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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013 • hometownlife.com



Corporate gift equips Plymouth firefighters

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township's firefighters will be working emergency scenes more comfortably - and more safely - thanks to a gift from one of the township's major corporations.

Honeywell, a worldwide manufacturing and technology company with a transportation systems facility in the township, donated a dozen pairs of specially designed boots and a dozen pairs of insulated gloves

Wednesday to the Plymouth Community Fire Department, a pair of each for each of the department's 12 full-time firefighters.

The made-in-the-U.S. equipment is worth more than \$8,000.

"It's companies like Honeywell who are the outstanding corporate citizens in Plymouth Township, who step in in a time of need," township Supervisor Richard Reaume said during a brief presentation at Fire Station No. 1. "We're actually go-

ing to put their products to the test, too."

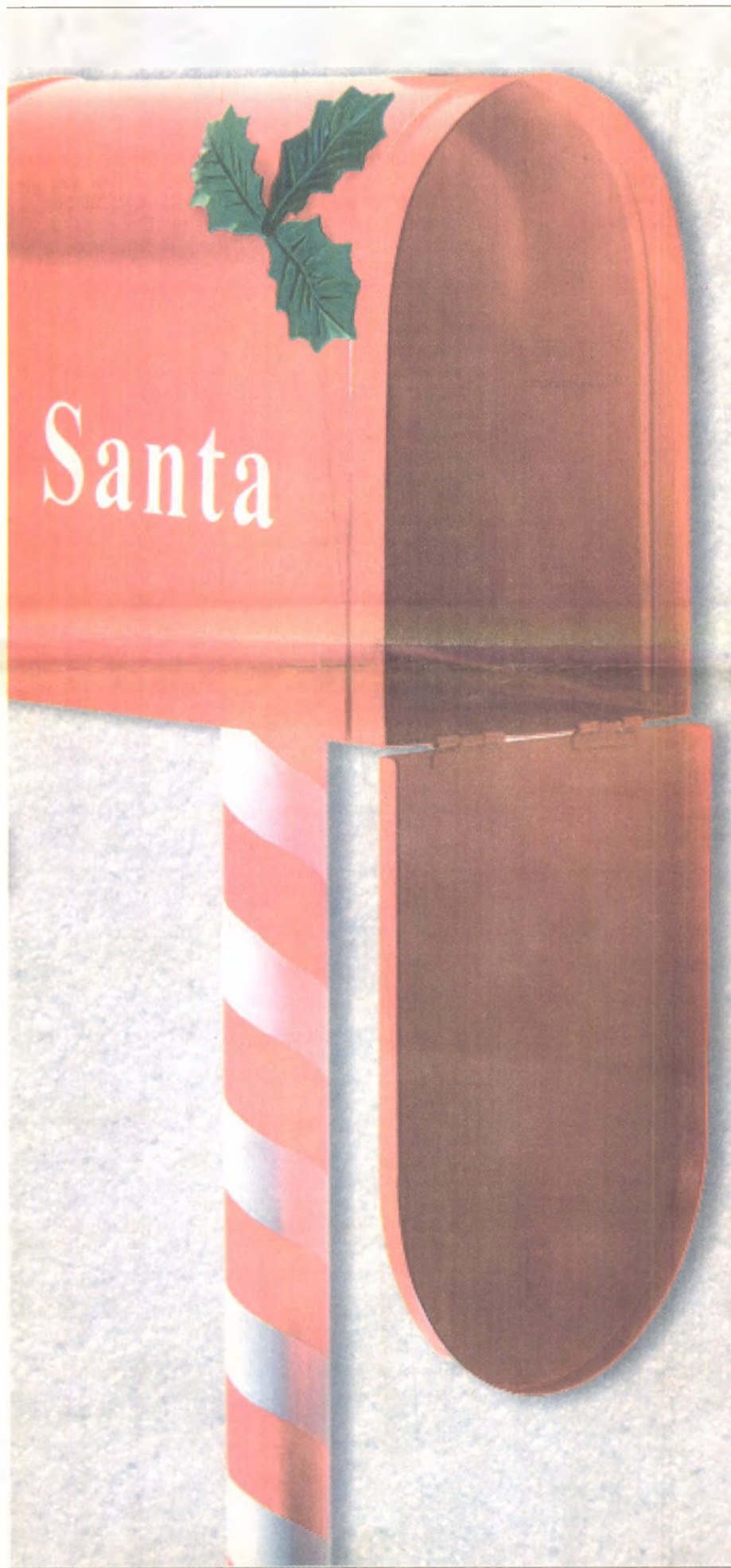
The donation came through Honeywell Turbo Technologies, which is headquartered on Halyard Drive and supplies turbocharger technology to many of the world's vehicle manufacturers.

It was formally made by Tony Schultz, Honeywell's vice president of the Americas for turbo technologies.



Chief Mark Wendel talks about the significance of the Honeywell donation. At right, Tony Schultz, vice president of the Americas, Honeywell Turbo Technology. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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THE 'NICE' LIST

Kids fill Santa's mailbox with wishes

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you bring my Dad a football disc? I will put cookies under my Christmas tree and milk.

I really want a stuffed animal kitten. Have a safe trip! Is Rudolph real?
Love,
Lauren Wilkinson

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph and your other reindeer? I would like perplex and zoomer. I also want tekmo and a 3ds.

Can you please give my dad a scarf, to. I will leave lots of cookies.
Love,
Ty Trumbull

P.S.
Wake me up and I'll give you a hug.

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you bring my brother pokema booster pack. My mom a new car. My

Dad wants a tool box.
I would like a Pokemon booster pack. P.S. Have a safe trip.
Faleh Syed

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? can you bring my dad a med! I would really like a Blay Blayd shop gun steel!
Your friend
Keegan Creedon

P.S.
wake me wen you come. P.S.S. Can you bring my mom ear rings? Can you bring Brayden Haley from Docmesolfins?

