealogy-Seminar_ET119.html?SortBox=201303. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, one block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, call the Museum at (734) 455-8940.



Mother-daughter genealogists Loretto Szucs and Juliana Szucs Smith highlight an upcoming Plymouth Historical Museum seminar.

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Peterlin's adds trivia quiz to the menu

On any given night, Peterlin's restaurant at Farmington and Nine Mile roads is packed. It's fitting because Zach Peterlin and Kim DeCapite celebrated an anniversary of sorts a week ago - six months as owners and operators of their very own eatery.

"This corner has been successful, and we are close to the freeway and downtown Farmington," Peterlin said.

And now they have added a free trivia game on Tuesday nights from 8-10 p.m. to entertain diners. "The demand for trivia is on the upswing. It's very popular especially with good food being served while playing," Peterlin said.

The event is hosted by Great Lakes Trivia, a Plymouth-based company that offers quiz nights at more than 100 venues in metro Detroit, Grand Rapids, and northern Ohio.

Peterlin's host is Thomas Johnson of Plymouth, a veteran trivia player, question writer and quiz host.

"Playing team trivia is always loads of fun; as a group you never realize how much you know until you put your heads together. Combining quality trivia with appetizing food is a recipe for a

great time," Johnson said.

Peterlin and DeCapite first met at a food and wine seminar and are both a couple, and business partners.

"Business has been excellent - better than I ever thought it would be," Peterlin said. Their restaurant offers "casual American dining with some unique twists." He prides himself on dishes with fresh ingredients and reasonable prices.

Peterlin says their most popular items are their fusilli noodle mac and cheese, and their "house-made" meatloaf. And customers like the tomato bruschetta appetizer.

The duo chose Farmington for simple enough reasons: they live here, they saw a market potential, and Peterlin had worked in the area as a chef and knows the local clientele.

"I worked here for five years and met a lot of loyal customers and I know what their likes and dislikes are," he said.

Michigan native Peterlin has extensive work experience as a chef. He fell in love with the business as a 15-year-old dishwasher, got a hospitality bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University, and hasn't looked back.

DeCapite worked at

Alban's in Birmingham and at Joe's Produce and Gourmet Market in Livonia, learning the food service industry. The eight years at Joe's taught her the key to culinary success is good food and fine service.

The restaurant has a small bar. "My plan was to have a restaurant, not a bar. I'm a food guy first; I am not a late-night bar guy."

Peterlin's offers deals every lunch hour, and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. He also provides catering services, private parties, wine tastings, and, some Fridays, live music.

Peterlin's is open every day (except Sunday) at 11 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday. They are open until midnight on Friday and Saturday. They have a children's menu, plus gluten-free, and peanut-free items. Their Web site is peterlin's.com, and includes all their regular menu items, guest testimonials, a blog, calendar and more.

The trivia site is great-lakestrivia.com. You can sign up for their weekly newsletter to get information about special events, league play and chances to win cash, gift cards and other prizes.



Kim DeCapite, co-owner of Peterlin's restaurant, is ready to serve a peanut butter cake for dessert.



Restaurateur Zach Peterlin and Thomas Johnson set up the restaurant for the new Tuesday trivia night.



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Local landscaper garners kudos

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Marie Muehlenbein of Northville Township enjoys being a landscaper. Her Global Garden Inc., based here, recently won a silver award in landscape reconstruction, including design and construction, from the Michigan Green Industry Association, a trade group.

The competition is judged on points as judges evaluate sites, said Muehlenbein, who earned an associate of science degree in landscape technology from Oakland Community College. The landscaper tells what challenges he or she faces, along with the plant palette and elements used. Photos are submitted.

"They actually go to all the sites," she said of the judges. "It keeps us on our toes."

The award is for work on the Keys home in Northville Township. "I am positively

thrilled," said homeowner Sarah Keys. The Global Garden crew was on time, Keys said, and clean and professional. She had the work done in August/September 2011.

Muehlenbein, 54, started in the field in her 20s. She's owned Global Garden for 15 years.

She was born in Northville when there was a hospital here, raised in Livonia and has called Northville Township home again the last 15 years. Her work takes her and crews to Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Livonia and also Ann Arbor, now easy to get to with M-14 in place.

"There's not a lot of us," she said of women in her field. "There still are not a lot of women in the field." There are more women owners.

Muehlenbein found she likes the work and is good at it.

"I love it as much now as ever," she said, adding she likes her Northville

Township base and making clients happy.

Muehlenbein has crews for big work, but does much herself, including maintaining beds by pruning, mulching and perennial maintenance. She draws designs by hand and coordinates projects.

She visits different nurseries, so she can get the best plants for the job, noting those who work for one nursery are more limited.

"I can't be held by that. My mind is too free," she said.

When not working, she enjoys running, which she took up in her 40s, to stay in shape. She recently did the Jingle Bell Run in Northville as well as the Turkey Trot.

Some of her clients have been with her since the start and she appreciates their vote of confidence.

"It's very important to me," Muehlenbein said.

jbrown@hometownlife.com



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Award-winning Northville Township landscape architect Marie Muehlenbein tours a new home build site off Seven Mile that she's designed. Muehlenbein put in three different patios to take advantage of the site's good views.

Pantries benefit from 'Warming Hearts' campaign

Food pantries across the area will be beneficiaries of social media and texting interaction with Community Financial Credit Union as the credit union's "Warming Hearts & Homes" campaign heads into its second week.

Launched Dec. 3, area residents are invited to use cell phone technology and social media to help make a difference

this holiday season during Community Financial Credit Union's "Warming Hearts & Homes" program. The recipient of the first week of the campaign was The Heat And Warmth Fund.

Community Financial is expecting to contribute \$30,000 to local non-profit organizations that help people in need stay warm through the winter.

The program, running through

December 21, encourages people to:

- Like Community Financial on Facebook at www.LikeCFCU.org
- Tweet Community Financial using "#CFCUwarms" or
- Text "CFCUwarms" to 70 000 on their cell phone.

For each Like, Tweet or Text, Community Financial will donate \$25 to the nonprofits, up to \$10,000 each.

"This is an exciting campaign because residents from across all the communities we serve can participate in helping nonprofits this holiday season, with just the click of a button or a text message," said Bill Lawton, Community Financial president/CEO.

For more information on Warming Hearts & Homes and other Community Financial information, visit www.cfcu.org.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:25
LINCOLN (PG-13)
12:05, 3:15, 6:25, 9:30
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13)
FRI/SUN-TUE 11:50, 2:05, 4:45, 7:10, 9:20 SAT 7:10, 9:20
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Kiwanis rings up donations for kettle campaign

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth is providing the leadership efforts for the Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth involvement in the Plymouth Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign this holiday season. The collection campaign runs until Monday, Dec. 24.

All monies collected are put to use in the Plymouth community.

"The Salvation Army is a fundamental part of our Kiwanis Club because every penny collected goes to meeting the needs of those families requiring assistance in the Plymouth Community," Dan Herriman, Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth president, said.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign is the most visible and most



The Kiwanis Clubs of Plymouth will be ringing bells at five locations Dec. 21-22.

important fundraiser of the year. "It sets the tone for our program efforts for the following year

and what we are able to do until October 2013," said Maj. Keith Bailey, the corps officer and pas-

tor. "Our needs are still drastically up. Many in the community have returned to work but still are in need of assistance while giving has gone down in recent years."

The Plymouth Salvation Army projects the need will be just as high as last year. Some folks who have helped raise money in the past are now seeking assistance. Bailey said he hopes those in the Plymouth community who are able to assist will "step up" and give generously when they walk by one of the area kettles. Coins, paper money and checks are welcomed. He urges that people put their donation in the kettles in Plymouth area so the money will be directed to the needs in our community.

Monies collected during the campaign are used to help families in need with assistance for utility bills, food and clothing. Even in a community as affluent as Plymouth, there are families that been struck with unfortunate circumstances.

The Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth will be out ringing bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign Friday, Dec. 21, and Saturday, Dec. 22, at five Plymouth locations: Hiller's (Five Mile and Haggerty), Busch's (Sheldon and Five Mile), Kmart (Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty), Greek Islands at Penniman and Main Street, and Kroger (Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon).

Bailey said that without the help of the two

Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth and the Plymouth Rotary Club the collection efforts would not be as successful. People respond better to giving when they see their local merchants, business people, bankers, attorneys and civil servants out helping with the collection efforts, he said.

Also the students from Plymouth Canton Educational Park Key Club (over 190 students strong this year) help attract other students and their families to the giving efforts.

"Instead of looking away when passing the Red Kettle, people tend to come over to visit with the bell ringer they know and contribute what financial donation they can," Bailey said.

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Sea cadets commission school as training 'ship'

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

For decades, Henry Ruff School in Garden City has been educating youngsters and later teenagers. But last week, the building took on a new title as the command officers and crew of the James M. Hannan Division and Training Ship Bristol Bay commissioned it as a training ship.

The ceremony was held Dec. 8 at the school which has become home for the two divisions of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps after they took "conditional command" of the facility in July.

Patterned after an official ship commissioning, two bells were sounded to represent the two units, a whistle was blown and a light flashed as the Sea Cadets and Navy Leaguers were given the order to man the "ship," by LCDR Philip Winteringham of the James M. Hannan Division.

"It's a tradition in the Navy to commission a new ship, it's a very important ceremony," Winteringham told the cadets, their parents and guests. "We're also commissioning the school as a naval base and training center."

In its 48th year of operation, the Hannan Division is the oldest continuously serving sea cadet unit in the state, and possibly the second oldest unit in the United States, according to its executive officer, Lt. Ed Brennan of Milford.

'Awesome' program

The program draws its members from throughout southeast Michigan, with cadets coming from as far away as Howell, Grosse Pointe Park and Warren to as close as Garden City. It offers youth ages 11-18 the "unique opportunity to experience what it's like to be in the military without making a four-year commitment."

"This program is awesome," said Jeff Warren who was at the ceremony with his wife DeShanne.

The Garden City couple have been involved in the Sea Cadet program for nine years, first with their son Kyle and now with son Weslee.

"Kyle is at Western Michigan University, studying aviation, he discovered that through this



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN
LCDR Philip Winteringham watches as the honor guard — Isabelle Larson, Tyrone Coleman, Dylan Mondak and Melanie Quantrell — post the colors at the commissioning ceremony.



Family and friends fill the cafeteria of Henry Ruff School for the Sea Cadets commissioning ceremony.

program," said DeShanne Warren, "Weslee wants to go to the Naval Academy."

The ceremony also served as the backdrop for the presentation of awards, promotions and recognitions, including swearing in of four new members. Receiving their identification cards and saying the oath were Patrick Snider Sr., a new instructional officer, Joseph Pope, Dylan Mondak and Dominic Pope.

Mondak, who promoted to the rank of petty officer first class during the ceremony, walked away with the most honors, including a Sea Cadet perfect attendance award as well as Theodore Roosevelt Award for overall perfect attendance during the 2012 training year. The latter award recognizes Roosevelt who, as president, was the driving force behind the cre-

ation of the Naval Sea Cadet program.

Mondak also received the Daughters of the American Revolution NCSS medal and ribbon for his exceptional and meritorious performance of his duties, his leadership, character and discipline and was named the Sea Cadet of the Year for 2012.