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you bring my mom gloves?
I hope you give the poor kids presents. Can you bring me American Girl doll set? I hope you bring my Dad a tool box also!
How is Rudolph? You are awesome! Have a good trip!

See LETTERS, Page A11

Track Santa as he circles the globe

Have you ever wondered how Santa gets around the world in just one day?

According to North American Aerospace Defense Command, Santa doesn't feel time like regular people and, in his reality, he's traveling for much longer than 24 hours.

Children all over the world are fascinated by his journey and the folks at NORAD have graciously allowed us to share their tracking

service with our readers.

Go to our website, Hometownlife.com, Dec. 24 to track Santa as he circles the globe. Children in these parts will want to know when he gets to North America so they can set out milk and cookies or whatever goodies are planned to welcome Santa. Just look to the right side of our site for the NORAD Santa Tracker, click on the link and be prepared for fun.

Independent report points out district strengths, flaws

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools students benefit from a "treasure trove" of high-quality teachers who provide a strong academic education, but the district also has some systemic problems outside analysts feel are keeping them from being one of the best districts in the country.

That's the summary of a

report issued by a group of six former educators, led by former school Superintendent Perry Woldwedel, author of *The School Board Fieldbook: Leading with Vision*, who spent three days last month week talking to teachers, administrators, staff and community leaders about the educational process in Plymouth-Canton schools.

The goal, according to Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen, was to take a look at the

district from a systems perspective, looking at the collaborative culture, the focus on learning and orientation toward results.

"What this process has told us is that - and this is no surprise - the greatest asset in our school district are our teachers," said Meissen, who became superintendent in July. "That's the key. (The report) validates in my mind things I've identified in the process that I've gone through with the

transition entry plan. I think it reinforces the work we would set out to do."

No surprises

John Barrett, president of the district's Board of Education, agreed with Meissen's assessment the report contained "no real surprises." He said it confirmed things board members have talked about before.

"It was good we got some backup evidence that things

we'd been talking about needed some attention, as well as some successes," Barrett said. "The report validated the fact the vast majority of parents and students are very much satisfied with the education they're getting."

"The biggest challenge seems to be establishing communication between schools and the central office," he added. "(Meissen) has jumped

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At Salvation Army, Christmastime need up

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Despite some indicators of a brightening economy, hundreds of needy area families visited the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps last week for its annual Christmastime food, clothing and gift distribution.

Individuals and couples received donated food, including a ham or turkey, or a gift certificate to buy a main dish for Christmas dinner and families with children received food plus toys, gift certificates and, as needed, winter outerwear, said Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Corps' director of family and community ministries. The distribution began Wednesday and will wrap up Monday.

In all, 1,644 people will be assisted by the Plymouth Corps at Christmas this year, including 475 families with 918 children among them. That compares to 424

families with 888 children at Christmastime 2012.

"We have seen more families and more children this year," Aren said Friday, adding that she's uncertain of the reasons. "People keep saying the economy's getting better. I'm not so sure that's true."

Aren said she still hears anecdotes of people losing jobs and that people who find new jobs often start at lower pay than they had been earning. Plus, she said, people re-entering the work force after a period of unemployment immediately have their state benefits cut off, making it difficult to get into a better financial situation when they are essentially starting over.

"These poor people are just getting back to work, just getting back in the groove and all of a sudden they're getting their safety net pulled out from under them," she said.

Still, Aren reports the



Mark Henry of Livonia volunteers at the Salvation Army. In the background are Brittany Nichols of Wayne and Bryan Fogarty of Canton. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Corps' efforts have benefited from "a ton of volunteers" and "a

lot of good support from the community." "We're so grateful for

everybody's continued support," she said.

Red Kettle drive

The Plymouth Corps' Christmastime Red Kettle campaign, its biggest annual fundraiser, was somewhat behind last year's pace last week. The campaign's goal is \$225,000.

As of Friday, just under \$140,000 had been raised, down more than \$26,000 from the same date a year ago, said Sandy Kollinger, the corps' volunteer and special events coordinator. Kollinger said the number of volunteer bell-ringers is down from past years.

"Not having volunteers on the kettle leads to not having the donations," she said. However, she said, non-Red Kettle seasonal fundraising was at more than \$86,000, close to the goal of \$90,000.



The protective gloves are waterproof as well as heat-resistant.

The Plymouth Corps assists families and individuals in Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township and several neighboring communities. Donations to the Plymouth Corps can be made at Red Kettle locations, or dropped off at or mailed to The Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170 or made through the website <http://misalplymouth.org/plymouth/donate>.

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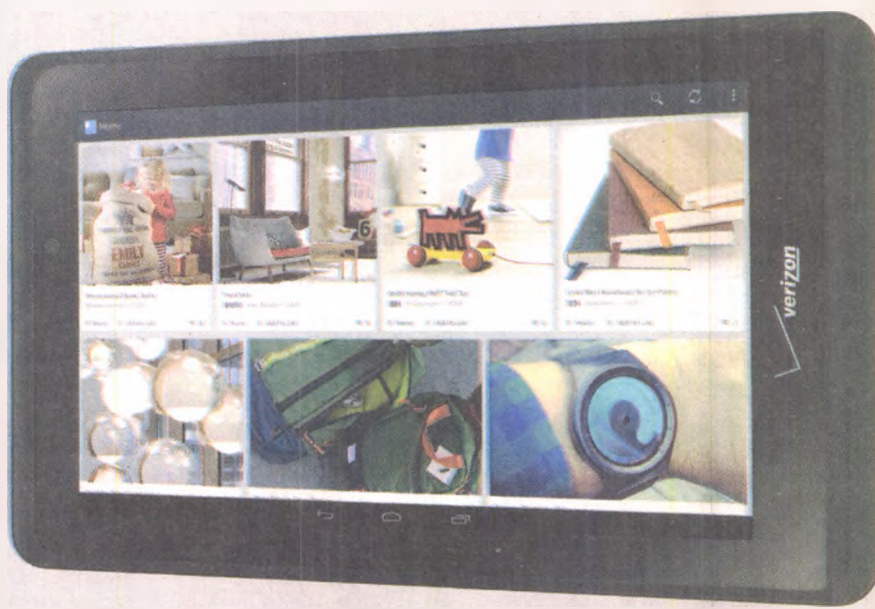
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GIFT