Receiving awards

Also receiving the award were:

- Sea Cadets Melanie Quantrell and Nicholas Aben and Navy Leaguers John Nicolola and James Pope for perfect attendance. Pope also was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Award.
- Caleb Bien-Aime and Isabelle Larson who were

promoted to the rank of petty officer third class.

• Sea Cadet Tyrone Coleman and Navy League Cadet John Nicolola who received the Melvin J. Kates Award which recognizes inspirational leadership during the year.

• James Pope who received the Navy League Cadet of the Year award from last year's recipient John Nicolola.

The program also took time to recognize several adults who have helped. Among them was instructor Julie Carl who was honored for her continuing support of the program.

"We don't give this award out every year, but the staff agreed that she deserved this award,"

SEA CADET CORPS

Sea Cadet organizations exist in most of the maritime nations of the world. Recognizing the value of these organizations in educating youth in maritime matters, the Department of the Navy requested the Navy League of the United States to establish a similar program for American youth. The Navy League agreed to do so and formally established the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) and Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) in 1958.

The Sea Cadets program is for youth age 13-17, while the Navy League Cadets are for those age 11-14. The James M. Hannan Division and the Training Ship Bristol Bay meet at Henry Ruff School, 30300 Maplewood, Garden City. For more information, contact Lt. Ed Brennan at (248) 685-9568 or by email at Cromwell30@aol.com.



Brothers Dominic and Taylor Pope of Taylor say the oath to receive their identification cards for the Sea Cadets.



Dylan Mondak receives the DAR Bronze Medal from Peggy Sue Scully, the Michigan DAR state chairperson.

said Brennan. "This is my go-to girl, if I want something done. She understands and reads young people very well."

"My son was a sea cadet and a very successful one," said Carl. He's now in the Navy and just made petty officer third class."

Winteringham also honored his wife Jean for her support, presenting her with a sculpture he had received many years ago.

"Without the mothers and wives, there would be no sea cadets," he said.

For Brennan, Winteringham and LCDR Leonard DeNard of the Bristol Bay, the best part of the event was hearing each

of the cadets tell what they get out of the program. The cadets said the program, among other things, taught them how to lead, helped them with their academics and for one young woman, how to iron a uniform.

"That's one of Phil's hot buttons, he wants their uniforms to look like they're in the military," said Brennan who referred to the cadets comments as "one heck of a sales pitch for the program."

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Right to work was right thing for state

By Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Rep. Kurt Heise
Guest Columnists

We would like to set the record straight regarding Brad Kadrich's Dec. 13 opinion piece, "Legislators did disservice to local voters."

In the article, Mr. Kadrich admits he does not have a background in labor law. Rep. Heise has been a labor attorney for 20 years, and I've been a member of a union as well as served in a management capacity in a union shop. But you don't need to be the smartest guy in the room to understand that workers deserve a choice.

Where workers were once forced to pay union dues as a condition of employment, workers now have that choice. This is also not a 2,700 page bill like Obamacare. Our Worker Freedom Act, Public Act 348 of 2012, is only three pages long. Readers can view the bill for themselves at www.legislature.michigan.gov.

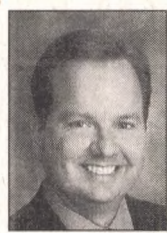
While some will argue that the law removes collective bargaining, this is simply not true. The only restriction on collective bargaining in the law is that it prohibits clauses in collective bargaining agreements that would make dues payment or union membership a condition of employment.

The fact is we now have 17.5 percent of our workforce in unions. Once the bill is effective in April 2013, we will still have 17.5 percent of our workforce in unions — if the rank and file believes that their union leaders have earned their financial support. Unions will now need to prove the value of their services to the members they serve.

Gov. Snyder made the prudent decision to put right to work on the table for debate, showing himself to be indeed an astute leader who cares about our state. Our official unemployment rate of 9.3 percent is still too high. Over 50 percent of our college gradu-



Patrick Colbeck



Kurt Heise

ates cannot find jobs. The bottom line is that we have too many constituents in search of jobs right now. We have too many kids graduating and moving out of state to find jobs. We have lost 11.7 percent of our youth aged 25 to 34 over the past decade. And let's be honest — right to work has been under discussion for months (if not years) in Lansing, and in recent weeks there were many internal discussions between labor leaders, the Governor, and legislative leaders.

We also had several hours of debate on the House and Senate Floors over two days. This decision did not come lightly or easily, and all stakeholders were

represented in the process.

If we do not bring jobs into our state, history has shown people will go find jobs in other states — and by an almost 3:1 margin those states are right-to-work states. Right-to-work has a track record of improving the job market. Indiana has brought in over 90 new projects or expanded projects directly related to their passage of right-to-work laws, and that is after only 10 months.

As for those who believe the sound bite that right-to-work equals a "right-to-work for less," you should know that the jobs in the pipeline in Indiana average \$5/hr more than the average compensation rate throughout the state. Overall, 68 percent of the right-to-work states have higher disposable income than forced unionization states.

The reforms we've adopted will empower Michigan workers, and make labor unions more competitive and accountable to their members. It will

improve Michigan's climate for job creation which will only help our hardworking families. It's also the fair and right approach for unions and their members in the 21st century — especially as Michigan's workers are more educated, sophisticated, mobile, and talented than ever before.

Unions should reflect — and respect — our state's smart and diverse workforce. Right to Work fulfills the commitment we made to bring more and better jobs to our state. For the majority of our constituents, especially those seeking gainful employment for themselves or their loved ones, this is exactly the type of service they are looking for.

State Sen. **Patrick Colbeck**, R-Canton, represents the 7th District, which includes the city of Plymouth and Plymouth and Canton Townships. State Rep. **Kurt Heise** represents the 20th House district, which includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township and part of Canton Township.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pendulum has swung

I read the recent article in the *Canton Observer* regarding the right-to-work legislation and listened to the numerous complaints by Democrats and union leaders about this. Hopefully this legislation will stop the hemorrhaging of the well-paying auto and other manufacturing jobs lost in Michigan over the years.

Some 217,000 (mostly union) auto jobs were lost between 2000 and 2010 and a total of 403,400 (many union) manufacturing jobs were lost between 1999 and 2011 here in Michigan, having affected the African/American communities the hardest. For every auto job loss an additional nine jobs are affected; with many of these affected people also having lost their jobs. In addition, many of the people affected who retained their jobs experienced

substantial income loss. The loss of these jobs and the reduction in income for those who were able to retain employment has caused the hemorrhaging of state revenues affecting school funding and state debt.

The areas of Flint, Detroit and Saginaw experienced the greatest job losses. As an example, auto employment in Flint was reduced from a peak of approximately 80,000 to less than 8,000; the birthplace of Buick and General Motors. Could it be because of the militancy of labor unions, always demanding more and more, having made the big three auto companies non-competitive with the foreign automobile makers? Fact, none of the foreign auto companies have built manufacturing plants in Michigan; they have been built in right-to-work states.

Of all of the 50 states, Michigan is

the only state to lose population in the 2001/2010 decade, causing the loss of congressional seats. Many young educated people have left the state because of the lack of job opportunities. Virtually everyone in the state has experienced a reduction in property value, with many people experiencing home foreclosure. In addition, Michigan possesses cities with some of the highest crime rates in the country, primarily because of the lack of job opportunities.

In the past there was a need for unions because of abuses by companies, but the pendulum has swung in the other direction with union power having become excessive. The priority needs to be for increased employment, especially for the youth growing up in the state. Hopefully, the right-to-work legislation will allow Michigan to become more competitive in the job market and will again cause the state to

grow in the future.

Michael Hansel
Canton Township

Naive, at best

I was very surprised to read in the article "DIA fee rankles Canton trustee" Dec. 9 that there are people expecting admission to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) to be free even for special exhibits that the DIA has to pay for.

The new 0.2-mill tax we recently approved to support the DIA came with a stipulation that the DIA would not charge an admission fee to the museum. But to suppose that meant no admission fees to special shows that the museum pays to exhibit at the DIA is naive at best. In the case of the Macomb group that is suing the DIA for breaking their promise not to charge an admission fee, plain asinine.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY JANUARY 3, 2013 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 3, 2013 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

1. ZBA application 1503, 46850 Rockledge: the applicant is an R-1-S zoning district and is requesting one variance to construct a rear yard ADA compliant addition that will have a rear yard setback of forth (40) feet; the required setback is fifty (50) feet. *The variance requested is ten (10) feet.*

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

Publish: December 16, 2012

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates in 2013: January 8, February 12, March 12 & 26, April 9, May 14 & 28, June 25, July 23, August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and December 10.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Special meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Publish: December 16, 2012

AT8792202 3x3.5



NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2012

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2012 and payable through February 28, 2013 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page - www.cityofplymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Monday, December 24, 2012 and Tuesday, December 25, 2012 also Monday, December 31, 2012 and Tuesday, January 1, 2013. During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be **OPEN** on Wednesday, December 26, Thursday, December 27, and Friday, December 28, 2012 for your convenience.

Teresa Cischke, MiCPT CPFA
City Treasurer

Publish: December 13 and 16, 2012

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Cheryl Nadratowski (left) and Barb Burnett, Valassis employees, shop for toys with money raised for Toys for Tots.

Valassis employees support Toys for Tots

The aroma of homemade chili and soups was in the air recently at the Anderson Printing Division and Valassis Client Services Division, both in Livonia, as they hosted their annual Toys for Tots Chili Luncheons, which have become a much-anticipated annual tradition. The luncheons mark the start of fund-raising efforts for the Toys for Tots program at these Valassis locations.

A joint effort with local businesses that donated food helped supplement the homemade pots of chili, soup and desserts. For a \$5 cost, employees were treated to an "all-you-can-eat" meal with all proceeds going to buy toys for less fortunate children for this annual drive.

George Dimopoulos of George's Senate and Coney Island Restaurant with multiple locations in the metro Detroit area

has been a faithful food donor over the past several years.

Josh Mayse with Thomas's Catering of Livonia has contributed the last few years and graciously welcomes the donation request for a good cause. Tim Jahn of AVI Food Systems keeps the vending machines well-stocked for the charity luncheon and donates beverages and salted snacks to keep everyone coming back for more.

Additionally, Valassis Corporate Headquarters, also in Livonia, kicked off its Toys for Tots drive with both fundraisers and toy donations. For one fund raiser, a prime parking space for the winter months was raffled off with money used to purchase additional toys.

This year, approximately \$5,000 was raised for Toys for Tots and a multitude of toys were purchased and donated.

W-W to offer schools of choice for pilot TAG program

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Just four days after the school board approved a talented and gifted pilot program, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools has announced that it will accept nonresident schools of choice applications for the 2013-14 school year.

The pilot program to be offered at the elementary level for sixth-grade at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton and Adams and Marshall Upper Elementary Schools in Westland with limited space available for nonresident students who are residents of Wayne County.

The district will accept the applications, nomination forms and parent inventory forms Friday, Dec. 14, through Fri-

day, Feb. 1. Prospective students will qualify after being tested between Dec. 14 and March 1 and notified during May 2013.

The board voted 7-0 to approve the program.

"Our goal is to have one classroom at each grade level, it's a great opportunity to offer this to our students and those who live outside the district," said Paul Sallah, deputy superintendent for instruction. "It makes sense to offer a program that students can't get in another district."

Wayne-Westland teachers and administrators have spent almost a year put the program together. According to Sallah, the group extended a lot of energy and time and did research, with an emphasis on best practices. One component will be the testing which will look

for a students' high level of ability, creativity and task commitment to identify them as talented and gifted.

"Our obligation is to remain competitive in a difficult day and age," said Sallah. "We have to compete and that means surpassing those around us. In education, the typical classroom doesn't meet the needs of gifted students."

The program is open to both Wayne-Westland and schools of choice students. Wayne-Westland students in kindergarten through fourth grade who are accepted into the program will be transferred to Walker-Winter and will receive transportation to the Canton school.

Sallah stressed that Wayne-Westland TAG students "will be serviced first and foremost."

Students who sign up

for the program will be identified as a number during the selection process. Their forms will be reviewed by the committee which will have no knowledge of who they are. Students who are not identified as talented and gifted one year, can be identified during another school year, Sallah said.

"Because a student isn't identified K-6 doesn't mean they can't take advanced programs at the middle school and high school levels," Sallah said.

For more information, contact Wayne-Westland Community Schools at (734) 419-2083, or in the Instruction Department at its administrative offices at 36745 Marquette, Westland.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

Slavens cancels coffee hours

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, has announced that her upcoming coffee hours, previously scheduled for Monday, Dec. 17, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Belleville Charhouse, at 524 Main St. in Belleville, and from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Daydream Café at 47192 Michigan Ave., in Canton will be rescheduled in the new year.

Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town

hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township. You can also contact the representative toll free at (888) 347-8021 or send an email to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov with any questions or concerns.

Residents also can sign up for Slavens' e-newsletter and take her brief community survey by visiting her website at www.slavens.housedems.com.

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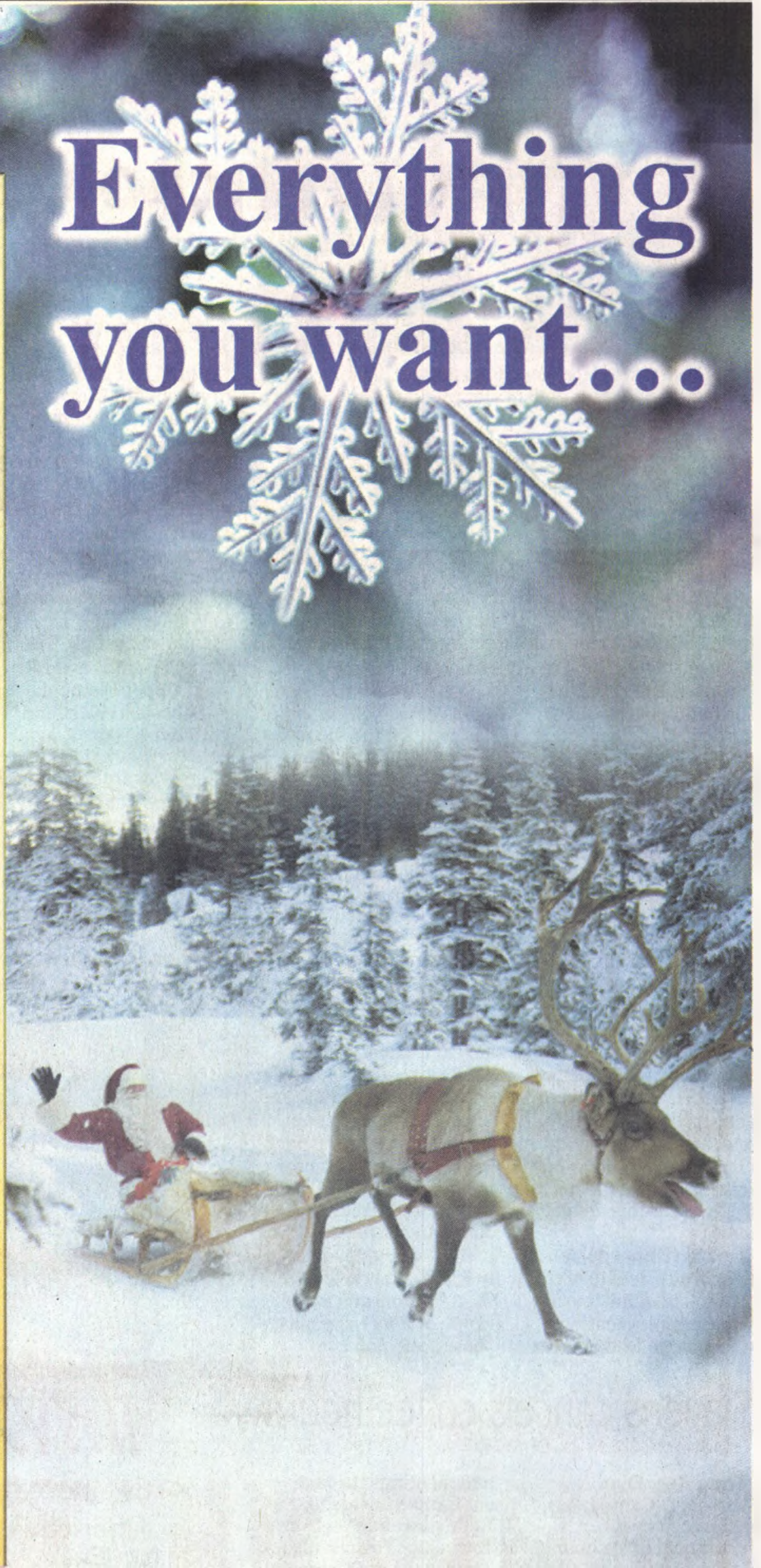
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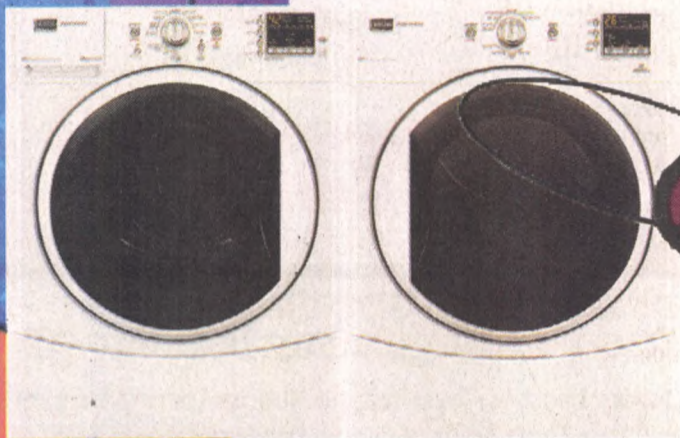


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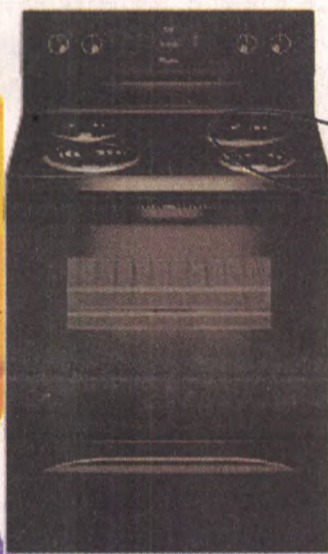
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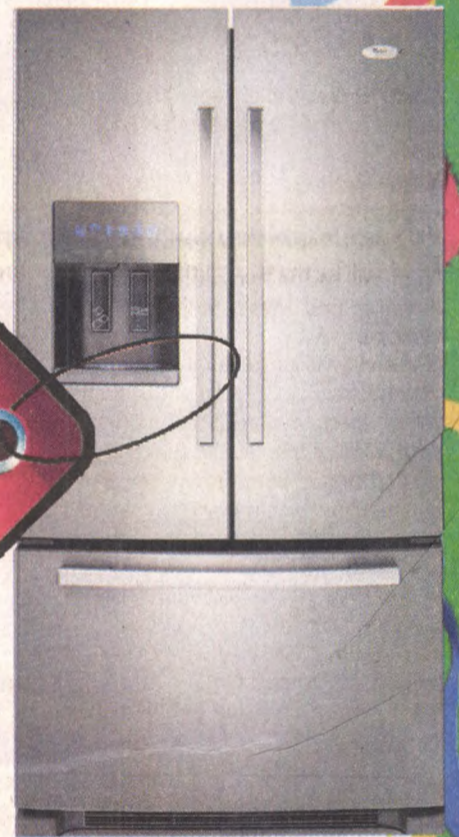
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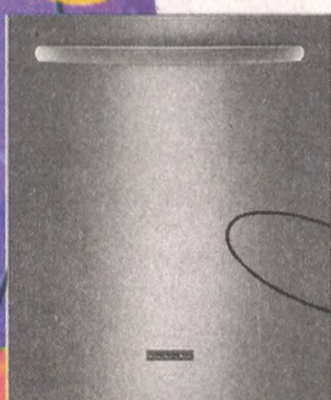
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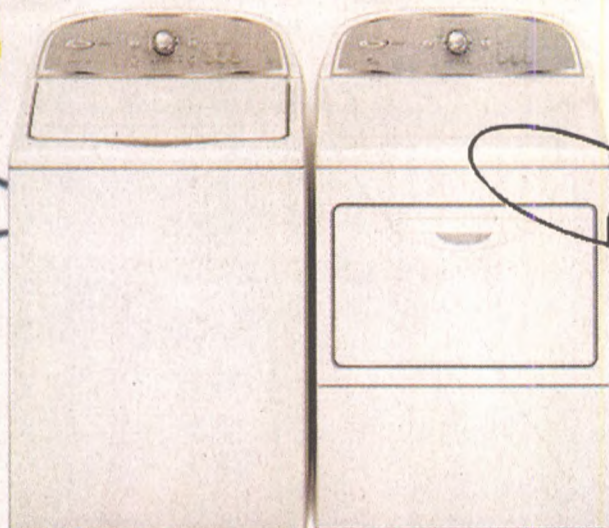
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CANTON-SALEM TWINBILL

Relentless Chiefs stop Salem



Canton point guard Josh Mayberry (No. 2) looks to dribble around Salem defender Connor Cole (No. 32) during Friday night's varsity boys basketball game.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Right from the get-go Friday night, host Salem couldn't match the intensity brought by visiting Canton.

Bolstered by hot outside shooting and physical play in the paint on both ends of the floor, the Chiefs never trailed and earned a 69-58 victory.

"We shot it pretty well," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "But I think our key was our toughness tonight. We've got to match Salem's toughness."

"They rebound, they pursue the ball so hard and I think we did a great job for the most part keeping them off the boards and limiting them to one shot."

In control

Salem head coach Bob Brodie had a similar take on the action, which was the second half of a girls/boys varsity doublehead-

er.

"They played hard, from the start to the finish," said Brodie, whose team fell to 2-1 overall. "They played with a lot of intensity, they controlled the whole tempo of the game, they took us completely out of our offense."

"We looked like a deer in the headlights out there, we were afraid. I give them all the credit. They shot the ball well, defensively they played well, they were a very physical team out there."