Continued from Page A1

'All good stuff'

The boots and gloves themselves came from Honeywell First Responder Products, part of a group with its headquarters in Minneapolis, said Michael Stoller, a company spokesman. PCFD Lt. Chris Mack coordinated the donation.

"It's all good stuff," PCFD Chief Mark Wendel said, explaining that the gloves and boots are fire-resistant, water-repellant and designed for comfort as well as service.

The boots and gloves will become part of firefighters' "turnout gear," Wendel said; older boots and gloves that are still serviceable will be kept as backups.

The gloves and boots, Wendel said, are vastly superior to the rigid, uncomfortable boots and poorly insulated gloves he wore at the beginning of his career.

Improving technology since then has helped greatly reduce on-the-job injuries among firefighters, he said.

"It's all about firefighter safety," Wendel said. "It's all due to equipment and companies like Honeywell."

Also speaking Wednesday were Schultz and U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, R-Milford, who represents the township in Congress.

Bentivolio thanked the firefighters on hand for their service.

Bentivolio also mentioned Brian Woehlke, the Wayne-Westland firefighter who died in May of injuries suffered while battling a fire.

The fire was determined to be arson-related and Woehlke's death ruled a homicide.

"He was willing to risk his life to protect our community," Bentivolio said in urging justice for Woehlke.

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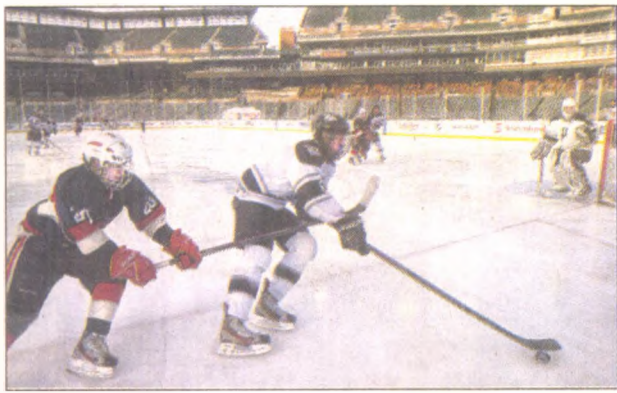
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Ice time



Plymouth and Canton faced off at Comerica Park early Thursday morning in a prep boys hockey game. The sunrise game, part of the Hockeystown Winter Festival, ended with a 4-0 win for the Wildcats. Here, Plymouth forward Kyle Melnick gets to the puck despite the efforts of Canton's Cooper Rice. **BILL BRESLER** | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

REPORT

Continued from Page A1

on that full tilt, talking to teachers, talking to administrators. We're not letting any dust gather on this report."

The team gathered data and talked to stakeholders: teachers, administrators, students and parents. Meissen said the team "talked to about 1,000 people" during its three-day visit.

The assessment focuses on three "buckets" of focus – learning, collaboration and each – with criteria inside each bucket. It includes a "report card" for each bucket, listing goals and criteria and grading how the district is doing in reaching them.

The good ...

The report issued by the team after its visit focused on a variety of strengths and weaknesses (the full report is available on the district's website at www.pccs.k12.mi.us). Among the strengths, the report said:

» There is talent and dedication at every level of the system. This is a district that attracts top talent at all levels, from the boardroom to the classroom. The history, expansive programs and academic reputation of the district draw and retain quality candidates despite the present financial difficulties.

» The district has a human resources treasure trove of dedicated talent. School-based human resources – teachers, parents and administrators – are largely untapped, but anxious to contribute. Staffs are loyal to the district, want it to succeed and show impressive dedication despite ongoing budgetary shortfalls that are reducing programs, materials and personnel.

» The district has committed resources to making Plymouth-Canton a "destination district" in the eyes of many parents and staff. The district enjoys a wellspring of community support.

» Technology could be an educationally transformative game-changer. The district passed a technology improvement referendum and is presently embarking on a three-year rollout. There is potential to technologically empower digital natives – young teachers and students – through this initiative.

"At the center of our

universe is academic achievement and the way you do that is high-quality curriculum and high-quality teaching," Meissen said. "That's what we do best."

... and the bad

But among the weaknesses on which the report focused were a paucity of resources, lack of a collaborative culture and a certain level of disconnect between leadership in the district's 25 buildings and the central office staff.

According to the report:

» There are critical achievement gaps that need to be addressed. African-American and Hispanic achievement scores fall well below their Asian and Caucasian counterparts. Enrichment offerings such as TAG have a paucity of non-Asian or non-Caucasian participants.

This is not a new problem; the school board has discussed it for years. Meissen said the way to deal with it is to make sure all students, including those minority students, have every opportunity to take advantage of both academic and co-curricular programs.

"We have to look at ways to provide academic tutorial supports after school, we have to have early and often intervention programs that are effective and we have to make sure we have adult mentors, particularly for minority students," Meissen said. "We have to make sure our students who have been traditionally under-represented participate in all aspects of school and stress the importance of co-curriculars. We have invested in our programming and leadership because of the importance they have for driving academic achievement."