Scoring 24 points and sparking the Chiefs' offense was senior point guard Josh Mayberry (7-of-11, 63 percent from the floor), who drained 3-of-4 shots from beyond the arc.

Adding 20 points was senior guard Ryan Planey, who hit jumpers from all over the floor (8-of-13, 61 percent).

Salem's sputtering offense was led by senior

Please see TWIN BILL, B3



Salem girls lacrosse meeting Dec. 19

There will be a player/parent information meeting for all returning Salem girls lacrosse players and other student-athletes interested in learning to play the game.

The meeting will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, in Room W2112 at Salem High School.

Salem will be adding its first junior varsity team this spring and coaches would like to recruit new players.

Contact and additional information can be found at www.salemgirlslacrosse.com.

Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Tim Smith, who can be reached at (734) 469-4128 or tsmith@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Sunday editions of the Observer is Friday at 10 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 11 p.m.

Iceners to combine hockey, philanthropy

PUCKS FOR GLEANERS

What: Hockey tripleheader and canned food drive for Gleaners Food Bank.

When: Starting 5:30 p.m. Friday, with a game between the Plymouth Prep and Salem Prep hockey teams. At 7 p.m. will be the Plymouth-Salem alumni contest. Varsity teams play at 8:30 p.m.

Where: Plymouth Cultural Center.

Admission: For the prep and alumni games, spectators are asked to bring a donation of five canned goods (per person) instead of paying an admission fee. However, there will be a \$5 charge to attend the varsity game.

Goal: Organized by the Plymouth Prep hockey team, which essentially is an unofficial "JV," the goal is to collect 1,000 canned food items to donate to Gleaners.

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

They're looking to fill the net and fill stomachs at Friday's hockey tripleheader at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Friday night also marks the culmination of a month-long effort to raise 1,000 canned goods for Gleaners Food Bank by the Plymouth Wildcats Prep hockey team. Plymouth will skate against Salem's prep team at 5:30 p.m.

Spectators are being asked to bring five canned goods to the rink for admission to the prep game and that also extends to the 7 p.m. contest between the Plymouth and Salem alums.

"We've got a good start to our collection," said Rick Covault, a parent involved in organizing the food drive for the Plymouth Prep team. "Our goal is to collect 1,000 cans. Between now

and the game the kids are going around immediate neighborhoods near their homes and asking for contributions.

"We're also asking, if family and friends attend our game that they have enough to bring a couple canned goods out to the game as a way to get admission into the game."

Although they are being asked to bring five items for admission to Friday's prep/alumni games, "they won't be turned away if they don't," Covault added.

The night's third game will begin at approximately 8:30 p.m. when the schools' current varsity teams hook up for a KLAA crossover matchup (a separate \$5 admission will be charged).

Covault's son, Ricky, plays for the new Plymouth Prep squad — which although not an official JV is a club team that

serves the same developmental purpose.

Striking a balance

According to Covault, the idea to team hockey with an organized food drive was hatched by Plymouth Prep coach and Salem alum Darrin Silvester.

The endeavor, in addition to helping needy people in the area, is something that enables young players a chance to give back to the community. The principle is something the athletes would be encouraged to do anyway should they make their high school's varsity team.

"It's geared around trying to get the kids to understand they need to have a balance in their life," said Covault, whose son Ricky plays for the Plymouth Prep team. "Along with their sport, there's their school, their

Please see GLEANERS, B4



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.

BOYS SWIM PREVIEW — PT.1

Top trio keys Salem hopes

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Senior power will drive Salem's varsity boys swimming and diving team during the 2012-13 season.

Veteran head coach Chuck Olson will pencil in the names of senior captains and returning state qualifiers Jerry Bai, Turner Solterman and Jason Zhang in multiple events — knowing full well they will contend more times than not.

Bai will compete in freestyle events along with the 100 butter-

fly and 200 individual medley. Solterman also will swim freestyle events and the 200 IM along with the 100 breaststroke. Zhang is slated for the 100 backstroke, 100 breast, 100 fly, 200 IM and freestyle events.

Olson has another 2012 state qualifier in junior Matt Paritz, who will compete in freestyle events and the 100 back.

The Rocks, who finished 1-4 last season in the ultra-competitive KLAA Central Division, have other versatile upper-

Please see SWIM, B2



One of the 2012 state qualifiers returning for Salem is senior Turner Solterman, shown in a dual meet from last season.

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SWIM

Continued from page A1

classmen ready to go to work.

Seniors Smaran Bhaktawara (100 breast, 100 fly, 200 IM), Danny Lynch (100 fly, freestyle) and Kenny McManimon (freestyle, 100 back) could help the cause.

That applies to juniors Jason Basanese, Russell Sharpe and Andrew Shwank. All three will swim in various freestyle events and the 100 fly.

A promising group of sophomores includes Patrick Casey (freestyle, 100 fly, 100 breast, 200 IM), Brian Kuang (freestyle,

100 back), Matthew Chin (freestyle, 200 IM), Greg Payne (freestyle, 100 fly), Brendan Wellman (100 fly, 100 back, 200 IM, freestyle) and Brandin Yee (100 breast, 200 IM).

Salem also has four freshmen who will gain plenty of valuable experience this winter.

The ninth-graders include Charles Liu (freestyle, 100 back, 100 breast, 100 fly, 200 IM), Matt Croop (freestyle, 100 back, 200 IM), Colin Urbaczewski (freestyle, 200 IM) and Michael Falzon (diving).

Salem hosts Plymouth 6:30 p.m. Thursday in a KLAA crossover meet.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of three senior captains expected to lead the Rocks is Jason Zhang, shown competing last season.

Canton gymnasts best Salem

Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team continued its winning ways Wednesday night, with a 143.025-to-135.775 victory over campus rival Salem.

Spearheading the Chiefs to victory was Melissa Green. She registered first-place finishes on vault (9.35), floor exercise (9.75) and tied with teammate Jocelyn Moraw for the top spot in all-around with 36.275 points.

Meanwhile, Moraw also placed first on uneven parallel bars with an 8.85 and took the second spot on floor with a 9.35.

Other key performers for the Chiefs (4-0) included Nicole Lasecki and Maddie Toal. Lasecki's 9.175 on floor was good for fourth and her 8.7 on bars earned third place honors. Toal placed third on floor with a 9.225.

Chiefs head coach John Cunningham noted that the teams were in a tight dual meet until floor exercise, when the Chiefs tallied four nines.

For Salem, top performers were Andrea Melotti (second on beam, 9.05; fourth in all-around, 34.15); Morgan Soper (second on vault, 9.1; fifth on floor, 9.05); and Brittany Ramirez (third on vault, 9.075).

Next up for Canton is a road matchup 6:30 p.m. Monday against Livonia Blue. For the Rocks, they do not have another scheduled contest until Jan. 10 against Walled Lake Maroon/Gold.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton senior Nicole Lasecki performs her routine on the parallel bars Wednesday night.

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Quad Meet CANTON 43

ROCKFORD 21

119: Richard DeMarois (Canton) pinned Michael Tankersley, 0:22; **125:** Ben Griffin (C) p. Alex Antonakis, 0:42; **130:** Kyle Polaski (C) decisioned Jake Schneider, 4-0; oe Ferguson (NBH) pinned Derek Pomerico, 2:38; **135:** Ryan Siegler (C) major decisioned Mikah Hobson, 10-2; **140:** Braden Zych (R) dec. Paul Tacy, 7-0; **145:** Marc Przyblyski (C) p. Mitchell Webb, 2:45; **152:** Alec Pantaleo (C) tech. fall Caleb Childers, 4:15 (19-4); **160:** Jacob Lorenz (C) p. Nick Guerra, 2:59; **171:** Michael August (R) dec. Nicholas Durocher, 9-6; **189:** Allan Beckman (C) maj. dec. Trevor Bopp, 14-0; **215:** Brandon Houle (R) dec. Ken Wooley, 8-4; **285:** Adam Armesto (C) dec. Corey Ortiz, 4-3; **103:** Jared Bennett (R) p. Harrison Samoy, 3:23; **112:** Stephen Jendritz (R) p. Ryan Apley, 0:41.

ROCHESTER 42 CANTON 29

112 pounds: DRyan Apley (Canton) pinned Connor Gibbons, 0:53; **119:** Richard DeMarois (C) decisioned Justin Kim, 3-2; **125:** Ben Griffin (C) p. Seth Birchmeier, 3:41; **130:** Nicholas Maier (R) p. Kyle Polaski, 4:19; **135:** Joey Gunther (R) dec. Ryan Siegler, 11-4; **140:** Marc Przyblyski (C) dec. Ryan Morgan, 7-6; **145:** Kaelan Richards (R) p. Ty Jassman, 1:26; **152:** Alec Pantaleo (C) p. Julian Cutraro, 1:13; **160:** Aaron Morgan (R) p. Jacob Lorenz, 1:16; **171:** Shane Shadaia (R) p. Nick Morton, 1:18; **189:** Shwan Shadaia (R) p. Allan Beckman, 3:38; **215:** Ken Wooley (C) p. Luke Haynes, 3:32; **285:** Cameron Daniels (R) p. Adam Armesto, 0:56; **103:** Jeff Ternes (R) dec. Harrison Samoy, 6-4.
Canton's dual match record: 6-3 overall.

On the prowl

Wildcats off to hot start, capture Northville Invitational

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Things "didn't go right" for Plymouth's varsity boys wrestling team on opening night of the new season against Belleville, coach Quinn Guernsey said.

Whatever corrections needed to be made following that night have worked to perfection.

Ever since then the Wildcats have been on a tear — winning their next six dual matches and, in the process, winning the Dec. 8 Northville Invitational.

"The team looks good," Guernsey said. "They're wrestling close to what expectations we had for them. They're doing as well as we thought ought they would."

Plymouth defeated the host Mustangs for the championship of the 10-team invite. Finishing third overall was Saline, the toughest team the Wildcats faced in their pool, Guernsey noted.

"Probably the best (opponent) was Saline," Guernsey said. "They have a very solid team, they're a good match-up for us."

"The best match of the dual was probably at 119. Trey (Berry) wrestled Taylor Ticknor, which was a rematch of the first round of last year's regional tournament."

At the 2012 Division 1 individual regionals, Ticknor edged Berry by a 9-7 score. The Plymouth senior exact-



One of several Plymouth wrestlers posting undefeated records at the Northville Invite was Alec Breckenridge, shown in this 2011-12 photo.

ed some revenge for that by defeating Ticknor by five points, the coach continued.

Berry enjoyed a 4-0 record at Northville. He was one of five Wildcats to post undefeated records at the invite.