» There is no unifying district "big picture" that aligns everyone's work. The vital few district-wide priorities that should represent the district's mission, aspirations and values appear absent. There is no commonly understood district-wide plan that successfully articulates a "big picture" or any "vital few" priorities.

» A lack of trust for "downton" is pervasive among school staff. There is unanimity and respect among principals and teachers in most schools, but testimony shows an almost unanimous opposite view of

the district office and board by those schools.

Building trust

Meissen agrees there's a disconnect and says there are a variety of factors – constrained resources, changing expectations in what's being taught – and the new leadership team is developing a plan to address it. Meissen said he's trying to get into as many buildings as possible to talk to teachers and administrators.

"I think (mistrust) didn't develop overnight, it developed over a series of years," Meissen said. "There has to be a plan to address that and we are. If there is a disconnect ... we have to say, 'We're all in this together for the benefit of kids.' We can't have the district office going in one direction and schools going in another."

» The district operates under a non-sustainable business model. Annual and one-time revenue sources are co-mingled to reduce ongoing budget shortfalls, which will virtually guarantee future fund deficits. The district can no longer "cut" its way to fiscal health.

Meissen said the district must "get to the core things" and determine how best to leverage its resources.

"We have to take a look at what we do have, take a look at expenditures, take a look at revenues, make sure we have a five-year plan financially, make sure our budget is balanced," Meissen said.

"If you have a really strong set of educational priorities, you stick to those and put your resources where it's most important."

Meissen said the report confirmed what everyone already knows – the district has superb teachers – and pointed the district in the right direction to fix everything else.

"We have exceptional teachers, very dedicated, and there are all the tools here to become one of the top-performing school districts in the country," Meissen said.

"And that's the path we're on. You need to capitalize on your strengths, which are your teachers. We have to take that step where we're good, but we need to challenge ourselves to be great."

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Churches host carol sing-along

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Churches across the community are putting denominational differences aside and inviting people to celebrate the season in song in Plymouth.

Kellogg Park will be the site of the Christmas carol sing-along planned for 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. The free event will include both religious Christmas hymns and popular, non-sectarian seasonal hymns, said Jerry Smith, one of the organizers.

Smith, the music director at Plymouth's First Presbyterian Church, said the caroling will be the inaugural event for a group of members of area churches whose representatives have been meeting, under the name Faith Festival, to plan ecumenical activities for the community. The group is planning to formally organize under the name Heartbeat of Plymouth, Smith said.

But one doesn't have to belong to a church to attend the Christmas caroling. The Plymouth Oratorio Society, a regional community chorus, is joining in and the public is invited as well.

"We didn't want it to be a church event. We wanted it to become a sing-along," Smith said.

Song sheets will be provided for those singing in the 45-minute program and the crowd will be invited back to First Presbyterian, at Main and Church streets, afterward for refreshments.

Churches involved

In addition to First Presbyterian, Smith said, churches at the core of Faith Festival include First United Methodist, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic, Trinity Presbyterian and Calvary Baptist in Canton Township and Ward Presbyterian in Northville Township.

The Plymouth area had a strong ecumenical movement years ago, Smith said, with co-sponsored concerts and lectures and he and others are seeking to revive that tradition.

"The churches just haven't been doing this of late. Years ago, Plymouth was doing more of this kind of thing," he said.

Smith, who has been at First Presbyterian for about a dozen years, taught music at the long-closed Bantley High School in Livonia for nearly 30 years and directed the music program there. He said he was inspired by Livonia's annual May Prayer breakfast, a public event organized by churches across the city and attended by hundreds of people.

The Plymouth ecumenical movement is being led by church members instead of by pastors. "We are lay people who thought this was a good idea," Smith said.

Smith said the hope is that the Christmas caroling will become an annual event. The Faith Festival/Heartbeat of Plymouth is planning to launch two more ecumenical events next year - a day of prayer and a "faith festival" for the summer.

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Long-serving chorale members from throughout area share their stories

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Bea Scaglione remembers seeing an ad in the *Farmington Observer* back in 1965 asking for people to possibly join a new chorale organization. She responded to the ad, met with several other women and, behold, The Farmington Musicales group was born.

"We had enough people there at that meeting, just barely enough to fill out the charter and start the club," she said. "The first rehearsals were held in my living room."

Scaglione is one of many longtime singers in the western Wayne and Oakland County area who remain involved with local chorales and perform with decades of experience.

Many of those in the area have performed at Christmas, a time of singing and creating joyful noises, especially last Friday, which was Go Caroling Day.

A Christmas season favorite for Scaglione is *Chocolate in My Stocking*, a song about a young boy asking Santa Claus for nothing but the sweet candy.

"It's something that's new to audiences that's really cute," said the West Bloomfield resident and charter member of the Musicales. "We did that piece for several years."

Like family

Kim Alderman has been involved with the Livonia Civic Chorus since her father brought her along to rehearsals when she was 9 years old. It wasn't until 1979, when she



Kim Alderman (second from right) performs in an ensemble with Carol Selleck, Geri Leiter and Carol Verkennis.

turned 18, that she was able to join as a full member and sing at concerts.

The 52-year-old Westland resident, the second-longest serving member of the chorus, said she sings with people she regards as a second family, which keeps her coming back every year.

"You also form those bonds with those people who are in the choir. It's just like your family members," she said. "It's the same in any kind of organization."

For some area chorale singers, those "second family members" become real family members. Highland Township resident Ilene Yanke met her husband singing.

The Upper Peninsula native later moved downstate, living in communities such as Livonia before settling in Highland Township.

She currently sings at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills and the senior center in Hartland.

Travel opportunities

One of the most memorable trips she remembers taking with the Finnish Center was an excursion to the Pacific Northwest. She remembers singing on a football field in Oregon and taking day trips to see the sights when the group wasn't singing.

The sights were enough to make her want to stay.

"If I had my choice after Michigan, I'd live there," the second soprano said. "It's taken us places you would never have gone to if you weren't involved with the chorus."

Scaglione said the dedication to remain involved with area singing groups not only comes from a love of the music, but a love of the people she sings with.

She no longer performs in the chorus, but remains a member of the group and stays involved.

"We've had friendships that have lasted for all these

years," Scaglione said. "Unfortunately, time moves on, people move on."

Scaglione said her most memorable moment came in 1976 with the Farmington Musicales, which performed a lengthy folk music ensemble that detailed the history of the United States for the nation's bicentennial.

"Three of us who were studying folks music at the time ... came up with a program that told our nation's history through 24 folk songs. It was called '200 Years,'" she said. "We could have done an hour."

For Alderman, singing was a family affair. She's been in the Livonia Civic Chorus with her father, brother and several other family members. She recalls performing with both her father and brother and misses the quality time they all spent together. Her father died several years ago and her brother had to leave the chorus for other reasons.

"Those were special moments," said Alderman, who typically sings alto. "I was very upset when my brother dropped out, because that was the only time I could spend quality time with him."

Becoming a lifelong chorale singer isn't something that everyone is able to do, but Yanke offered some advice for those looking to get involved: patience.

"When people come to join, some have chorale experience, but others don't," she said. "Just be patient, it won't come over night."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
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Upscale apartment complex planned for Plymouth

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plans for a new \$18.5 million housing development - the majority of it an upscale, 93-unit apartment complex - are moving forward in Plymouth.

The Starkweather Station project, a partnership between DevMar Development LLC and Burton-Katzman LLC, is slated for Plymouth Road east of Holbrook, on the site of the vacant 20,000-square-foot Columbian Mutual Insurance building, also known as Mutual of Detroit. DevMar principal Paul DeMaria said Friday that the office building could be demolished by the end of next month; developers hope to break ground for the project in the spring.

Planned are two, four-story apartment buildings totaling 62 two-bedroom apartments and 31 one-bedroom apartments, plus two single-family houses on Holbrook.

The Plymouth Planning Commission recommended approval of a planned-unit development, or PUD, for the project earlier this month and the city commission is expected to review the proposed PUD at its Monday, Jan. 6, meeting.

DeMaria said the apartments should draw young professionals and empty-nesters. The project's planned green space, nearby Hines Park and the attractions of Plymouth will be big selling



The Plymouth Planning Commission approved the Starkweather Station development. The project is expected to come before the city commission next month.

points for those demographic groups, he said.

Community feel

"Plymouth is a great town with so many attractive qualities. The restaurants, the shops and the events all offer people a real sense of community," DeMaria, who lives in the city, wrote in an email. "That has great appeal for young professionals, empty-nesters and young couples, but the type of residential setting they seek is in low supply here."

The apartments will range in size from about 800 to about 1,130 square feet and will have 10-foot ceilings, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, washers and dryers and balconies or patios. DeMaria anticipates monthly rents of between \$1,352 and \$1,945.

The proposed PUD agreement had gone through several revisions and a months-long planning commission review

process. "It's a beautiful development. It's fabulous for our city," planning commissioner Donald Fullenwider said before the commission's vote Dec. 11.

The PUD plan for the nearly six-acre site keeps many of the mature trees and includes planting new ones, plus walkways in the complex and a link to nearby Caster Park on Holbrook in Old Village. The developers also plan improvements to the park - an open pavilion and bench seating.

The site will also include a required stormwater retention pond and 186 parking spaces, 86 in carpools, eight in garages and the rest, intended for visitors, in open parking spaces.

Old Village additions

The two single-family houses planned for Holbrook will be built in a style that fits with other houses in the Old Village neighborhood, developers said. The two lots will

initially be part of the PUD, DeMaria said, but will later be split from the development and sold individually.

The terraced retention pond, into which stormwater from the site would collect until it can be drained away by storm sewers, raised a concern for Garth Jackson, who owns the office building immediately to the east. Jackson told planning commissioners he feared the pond would attract flocks of geese, which would then foul the short grass on his office property.

Developers, who've discussed the issue with Jackson, said they didn't expect geese to become a problem, but that if that happens, they'll enclose the pond with a decorative fence.

"We are committed to a strong relationship with all of our neighbors and area residents," DeMaria said.

The developers purchased the property in August for \$700,00, city records show.

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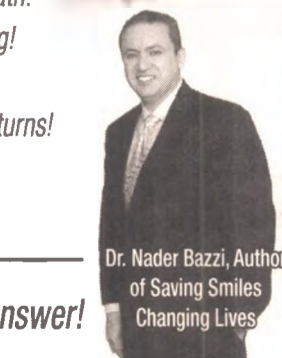
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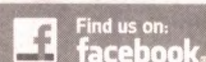
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Walker-Winter Elementary has partnered with Canton Kiwanis to form a K-Kids Club. Fourteen students were recently inducted.

K-Kids Club inducts Walker-Winter students

Walker-Winter students have partnered with the Kiwanis Club of Canton and started a K-Kids club.

K-Kids is the largest service organization for elementary school students, with more than 20,000 members worldwide. It is a student-led community service club.

The club recently inducted 14 fourth-grade students at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton.

For the past three years, members of the Kiwanis Club have been an integral part of the Walker-Winter community in a variety of community service projects. In partnership with Walker's common language focus of Lifelong Guidelines and Lifeskills, they decided to start the area's first K-Kids club.

Principal Julie Mytych is a member of the Kiwanis Club. Along with two other members, Mark and Janet Ott, they had a vision to



Walker-Winter K-Kids Club president Laila Jackson speaks to the group at the induction ceremony.

start K-Kids at Walker. The Otts volunteered to be the sponsors along with Adriel Ewert, Walker's social worker, and Emily DeLong, intervention specialist.