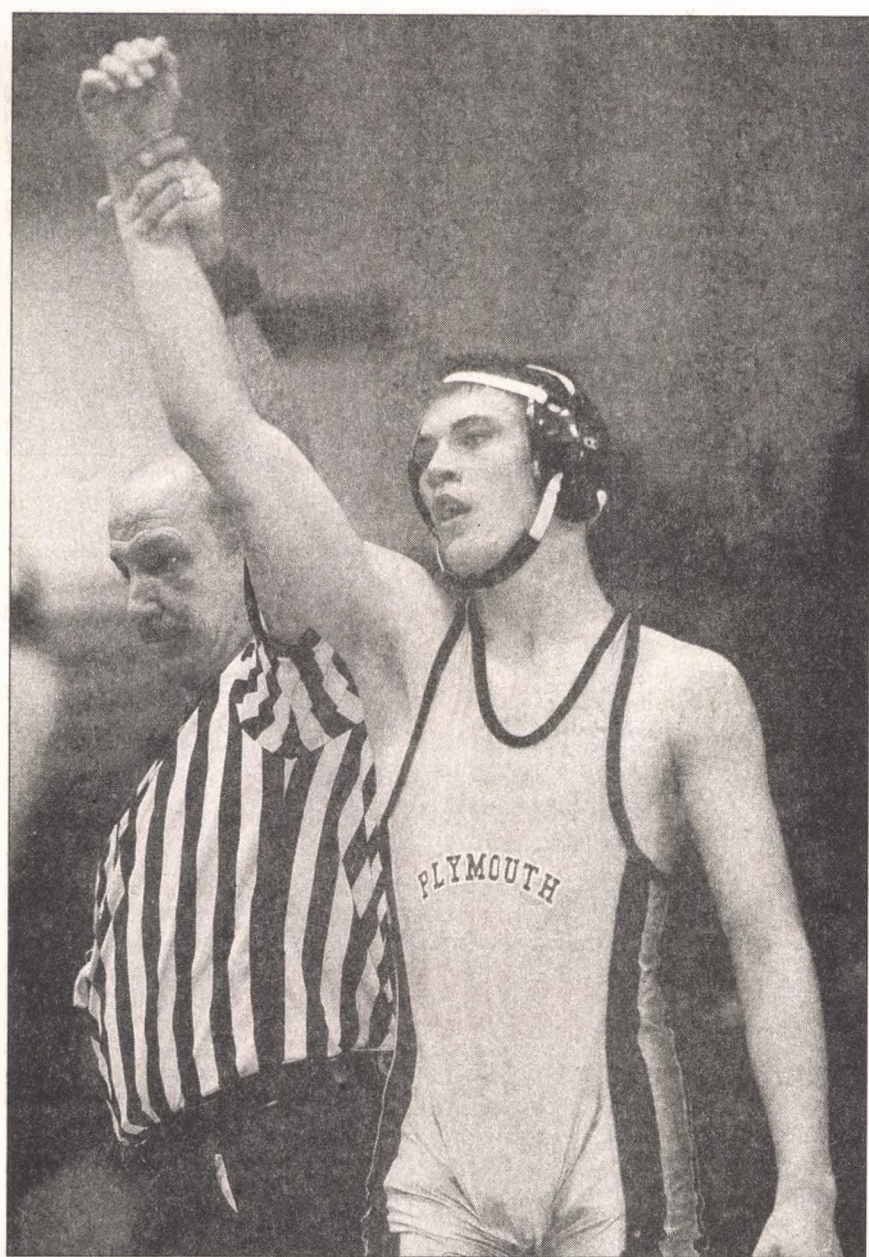
Others were Mohamad Youssef (5-0 at 103), Spencer Chifrar (4-0 at 125), Jon Conn (5-0 at 140) and Alec Breckenridge (5-0 at 145).

Competition will continue to heat up in the next week.

On Saturday, the Wildcats competed at the Wayne County Championship. Check www.hometownlife.com for results.

Wednesday, they take part in the Salem Quad, along with the Rocks, Canton and Novi.

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(734) 469-4128



Plymouth's Jon Conn, shown from last season's Observerland tournament, went undefeated at the recent Northville Invite.

Canton stifles Rocks with defense

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Canton defenders wouldn't let Salem players near the basket Friday night and forced numerous turnovers elsewhere on the court as the visiting Chiefs coasted to a 37-15 girls basketball victory.

The teams, playing the first game of a girls/boys varsity doubleheader at Salem High School, played a close first quarter (Canton led 4-3) and the Rocks took leads of 7-6 and 9-8 with 3:14 to play in the second.

That's when the Chiefs flipped the switch and went on a 10-0 run to lead 18-9 at halftime to decide the KLAAs crossover matchup.

"I thought that defensively we broke down a little bit," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "Offensively we had a couple turnovers at that point in time that triggered the run, and then we tried to force the action."

"In other words, we tried to score early (on a possession) instead of taking our time and getting ourselves in position to have a good scoring opportunity."

The Chiefs (2-2) only gave up two free throws to junior Hannah Nowaske (six points) in the third and finished things off with a 13-4 fourth — sparked by two treys by junior guard Rachel Winters (eight points, five rebounds, five steals).

"We wanted to come out and pick up our defense, get after them a little bit," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "We got into the passing lanes."

"And we wanted to collapse in the post when Beaver got the ball, we wanted to limit her to one shot. It's a credit to the kids, they did a great job with that."

Samulski said the entire team excelled on defense, but he noted the all-around game turned in by junior forward Paige Aresco.

In addition to leading all scorers with 18 points, Aresco "did a fabulous job on Beaver and the rest of the kids around her helped her," Samulski said.

Salem turned the ball over 21 times, including 10 Canton steals, and were out-rebounded 30-14.



Canton's Taylor Hunley (No. 5) slices through Salem defenders Haley Rogers (No. 10) and Katie Latack (No. 15) during Friday night's girls basketball contest.

Canton's other top contributors included sophomore guard Alana Brown (seven rebounds) and junior center Taylor Hunley (seven points, five boards).

For the Rocks (0-4 overall), besides Nowaske, junior guard Kayla Kavulich tallied four points while junior Kelly Whalen added three.

Salem will take part in another girls/boys twinbill Tuesday at Plymouth (beginning at 6 p.m.).

Canton's next action is Tuesday at home against Northville.

NORTHVILLE 42, PLYMOUTH 40: Kylie Robb and Jada Woody each scored 14 points to pace visiting Plymouth Friday night, but it wasn't enough in a KLAAs crossover girls basketball game. Scoring 14 points for Northville was Kendra Brenner.

The game was close throughout, with Plymouth trailing by two points at halftime and going up by a deuce in the fourth.

Northville tied the contest with 10 seconds left and won it with two free throws with 3.5 seconds to play. Plymouth (0-4) will host Salem at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

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TWIN BILL

Continued from page B1

forward Chris Dierker, who scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Canton catalyst

Mayberry set the tone with nine first-quarter points and was in the center of an important stretch of the third for Canton (2-2).

"He made some big shots, found some open guys, made some big free throws at the end to seal it," Reddy said about Mayberry. "He's a senior guard, he's got to do that stuff for us if we're going

to be any good this year."

Salem crept to within 45-42 with 1:11 to go. In the final 20 seconds of the quarter, Mayberry scored on a layup, stole the ball in Canton's defensive zone and raced down the court for another basket as the horn sounded.

The Rocks couldn't get closer than five points the rest of the way.

Salem did go on a 7-0 run midway through the fourth to pull to within 61-56. Dierker sank a trey, after receiving a sparkling bounce pass from the base line from Connor Cole. Senior forward Cam Werner then connected on a jumper.

That was Salem's final push, however.

Reddy said it was good to see his team stand up to fourth-quarter pressure, unlike what happened in a Dec. 8 loss at Saline.

He also pointed to the opening game against

Detroit Renaissance as being a good primer for up-tempo, physical games such as Friday's.

"I think that's why we play hard teams in the non-leagues," Reddy said. "to get ready for our league games and our tough teams like Salem."

Other key Canton players were 6-8 junior forward Jordan Nobles (12 points, six rebounds) and sophomore guard Greg Williams (six points, five assists and stellar defense against Dierker).

"You got to take a look at Greg Williams," Reddy said. "He's now 6-2 at the most guarding Chris Dierker (6-7) and doing a great job."

"I know Dierker still got his, but he did an outstanding job on him."

Scoring 12 points for the Rocks was senior center Ahmad Khalid (he also had five boards), while senior guard Kevin Mack chipped in with nine.

"They shot the ball particularly well from the perimeter," Brodie said.

"Those guys can shoot the ball and we didn't get to them very well. We should have got to their shooters a little bit better than we did."

"But it just didn't happen, they were knocking them down tonight."

The Rocks will look for a better outcome when they visit Plymouth at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday (following the Salem-Plymouth girls game at 6 p.m.).

Canton is set to visit Northville at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

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Salem senior Kevin Mack (No. 11) makes a bid to dribble past Canton senior defender Josh Mayberry (No. 2) during a KLAAs crossover varsity boys basketball game.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Wildcats edge Northville in OT, 54-53

The Plymouth varsity boys basketball team outmuscled host Northville 54-53 Friday night in a KLAAs crossover game decided in overtime.

Spearheading the Wildcats (2-1 overall) was

senior Josh Priebe, with 19 points and seven rebounds.

Collecting 11 points was senior Brendan Swanson, while other players helping Plymouth's cause included senior Sid Acharya (six

points), sophomore Randall Aikins (six points) and sophomore Deji Adebiyi (five rebounds).

"I thought our defensive effort was excellent tonight," Wildcats' head coach Mike Soukup said. "We really got into

the passing lanes and put pressure on their guards."

"We did a nice job of taking care of our backboards, that was key."

Scoring 24 points for Northville (1-2) was Andrew Meacham.

Local moms wish military troops a Merry Christmas

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Lorraine Diegel of Livonia celebrated Christmas early this year.

Her youngest son, Seth, was in town last week, on leave with his wife and their two children, from Fort Campbell, a U.S. Army base in Tennessee near the Kentucky line, northwest of Nashville.

Last month, Diegel and her husband also got a chance to count their blessings with the young family.

"The Army just moved them from Alaska to Fort Campbell. Were able to go down for Thanksgiving," Diegel said. "It was great. It was the first Thanksgiving we had in six years with our son."

The Thanksgiving and Christmas reunions have been a treat for Diegel, but she understands that other moms won't be able to spend time with their children who are in the service this holiday season.

Through Military Moms United, Diegel and other members offer their support.

Heart of the family

"We all get together and share stories about our kids, things that families are going through," said Diegel, president of the nonprofit organization. "The moms support each other and also support our veterans and do community work. We support moms whose children are going into the military.

We also serve mothers whose children have gotten out of the military and are home now. We're united for all the moms.

"The mother is the heart of the family. She is mostly the main support to that family, the core," she said, adding that moms often help the rest of the family cope when a son or daughter joins the military service. "They say that when a child goes into the military, you all go into the military."

Diegel sought the support of other military moms after Seth, then a junior in college, decided to enter the service.

"I was looking for some encouragement because it was a difficult time for myself, realizing my youngest son was going. It is a daily up and down roller coaster ride," she recalled.

When he was deployed to Iraq and to Afghanistan, Diegel avoided national news broadcasts and became more aware of her surroundings.

"We talk about our children diffidently when they are in the service. For security, we have to be very careful and mindful of what we say," she noted. "It's not that we get rid of our friends who are not involved in the military, but we switch topics, depending on who we are socializing with."

She discovered that other military moms shared her experience.

New organization

Military Moms Unit-



Military Moms United members Carol Moxlow (left), treasurer; Minerva Draper, packaging coordinator; and Lorraine Diegel, president; are all smiles at a recent gift packaging session for the military. Pat Enderle, secretary, is seated in the background.