"This allows our students to show their leadership and caring attitude toward both the school community and the community at large," Mytych said.

The students have planted flowers around the school and held a canned food drive so far. They have plans for

many more school and community projects.

The Canton Kiwanis was founded in 1993 and its focus has been on serving area children. Club projects range from the Dictionary Project, where the club distributes personal dictionaries to area third-graders, to one-on-one mentoring of students.

For more information, contact Julie Mytych at 734-419-2780 or mytychj@wwcs.k12.mi.us.

Going the extra mile



"Top notch" is how Sarah Ropert (right, with board member Sheila Paton and Farrand Principal Kay Elaster) described the staff she works with at Farrand Elementary when she received her Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler award at the Dec. 10 Board of Education meeting. Giving credit to others is one of the many reasons Ropert received recognition. Elaster said Ropert is "dedicated to the Farrand community and helping with the many after-school activities." Paton presented the award, saying "just being a kindergarten teacher was worthy of an award, but Sarah does so much more."

Canton student volunteers to help others over break

This winter, 55 Saginaw Valley State University students will spend parts of their holiday break volunteering for organizations helping others.

Jennifer First, an occupational therapy major from Canton, will participate in the project Rural Reconstruction at Southern Appalachian Labor School in Kincaid, W.Va. The project, which runs Jan. 5-11, involves work on old coal camp houses while assisting with after-school programs for at-risk families.

The initiative is one of five opportunities being organized through

SVSU's Alternative Breaks program, a student-led group that advocates volunteer work during traditional break periods from school.

Throughout December and January, students involved in Alternative Breaks will volunteer at Southern Appalachian Labor School in Kincaid, W.Va.; Bread For The World in Washington, D.C.; Beds For Kids in Richmond, Va.; the YMCA of Western North Carolina in Asheville; and the Habitat For Humanity of Kent County in Grand Rapids.

Upon returning from their Alternative Breaks, SVSU students will apply

lessons learned on their trips toward community service projects close to SVSU and/or the students' home communities.

Saginaw Valley State University is a comprehensive university with more than 90 programs of study for its more than 10,000 students. Located on a suburban campus in Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region, SVSU is committed to quality teaching in the classroom, field-based learning outside, NCAA Division II athletics and a broad range of academic and extracurricular opportunities for students to excel.

Wayne-Westland district launches new mobile app for parents

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Parents can keep tabs on what's happening in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools on their smart phones and tablets.

The district has

launched a free mobile app, WWCS To Go, for Apple iOS and Android products.

The app has individual school calendars and newsletters, lunch menus, sports schedules, contact information and maps.

The mobile app is a new piece of technology the district is using to get the word out to residents about what's happening in the school district. In addition to its new revamped website, the district also has a presence on Twitter at

@WWCSD and YouTube, where videos of school board meetings and events can be found.

Parents also can access Parent Connect to check on their children's grades, class assignments and lunch accounts. There's even

links to the Family Resource Center and its Talented and Gifted Program.

The new app is part of efforts by the district's communications and technology departments to update the Wayne-Westland's communications strategy, according to Deputy Superintendent Paul Salah.

In announcing the development of the app at this month's school board meeting, he pointed out that by 2020 "most people will access the Internet via a mobile

device."

The mobile app is in addition to its *Connections* newsletter that's mailed to 42,000 homes in the district and eblasts and Robocalls.

Parents can find a link to the app on the district's website at wwcsd.net/mobile-app or visit the Apple App Store or Google Play on a mobile device.

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BAD NEWS

An 82 year old woman comes to a doctor because of pain in her left hip. The pain is worse on walking particularly going up stairs. The patient made the appointment because now the pain is continuing at night. The doctor does an examination that shows good range of motion of the hip. However, the patient walks with a limp and her face shows that she is hurting with each step. Both doctor and patient believe that the likely cause is wear and tear osteoarthritis of the hip, though the patient's good range of left hip motion is not in keeping with that diagnosis.

The doctor gets left hip x-rays. The images do not show the expected loss of joint space and irregularity of head of the hip that are the features of osteoarthritis of the hip. Instead, in the hip bone, just below the head of the hip is a round absence of bone, what radiographers call "a lytic lesion." This finding is the hall mark of cancer. In a woman, this finding is in keeping with a spread of a lung, breast or ovarian cancer.

The doctor must tell the patient that she needs a biopsy of the hip lesion at once. For her to understand the urgency of the procedure and the serious condition of her health, he must tell her that the lesion is likely cancer. The doctor also needs to be prepared to accommodate the patient's shock and counter her sense of devastation with a counsel of hope.

There is no one way to proceed. Each lesion has its features, each person reacts in a singular fashion, and each physician brings his own present attitude and past experience to the moment.

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Local nun seeks donations for new medical clinic in Haiti

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Sister Mary Giovanni, founder and president/CEO of the nonprofit Angela Hospice in Livonia, has started a mobile clinic in Haiti to provide medical care to remote mountain villagers, some of whom have never seen a doctor before.

Giovanni raised approximately \$174,000 in donations to purchase a Toyota Land Rover, equip it with supplies and medicine and pay the initial salaries for a Haitian doctor and two nurses to staff it.

The Blessed Angela Mobile Clinic will stop once a week in four villages in the mountainous area of Jacmel in southern Haiti, treating villagers with antibiotics and medications for infections, worms and other ailments common to



Sister Mary Giovanni visits a Haitian clinic. She has started a mobile clinic to take medical services to the remote mountain villages.

areas with contaminated water.

She is in need of donations to keep the clinic going once it is up and running, which she hopes will be in January.

Giovanni, who has degrees in nursing and nursing administration, visited Haiti for the first time in 2013. "I was just so taken aback by the

poverty," she said. Although she knew the country was poor, she said she was unprepared for the sight of people living in tents "on top of each other" in Port-au-Prince and toddlers walking shoeless over the rocks and boulders, cutting their tender feet and getting infections from the wounds.