Volunteers select personal care items for packages that will help give overseas military troops a merry Christmas.

formed in 2007 when several members of the Dearborn-based Michigan Military Moms broke ranks to create a separate group in west-

ern Wayne County.

"We had a member in Ann Arbor and one Downriver and we wanted something centrally located," Diegel explained.

General meetings are held the first and third Thursday of the month at the American Legion in Taylor. But Diegel said prospective new members should call first. The number is (855) 868-6483.

"We move around," she said, adding that the group also can tailor sessions and phone outreach to meet members' needs.

Meetings offer a

chance to socialize, network, and hear guest speakers. The group sends gift packages at least quarterly to their children and other men and women in the military.

Recently Military Moms United joined forces with volunteers from Walmart and Chase Bank to send Christmas packages overseas.

"That went to a large group all over from all branches overseas. We try to send them as much as we can to give them a taste of home," she said. "Fourth graders from a school in Chelsea made cards to put on the packaging. We included a snippet of a holiday wreath in each package to remind the troops of their moms back home who are thinking of them."

They sent approximately 70 boxes. The group also recently prepared personal care items for troops returning to the U.S. from Afghanistan next year. Plans also are underway to send packages to military canines and their handlers in February.

The organization accepts donations of good and money. Call first to find out what items it needs. Monetary donations are accepted at Military Moms United, P.O. Box 39208, Redford, MI 48239-0208.

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MSU Extension is accepting applications for the next Master Gardener classes. Beginning in January 2013, this 12-week course teaches the student basic horticultural principles and environmentally-sound gardening practices. Course topics include introduction and volunteerism, plant science, soils for plant growth, flower gardening, woody ornamentals, turf/lawn care, vegetable culture, small fruit culture, tree fruit culture, plant health care, indoor plants and household pests. Cost is \$300, along with a \$25 registration fee. For more information and/or to download application visit: <http://www.mgwww.org/Pages/MSUEExtension-Office.aspx> or call Anita Callender at (734) 729-3632 Ext. 103.

Livonia Garden Club

Vince Kogo, an urban chicken farmer, will talk about raising chickens, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information visit www.orgsites.com/mlivoniagardenclub/.

English Gardens

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

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

LEARN HOW TO RESEARCH ANCESTRY

The Plymouth Historical Museum is selling tickets for a genealogy seminar planned for Saturday, March 23, 2013.

Cost is \$45 through Dec. 31. The price goes up to \$50 on Jan. 1, 2013.

The workshop, sponsored by Ancestry.com, features the mother and daughter duo, Loretta Szucs and Juliana Szucs Smith.

Szucs has worked for Ancestry.com for 20 years. She also was employed by the National Archives in Chicago, Ill., served on national and state advisory boards and boards of five genealogical societies, including the Federation of Genealogical Societies. She has authored or edited more than a dozen books.

She'll talk about "Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com" and "Beyond The Federal Census: Using Non-Population and State Censuses to Find Your People."

Smith has worked for Ancestry.com for more than 14 years and began investigating her family history by trolling through microfilms at age of 11 with her mother. She has written many articles for online and print genealogical publications.

Smith will talk about "Common Surnames" and "What to Do With Your Discoveries."

The seminar will run from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. It will include the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the Museum's special exhibit, "Made in America," during lunch and the afternoon break.

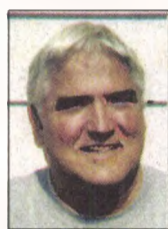
Buy tickets at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the Museum's website at http://www.plymouth-history.org/events/Genealogy-Seminar_ET119.html?SortBox=201303.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main, one block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, call the Museum at (734) 455-8940.

In this special season, give the best gift — hope

By **L. J. McCulloch**
Guest columnist

As it happens, this installation of my monthly column, "Our Mental Health" coincides with our holiday season of gift giving. We, "give thanks"



Our Mental Health

Len McCulloch

on Thanksgiving day. We exchange gifts at Christmas and Hanukkah. Our children give Santa Claus lists of hoped-for presents. We receive many requests to give donations to our hopeful, less fortunate folks. We give resolutions of change at the New Year and hope we can stick to them. We give and receive a multitude of "well wishes" such as "Merry Christmas," "Happy New Year," "Have a Happy Yuletide," and so forth.

I think that a common element of these holiday traditions is hope. Hope comes about by mixing

a sufficient quantity of faith with an abundant serving of love.

"Hope springs eternal," said one philosopher. And another said, "The greatest virtues are faith, hope and love." Yet another said, "Hope depends on faith and the outcome of both is love." While hope is a small word, it is a big antidote for despair. The importance of hope in recovery from despair is no more or less important, regardless of the source of suffering. Without hope there is despair. Despair is the submission to loss. It is giving up. It is concluding there is no way out. It is despondency and it accomplishes nothing. It is suicide of the soul.

Swaddling Clothes The dichotomy of hope vs. despair (life vs. death?) seems, to me, beautifully depicted by the explanation of what swaddling clothes are. The Christmas account of the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem, tells us that the newborn Jesus was, "wrapped in swaddling clothes" by his mother, Mary, as Joseph looked on. So, what are swaddling clothes? You see,

in those times, travel from one city to another was by foot or on a donkey. It would take a long time. Some folks died along the way. It was customary to wear an undergarment which would be suitable to be buried in, if need be. So, it is said that Mary wrapped the newborn Jesus in her swaddling clothes. Thus, life and death, (hope and despair) were immediately linked, consistent with the prophecy that this baby was born in order to die, for us, 33 years later. And then, to rise again after three days so as to offer us eternal life. Hope vs. despair... hope wins!

Hope requires faith in optimism and in one's self. And hope, usually requires interaction with another person. Despairing people usually cannot discover hope on their own. They need another person who is able to enter their world of despair and offer them a deal. The deal, psychologically, is a "working alliance."

This is a technical term usually reserved for the positive relationship developed between a psychotherapist and

a patient. But, it can occur between any two people wherein one has hope to offer to the other in a realistic manner. This working alliance amounts to two or more people agreeing to be optimistic in their combined efforts to deal with, overcome, or put up with and tolerate major personal distress. Some people are trained professional "therapists" who can offer hope. Some are ordinary people with an extraordinary life experience or natural endowment of resilience, so as to be able to offer hope to others. Hope motivates one to act with the belief that there will be a positive outcome from optimism, hard work, and perseverance.

Wishing

Hope differs from a wish. Wishing for a solution to a life problem is a passive event. It can be done in solitude and does not always come true. Hope, on the other hand, is an active event and implies a willingness to work towards a solution or an ability to tolerate seemingly insurmountable problems, known as suffering.

So, I encourage hope. If you are struggling with trauma or despair from any source, find another person, group, cause, or organization with which to establish a working alliance pursuant to an optimistic overcoming of sorrow. Join up with another in any small or big way and reap the benefits of hope, which are movement onward and forward, despite the cost. Have hopeful holidays!

Len McCulloch, a Farmington Hills resident for 20 years, is a Diplomat of The American Psychotherapy Association and is board certified in traumatic stress. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, social work and addictions. He is a psychotherapist of 35 years and president of The Therapy Choirs of Michigan, (TCM), a non-profit organization which develops therapy choirs for special people with special needs and challenges. Their Tour Of Hope has given nearly 200 free "Concerts Of Inspiration" throughout Michigan for the past decade. See the TCM website at: www.therapychoirs.org. McCulloch can be reached at (248) 476-9329.

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Share your Christmas traditions with other readers

Get a favorite Christmas tradition? Maybe it's an annual coloring party or ethnic-inspired Christmas Eve supper. Share it with other readers. Tell us about your Christmas

tradition — and New Year's if you've got one to share for that as well — include a photo if you'd like and tell us why it's a mainstay in your holiday celebrating. We'll share it with readers in an upcoming Observer edition.

Include your name, phone number, e-mail, and city of residence. E-mailed photos should be jpg attachments. E-mail to Sharon Dargay by Thursday, Dec. 20, at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

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December 19
 Candle Lighting 7 p.m.
December 23
 Advent of Joy & Wonder 10 a.m.
December 30
 Burning Bowl 10 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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 734.464.0211 www.holytrinitylivonia.org
Christmas Eve
 Holy Communion offered at all Services
 5:00 pm Family Worship
 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship
 10:30 pm Festival Prelude of Christmas Music
 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship
Christmas Day
 10:00 am Holy Communion

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 Family Service: 5 PM
 Traditional: 7 PM
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 26425 Wellington Road, Franklin, MI
 (248) 626-6606 www.franklinchurch.us

Covenant Community Church
 25800 Student Redford, MI 48239
 313-535-3100
 (1 block north of Five Mile on Beech Daly)
www.covenantredford.com
Christmas Service Schedule
 Sunday, December 23, 2012 - 11 a.m.
 Morning Worship
 Monday, December 24, 2012 - 6 p.m.
 Christmas Eve Service

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)
 17810 Farmington Road - Livonia, Michigan
 734-261-1360 - [website: stpaulslivonia.org](http://www.stpaulslivonia.org)
Christmas Worship at St. Paul's
 Christmas Eve Worship 6:30 p.m.
 Christmas Day Worship 10:00 a.m.
 New Year's Eve 6:30 p.m.
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Christmas at the Kirk
December 16
 4:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24 - Christmas Eve
 11:00 AM Young Family Service
 Dr. Norman Pritchard
 4:00 PM Family Service
 Rev. William Adams III
 6:00 PM Family Service
 Rev. Carol Tate
 8:30 PM Holy Night Service
 Dr. Norman Pritchard
 11:00 PM Holy Night Service
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Christmas Eve: A Night in Bethlehem
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 Sunday, December 23 at 9:00A & 11:00A
 49555 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170
 BRIGHTON-HOWELL
 Sunday, December 23 at 11:00A
 400 Wright Rd., Brighton, MI 48843
 ANN ARBOR-SALINE
 Sunday, December 23 at 11:00A
 7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline, MI 48176
 NorthRidge | NorthRidgeChurch.com

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Monday, December 24, 2012
 5:00 p.m. - Family Service
 Featuring Children's Choir and Youth Handbells
 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service
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 Rev. Steve Clark, Pastor - Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Pastor
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Bake for your dog, but don't over-treat beloved Fido

Holiday treats

Skip the turkey and ham table scraps this holiday season, put chocolates — toxic to dogs — well out of reach and try these bake-it-yourself treats from the American Kennel Club:

Pumpkin Peanut Butter Biscuits

2 ½ cups whole wheat or barley flour

2 eggs

1 cup canned pumpkin

3 tablespoons peanut butter

½ teaspoon cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees

2. Stir dry ingredi-

ents in medium bowl. In separate bowl, whisk together eggs, pumpkin, and peanut butter. Add egg mixture to flour mixture and knead thoroughly. Dough should be dry and stiff; add small amounts of water as needed to make it workable. If dough is too sticky, add small amounts of flour. Roll dough into half-inch thickness and cut into half-inch pieces, using knife or cookie cutters

3. Bake about 40 minutes, or until hard and dry.

Serve and watch tails wag



PET PROJECTS

Watch their weight

The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) suggests that pet parents resolve in the New Year to improve their cat's or dog's health.