Poorest of the poor

But up in the mountains live the poorest of the poor, she said. Some are too sick to come down the mountain to seek medical care.

"They've never had any medical help there," she said.

Giovanni traveled to Haiti in response to a call for mission work there from Sister Mary Christopher Moore of the Felician Sisters' Our Lady of Hope Province.

While there, she asked the bishop of the Diocese of Jacmel what was needed and he told her a mobile clinic to reach the villagers in the mountains.

Giovanni raised most of the start-up money by asking Angela Hospice supporters for donations, but she said she needs to find other benefactors to expand the clinic.

"We have enough to start with, but we need to continue to pay the staff," she said, plus travel to other villages as more staff is added.

The clinic was supposed to start in October, but the delivery of the Land Rover from a Haitian dealer has been delayed pending receipt of government paperwork. "We have the team ready, the medication, the supplies all in place," she said, adding the vehicle is all they are waiting for.

The Land Rover is needed to traverse the steep rocky mountainside, which has no paved roads.

Helping the local economy

Giovanni said the vehicle and medications were purchased in Haiti to help the economy there. Many of the supplies were donated by the

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, located in Illinois.

Giovanni said a Haitian medical staff will more easily be able to communicate with the villagers.

Giovanni is also seeking donations to fund development of a facility to house volunteers to work with two Felician sisters stationed there who are feeding the hungry and teaching English and computer skills. English and computer skills make it more likely for local students to get into a school, where they can further their education, Giovanni said.

To donate to the Blessed Angela Mobile Clinic, send a check payable to Angela Hospice to 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Write mobile clinic or volunteer facility on the memo line.

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Livonia resident honored as childhood leukemia survivor

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Michelle Ferracciolo doesn't remember a lot about being diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 3.

"I just remember my parents told me that they took me down to Children's Hospital," the Livonia resident said. "My mom thought I had the flu."

She was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia, or ALL, one of the more common leukemia forms found in children. From there, Ferracciolo, who grew up in Dearborn, began routinely going to DMC's Children's Hospital in Detroit to receive treatments that included radiation.

During the time she was diagnosed, the early 1970s, cure rates were close to 40 or 50 percent.

Nowadays, that number has increased to as much as 90 percent, Ferracciolo said. She continued receiving treatments for about six years before doctors determined the leukemia had been eradicated from her blood.

Dr. Kanta Bhambhani, the current co-director of the neuro-oncology department at the hospital, was a fellow-in-training when she helped treat Ferracciolo in the early '70s. She said the method of treatment Ferracciolo received and what children with leukemia receive today are vastly different, using chemotherapy over radiation in most circumstances.

"As part of her treatment, she received radiation. Prior to that, before we knew how to take care of central nervous system leukemia, the chances (of survival)



Michelle Ferracciolo of Livonia is a survivor of childhood leukemia.

were about 50 percent," Bhambhani said. "We were just sort of transitioning."

When Ferracciolo went home and announced her exciting news that she was leukemia-free at a family get-together when she was 9, she was shocked by the response she received from her family. Many started crying and that

confused Ferracciolo.

"It was mostly my grandmas and grandpas that were there," she said. "Everybody started crying. And I thought, 'What did I say that wrong?'"

She received an honor from the hospital earlier this year, when she was asked to ride in the Children's Hospital survivors float during the Thanks-

giving parade last month in Detroit.

While her husband and four children watched from the warm confines of their Livonia home, she said it was fun to see so many people along Woodward cheering for the survivors in the parade.

"I noticed as we were going along, there was a group rooting for Chil-

dren's Hospital," she said. "They held up signs; it was really cool."

Bhambhani said she remains in touch with Ferracciolo, even attending her wedding several years ago. There was at first a thought that the radiation treatment would have left Ferracciolo without the ability to have children, but that turned out not to be the case.

"Since then, we have made many other advances in our treatment," Bhambhani said. "It used to be one-size-fits-all. But it's not so anymore. It's tailored to certain biological factors we identify. She's unique in the aspect that odds against her; she's done very well."

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January

- 11** TLC Productions - StageLab24: Several One-Act Plays (Studio) - 8pm
- 17** Detroit Symphony Orchestra - Mozart and Bach - 8pm
- 18** Partnership for the Arts - Simply Diamond - 2pm
- 20** Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - 5:30pm
- 23-26** Forever After Productions - Shrek the Musical Various - Various Times
- 24-25** Spotlight Players - Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner - 6:30pm
- 31** Spotlight Players - I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - 8pm

February

- 1-9** Spotlight Players - I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - 2pm, 8pm
- 12** PCCS Showcase: Field Elementary Talent Show - 7pm
- 14** Star Tributes from Las Vegas Valentine's Day - 7pm
- 15** Michigan Philharmonic - Fabulous Fifties - 7:30pm
- 21-22** Spotlight Players - Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner - 6:30pm, 8pm
- 22** Estella Chambers Live!!! An Affair to Remember! - 8pm