The group, citing a study by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, says that approximately 53 percent of cats and 55 percent of dogs are overweight or obese.

"To help keep pets healthy, it's important to stick to a schedule and create a daily routine for both you and your animal," says John D'Ariano, NAPPS president. "Consistency is key when it comes to caring for animals. Allow your pet to know what to expect each day — whether it's time to eat or time for exercise, help your pet adjust to a

schedule that will benefit his health and overall wellbeing."

The organization suggests that pet parents resist begging from animals, take time for morning exercise, explore new walking routes with their dogs, and consider hiring someone to walk or play with their pets when they are away from home.

Wellness services

Tail Wagger's 1990 is scheduling appointments for wellness services on Friday, Dec. 21.

The organization offers rabies, distem-

per and bordetella vaccinations for dogs for \$30. Vaccinations also are offered individually for \$12. Cats and kittens receive distemper and rabies vaccines for \$2 each. Heartworm testing is available, with tests on the spot, and microchips cost \$30.

Tail Wagger's 1990 doesn't charge an office fee and consultation; or second opinions are free, although donations are accepted. Call (771) 855-4077 for an appointment.

Tail Wagger's is located at 28402 Five Mile Livonia.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Enjoy these holiday services with your family and friends.



North Congregational Church
36520 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI
248/848-1750 northcongregationalchurch.org

Sunday, December 23, 2012, 10:30 a.m.
Worship, Special Music: "Lessons and Carols"

Monday, December 24, 2012, 7:30 p.m.
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
"The Light Shines in the Darkness"

Celebrate Christmas!
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Rd, Livonia
(Just north of I-96)

Christmas Eve:
5pm Family Service
11pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day:
10am Worship
(734) 522-6830
www.christoursavior.org

Christ the King Lutheran Church
9300 Farmington Rd. - Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 421-0749
www.christthekinglivonia.com
The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship with Communion
5:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Starr Presbyterian Church
Christmas Service Schedule
Sunday, December 23 at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24 at 7 p.m. **Join us!**

Starr Presbyterian Church
1717 W. 13 Mile at Crooks • Royal Oak
248-288-3230
www.starrchurch.org

NEWBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor
Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 p.m. Children/Family Friendly Service
7:00 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight
11:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

December 30 - Family Worship Service for all ages at 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-DETROIT
21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield
(248) 569-2972 www.fbc-detroit.org

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE
December 16th - Third Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship - Special Christmas Cantata

December 23rd - Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. "Candlelight Communion Service"

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Tridentine Latin Rite Mass 734-462-3200
38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154
One quarter mile West of Newburgh Road

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Confessions	11:00-11:50 pm
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
	Morning Mass	10:00 am
	Confessions	9:30 am

Resurrection Parish
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187
734-451-0444
www.resurrectionparish.net

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Eve: 4 PM, 6 PM, 10 PM
Tuesday, December 25th: Christmas Day: 10:30 AM

Monday, December 31st:
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: 4:30 PM
Tuesday, January 1st:
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: 10:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE: New Mass Times - All in the Church!
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH!

First United Methodist Church of Birmingham
Christmas Worship
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

2:00 p.m. Traditional sanctuary service including lessons, carols, Holy Communion, a **horsery** and candle lighting.

4:00 p.m. A worship service for children younger than five years old and their families.

5:30 p.m. A family worship time led by children in first through fifth grades. Nursery care provided for children two years and younger.

7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Traditional services in the sanctuary, featuring beautiful music and a Christmas Eve **sermon**. At 7:00 PM, nursery care is available for children younger than kindergarten age.

1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham, MI (248) 646-1200
www.fumcbirmingham.org

Historic Mariners' Church
Traditional Anglican Worship - Since 1842

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
7:30 and 11:00 p.m. - Duplicate Services with Festival Choral Communion
No Services on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 30 - First Sunday after Christmas
8:30 a.m. - The Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. - The Festival of Lessons and Carols with The Holy Communion
Regular Services of Holy Communion
Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.

(313) 259-2206 Free Secured Parking in Ford Underground Garage with entrance in the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward On Hart Plaza at the Tunnel.

ST. GENEVIEVE-ST. MAURICE PARISH
29015 Jamison St., Livonia
East of Middlebelt Rd. between Five Mile Rd. & the Jeffries Fwy.

December 24... Christmas Eve Masses
4:00p Children's Mass...10:00p [Midnight Mass]
December 25... Christmas Day Masses
9:00a...11:00a

December 31... New Year's Eve Mass
4:00p

December 31-January 1... Holy Hour
11:30p Exposition...12:30a Reposition & Benediction
January 1... New Year's Day Masses
9:00a...11:00a

Grant funds arthritis, acupressure study

The Arthritis Foundation has awarded Lydia Li, an associate professor of social work at the University of Michigan a \$100,000 two-year Innovative Research Grant to study "Acupressure for Older Adults with Symptomatic Knee Arthritis."

Li, who holds a Ph.D. in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin, will try to determine if self-administered acupressure is effective and feasible treatment strategy for older adults with knee osteoarthritis.

During the eight-week study, participants will be randomly assigned to three treatment groups: pain-relief acupressure, sham acupressure and usual care. During the eight-week



Li

intervention, participants in the pain-relief and sham acupressure groups will be taught the assigned treatment by a trained research assistant. They'll also receive a DVD to help them practice at home. The research assistant will make weekly phone

calls to help participants adhere to the treatment. Individuals in the usual care group also will receive weekly phone calls offering emotional support, but no additional intervention. Data will be collected at the beginning, at the four-week point and at the end of the study.

Results are expected to help assess the effectiveness of pain-relief acupressure on knee pain and will help plan for a future study involving a larger, more diverse sample of older adults with osteoarthritis.

There are no other studies of older adults in self-administered acupressure.

Li said the study will target community-liv-

ing older adults age 65 or older with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis and with a moderate to severe level of pain.

Why study acupressure? It may be an effective alternative to drug treatment for pain in the elderly, who Li says have "a greater likelihood of having conditions like drug-drug interactions and drug-induced diseases."

"I have been doing research related to the physical and mental health of home-care elders for many years. Arthritis is very prevalent and arthritis-related pain is a major complaint in this population," Li says. "Pain, when severe and being felt as out-of-control,

is a strong predictor of depression.

"These findings motivated me to develop effective and affordable pain intervention, particularly one that increases a sense of control for older adults with arthritis."

Li plans to recruit senior citizens for the study by posting flyers at the U-M Health System clinics, senior centers, senior housing and churches in Washtenaw and Wayne counties. She'll also mail letters to a list of previous research participants with knee osteoarthritis who agreed to be contacted for future studies.

The goals of the Arthritis Foundation's

Innovative Research Grant Awards are:

- Promote development of personalized medicine for individuals with rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile arthritis

- Encourage discovery and development of new interventions for osteoarthritis

- Ensure applicability of research to humans with arthritis

Striking one in every five adults and 300,000 children, arthritis is the nation's leading cause of disability. The Arthritis Foundation is committed to raising awareness and reducing the impact of this serious and painful disease. Visit the Foundation's website at www.arthritis.org.

Blood drive set at St. Mary Mercy Dec. 27

St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the American Red Cross present their final collaborative blood drive of the year, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, in the North Auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, at Livonia, in Livonia.

The past six blood drives during 2012 have collected 422 pints of blood, close to a 450-pint goal. The American Red Cross encourages local residents to join St. Mary Mercy Hospital employees and volunteers to donate blood and help meet or exceed the goal.

To schedule an appointment call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org.

Appointment sign-up schedules also are available in the hospital cafeteria. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

For directions or additional information, visit www.stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

Make nutritious substitutions to holiday menu

If pie, mashed potatoes, and cookies are on your holiday menu, a little recipe tweaking can keep them from sabotaging healthy menu planning. Katie Ferraro, a registered dietician and nutrition expert for Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club, Inc., the nonprofit weight-loss support group, says the holidays don't have to expand your waistline.

"Use parties and family get-togethers as an opportunity to try out new, healthy recipes and incorporate several of the following tips into your upcoming celebrations," Ferraro says. "Special holiday recipes prepared healthier with simple substitutions can add nutrition and won't break the calorie bank."

Her suggestions:

- Mash cauliflower instead of potatoes. One cup of mashed potatoes made with skim milk and no butter has 150 calories, while one cup of mashed cauliflower made with skim milk and no butter has one third of the calories, according to the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture (USDA) — and tastes nearly identical. For the pickiest eaters, mix half mashed cauliflower, half mashed potato. "Add fresh herbs in place of salt for zesty flavor," Ferraro says.

- Unsweetened applesauce instead of sugar, oil, or butter

Cut calories in baked goods while providing a hint of sweetness with this substitute. According to the USDA, a cup of sugar contains 775 calories, while a cup of unsweetened applesauce contains only about 100 calories.

- Nutrient-rich leafy greens instead of iceberg lettuce

For an added boost of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, consider dark, leafy vegetables like arugula, chichory, kale, mustard greens, or spinach in place of iceberg lettuce for your salad. "Generally, the deeper the color of vegetable, the better the nutrition," Ferraro notes.

- Air-cured or other smoked meats instead of bacon

Substitute bacon with lower-fat and

higher-protein Canadian bacon, turkey bacon, or prosciutto. According to Ferraro, one slice of bacon has 45 calories, while turkey bacon contains roughly half that amount. Use these meats in limited quantities — they can contain significant amounts of sodium.

- Finely-chopped prunes instead of butter in dark breads

Swap finely-chopped prunes or baby food prunes for oil, butter, or margarine in quick breads or other dark baked goods, like brownies. Cut calories and fat in half without compromising on sweetness or moisture.

- Steam in canned broth instead of sauteing in oil

For a tasty, low-calorie and fat-free alternative to oil sauteing, Ferraro recommends steaming meats and vegetables in a half cup of reduced-sodium canned chicken or beef broth. Steaming vegetables in broth helps retain their nutrients and enhances flavor.

- Fresh fruit instead of fruit canned in heavy syrup

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JOBS

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Marketing Your 'Hidden' Job Skills

Content provided by OfficeTeam

Mary is a recent college graduate who worked as a server at a local restaurant during the school year, and held an internship at a marketing firm the summer after her junior year. Now she's looking for a full-time job. But with her limited experience, she doubts many employers are interested in hiring her. She is a strong writer and has some knowledge of marketing strategy, but she possesses few other marketable job skills — or does she?

Millions of job seekers — including individuals new to the working world and those well past graduation — wrestle with the same doubts: They're unsure if they are skilled or experienced enough to land a job in today's employment market. If you are among this group, the good news is you likely have more to offer companies than you think. In fact, you may have dozens of "hidden" abilities that employers seek. The trick is to identify and successfully market them. Here's how:

Identifying your skills

The first step is distinguishing your duties from your skills. Duties are the activities you perform on the job: generating reports, coordinating an industry conference, providing desktop support.

Skills are the tools and techniques you use to accomplish these tasks: knowledge of certain software, communication abilities, and leadership.

For example, if you've worked

as an administrative assistant, you may have arranged meetings, drafted correspondence and answered the phone. As a result, you likely developed strong planning skills to ensure meetings went smoothly, strong communication abilities to accurately convey your manager's messages to staff, and solid customer service skills to successfully interact with internal and external clients. And that says nothing of your technical skills, such as typing speed, research abilities and knowledge of Microsoft Office. The list goes on.

Before compiling your résumé, write down all of your previous duties. Then list the skills and abilities that were necessary to accomplish each task. Don't limit yourself to full-time jobs. Also include part-time work, volunteer positions and even your hobbies. Perhaps you served as the president of your homeowners association, thereby developing leadership skills, negotiation abilities and knowledge of budgeting processes. Chances are you'll uncover a number of talents you hadn't considered.

Marketing your skills

Of course, identifying your skills is only half the battle. You also must successfully market them to interested companies if you are to eventually land a job. The key is to find out what skills prospective employers are looking for and ensure your résumé and cover letter highlight these abilities.

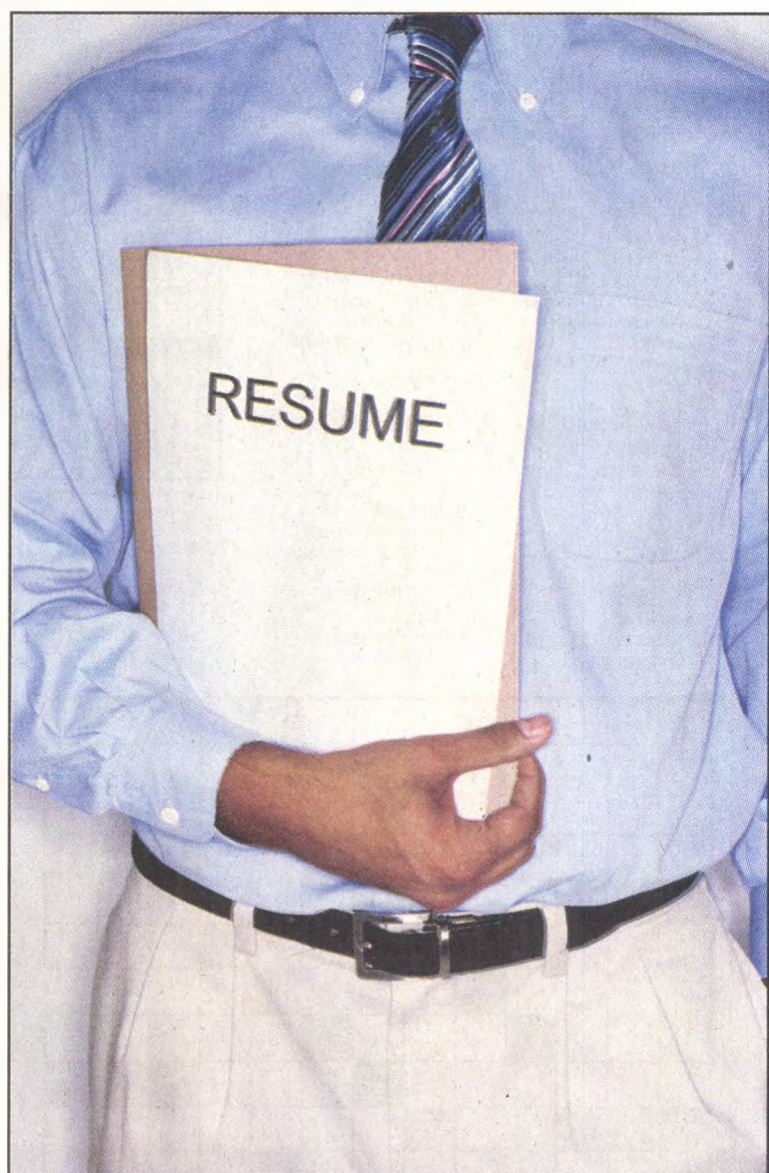
Start by asking yourself what

type of firm you hope to work for: Is it large or small? A public or privately owned company? What industry is it in? What's the corporate culture like? Your answers can help you determine which of your many skills your ideal company may seek.

For example, if you'd like to work for a large firm and speak Mandarin, consider targeting multinational companies that may be looking to hire individuals with your language skills. If you are applying for a position within the advertising field, prospective employers may be intrigued to learn about the pop-culture blog you write.

You can gain an idea of the skills companies seek by looking at the job descriptions they post. For instance, a medical firm may be in need of administrative analysts to help prepare and analyze case reports. Although you have never held this specific role before, the knowledge of case report preparation you attained through volunteering for special projects with other research firms may help you get the job. Conducting informational interviews and consulting specialized publications like Robert Half International's "Glossary of Job Descriptions for Accounting and Finance" also can help you align the skills on your résumé and in your cover letter with those needed for the job.

One note of caution: Although it may be tempting to include all of your skills in your resu-



me and cover letter, throwing everything against the wall in hopes that something will stick is rarely an effective strategy. Hiring managers are only interested in one thing: whether, based on what they read, you deserve serious consideration as a candidate. Information that does not contribute to a positive response — such as your participation in a recent marathon or your expertise

with outdated software — should be omitted.

No matter how much or how little work experience you possess, you likely have a number of skills that will impress hiring managers. Before launching your next job search, take some time to uncover your hidden talents. Doing so will make you a more attractive candidate and increase your chance of employment success.

OE2298389



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Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Wolf weapon
5 — Rand
of "Atlas
Shrugged"
8 Ginger ale
12 Neat as —
13 Monkey haven
14 Libya neighbor
15 "La — Bonita"
(Madonna tune)
16 Fragrant flower
18 More doubtful
20 Neighbor of VT
21 — cit. (footnote
abbr.)
22 Not
susceptible
26 Add a lane
29 Main rd.
30 Gosh!
31 Like the
Kalahari
32 Word to a
mule
33 Chester —
Arthur
34 Use tiny bit, as
in cream

DOWN

- 1 Go under
2 Church alcove
3 World's
longest river
4 Like an old oak
tree
5 Montezuma
subject
6 "— Cheatin'
Heart"
35 — Lanka
36 In a tedious
manner
37 Attempts
39 Hill builder
40 Cu successor
41 Opposed to
45 Rectangular
gem
49 Area of London
50 In charge of
51 Nol or Chaney
52 Sheik, usually
53 — noire
54 Balance-sheet
guru
55 Handle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Grid containing answers to previous puzzle: BABY FEES MMC, OLEO EDEN OAR, KIND ASKED OUT, JEST AEGIS, VOILA FEEDS, OM COLT KICK, LOOM VON SOON, SOFA IRAN WE, NADA BUGLE, ORDER ACLU, GUESSERS NIPS, RTE ORES ASEA, ESP NEST SENT

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- 7 Head, slangily
8 Take a powder
9 Gloating cry
10 "— Rheingold"
11 Stock ending
17 Oscar relative
19 Charged
particle
22 Labor org.
23 Unslightly
24 Tatum O—
25 Counting-out
start
26 Ford a river
27 Retirees'
kitties
28 Claims
29 Yes, in Kyoto
32 Coll. credit
units
33 Potter or
glassblower
35 "Auld Lang —"
36 Chromosome
material
38 Sky-colored
39 Booster rocket
41 Perched on
42 Director —
Ephron
43 Pillow cover
44 Option for
Hamlet
(2 wds.)
45 Short haired
46 Blvd.
47 Obtain
48 RN's knack

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 indicating starting points for clues.

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SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

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Word Search

Word search grid with letters arranged in a 15x15 pattern.

- blanket cold mittens shovel snow
blizzard flakes quilt sled snowblower
boots frost scarf sleet wet

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Grid for checking Sudoku answers.

Word Search

Grid for checking Word Search answers.

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Auto Misc.

Chevrolet

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Cyber Gray, SS, 6-spd, and
leather! Real Chevy Muscle!
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AWD, 32k, \$22,995
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Raven Black, LS, and Coupe!
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WHEELS

cars.com

Chevrolet

CORRECTION
Price for the below Chevrolet Cruze 2011 was incorrect in 12-13-2012 newspaper. Was priced at \$14,712. should have been priced at \$15,712

CHEVROLET CRUZE 2011
Jet Black, 13K, LS and auto!
Many safety features!
Reduced to \$15,712!
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Lou LaRiche

CRUZE LT 2012
13T9069A - RS pkg, auto, full power, alloys, 11,000 1 owner miles! \$19,988
North Brothers Ford
800-586-7931

EQUINOX 2005 LT AWD
21356-6 cyl., leather, full power, fully inspected & warranty \$9988
North Bros. Value Lot
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HHR 2006
Auté, A/C, full power, alloys, only 60,000 1 owner miles, \$10,488. ST# 13T9147A
North Bros. Value Lot
800-586-7931

HHR 2008
Harvest Orange, remote start, & power options! Happy Cruisin!
Reduced to \$9,922!
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Chevrolet

IMPALA 2007
Pacific Blue, 23K, LT, & remote start! Just your style! Reduced to \$11,551!
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MALIBU 2006
Light Metallic \$7995
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Chrysler-Plymouth

300 C 2010
13C9029A- Hemi, moon, chrome, navigation, only 26,000 careful owner miles, business! \$24,988
North Brothers Ford
800-586-7931

CHRYSLER 300 2006
Blue Sky, leather, and heated seats! Very luxurious ride!
Only \$11,999!
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CHRYSLER 300 2011
Excel. cond., 22,000 mi, custom grill, 20 in. wheels, loaded, \$22,995. 248-231-7874

CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2001
Red, Very nice, \$3,995
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(734) 453-2500

MALIBU MAX 2005
Tan, 75K, \$7,995
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734-453-2500

PT CRUISER 2001
Red, great shape, touring, only \$4,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
(734) 453-2500

Dodge

CHALLENGER 2009
Blue Streak, Hemi, and R/T! Get in hold on! Reduced to \$22,866!
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CHARGER 2009 SXT
White, \$11,995.
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Ford

EDGE 2008 LIMITED
13T1126A- Ford Certified, Leather, chrome, heated seats, 38,000 miles, rates as low as 1.9%. \$21,988
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ESCAPE 2012
FWD, full power, only 10,000 miles, rates as low as 1.9%. Ford certified, ST# 13C8069A
North Brothers Ford
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FIESTA 2011
12C8667B, Ford Certified, 5 Spd, A/C, Only 27K miles, Rates as low as 1.9% \$12,988
North Brothers Ford
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FOCUS 2009 SE
13C9067A, auto, a/c full pwr, alloys, super clean, priced to sell! \$9,988
North Brothers Value Lot
800-586-7931

FUSION 2010 SE
12C9481A, 4 cyl, full pwr., fully inspected \$ warranty, \$12,988
North Brothers Value Lot
800-586-7931

MUSTANG GT 2002
Auto, leather, only 35,000 careful owner miles, \$11,988. ST# 12T1533A
North Bros. Value Lot
800-586-7931

TAURUS 2008
Black-Blue, 63k, \$15,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
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GMC

ACADIA SLT 2009 AWD
Silver/gray inside. Dual moon-roof DVD bluetooth, 4 buckets leather, rear camera, back up assistance auto tailgate and towing package. Original owner. Won't last long! 85,000 miles. \$20,500.
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TERRAIN 2011 - SLT1
Silver, FWD, 22K. \$25,995.
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Honda

CIVIC EX 2008
Silver, 32K, very nice \$14,995.
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