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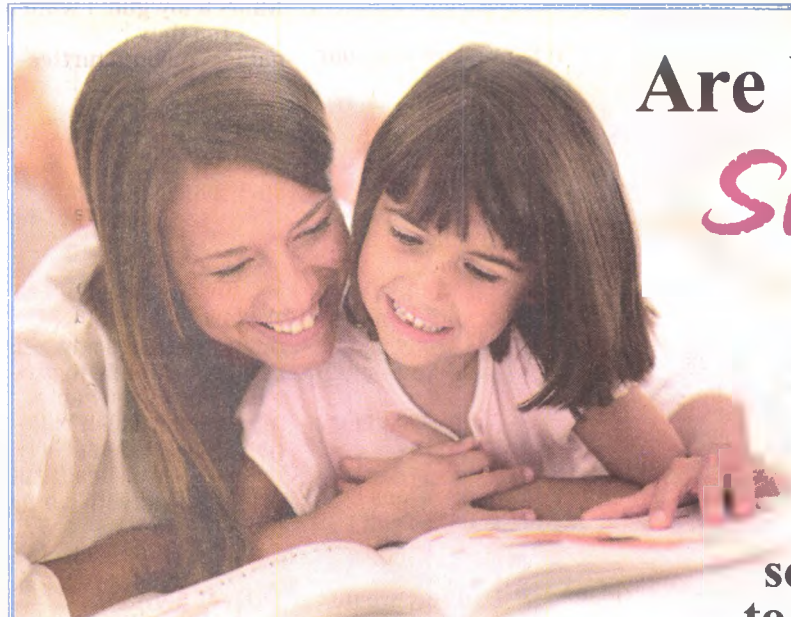
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*To qualified clients with some limitations

LETTERS

Continued from Page A1

Have a good Christmas! Can you bring my brother a football. Have a safe trip.

Love,
Gia Klann

Dear Santa,
How's Rudolph? Will you give poor kids gifts? Can you bring my kitty a bed? Can you bring my mom decrash ins of camels? Can you bring my dad a tol kit? Will you bring Zack a cport?

Will you bring my kitty a gifts? Will you bring my mom picture of camel?

Love,
Isabella Kanaan

P.S.
Have a safe trip. Will you bring Roxie gifts?

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am good. Will you bring my mom jewelry? I would bring you cookies. Would you bring my brother sky land els? Please bring a American Girl doll.

P.S. I love Santa. Can you get my dad a hat? Can you bring my mom some ear rings?

Your friend,
Ashlyn Locke

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you bring my mom a coat? I will give the poor something. I am getting a wii u!!! Can you give my sister a stuffed animal. Can you give my Dad a tool box. I love you Santa. I hope you are safe. How are your elves?

Love,
Bruno Delgado

Dear Santa,
Can you bring me Elf? Can you bring me a some pets.

Love,
Maheun Burkari

P.S. How are you, Santa? You are the best. Can you bring my mom a nacles? Can you bring my Dad a wach? Can you bring my sister lip glosse? and can you bring my baby brother a baby toy? P.S. Will leave some carrots for you.

Dear Santa,
How are you? Will you bring Zachary jen 6 Nascars. Can you bring my mom some comfy pants? Will you give my guinea pig a bed and some chreats? I will give the dindere cirits and wodr.

Love, **Nicholas Yourman**

P.S. I love you Santa. Please give me a lot of stuf in my socking with owt peanuts and eggs cause I'm allergic.

Dear Santa,
How does Mrs. Claus do? How are you? Can you get Caden skylanders please! Can you bring my mommy a new ear rings! I love you! I love your holiday! How do your elves? Can you get my daddy a new mint! I would like a American Girl doll set.

PS wake me wen you get her. Love,
Camryn Wingrove

Dear Santa,
How is your day? Can you bring my mom a beautiful necklace. Can you bring me lego ninjago it have to be kay fire. Please bring my dad a ring.

Have a safe trip. P.S. I like you Santa!
Your friend,
Tanush Girish

Dear Santa,
How are you, big guy? Can you bring my brother carter Nerf guns. I would really like a American Girl Doll. Can you get my mom some jewelry. Can you bring my another brother a basketball hoop. Have a safe trip.

Love,
Grace Olzak

PS
I will leve you some chocolate chip cookies.

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Can you bring my mom a hat and some now camera lense for my dad. and Max a Angry Birds ninja and some treats for my hamster. And I would like some now markers.

Have a safe trip!
Love,
Hanna Sullivan

PS - I'll lev some caris for your raber.

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are reindeer. Canyou bring my dada screwdriver. Can you din my mom make up. Can you dingn eye linn for my sister. Can you ding me a marker maker.

Your friend,
Chris Misquitta

PS - I am goen to lev carin and cookes.

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you bring Hannah you no those dollas me and Hannah fighttid a bot? Can you bring the mom doll? Can I have Rudolph ear rings? Can you bring me some doses for my cat? Can my mom have a cup?

Your friend,
Vallyn Rowe-Porchia

Dear Santa,
Can you bring my sister a doll. How are you, big guy? Can you bring my mom a necklace? Can you bring my dad hope. Can you bring my dog some treats. Can you bring me Angryi Bird Star Wars stuff?

Can you bring me some lego star wars stuff. Can you bring me some lego city stuff? Can you bring me some lego space helos.

Your friend,
Alex Oliver

Dear Santa,
I hope I have a princess car. I hope Rudolph the red nose reindeer is safe. Can you bring my Mom a new power tool because my Mom is working on the house.

For Jameson a Lego Ninjago. You are awesome
Love,
Evelyn Kinnelly

Dear Santa,
May you bring my family some presents? Please bring my Dad a tool kit.

Please bring my mom a camera. Please bring my brother video games. Please bring a TV for my room. Pleae bring my dog a chew toy. Please bring my grandma a coffee mug. Merry Christmas!

MacKenzie Mason

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring us some presents?
Merry Christmas!
Mara Neilson

Dear Santa,
Could you please bring my family bring presents? Can you bring my mom some jewelry and my dad a watch and my brother some skates and my other brother some video games.

Please bring me a iPad. Merry Christmas!
Lillanna Broughton

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my family gifts? Can you bring my mom a new watch. Can you bring my dad a new video game. Can you bring my brother legos. Can you bring me a blue skateboard.
Merry Christmas!
Nithin Suresh

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring our family presents? Please bring my dad a hockey video game.



The countdown is on, and like Santa, youngsters have made their lists and checked them twice to make sure the Jolly Old Elf knows what they want to find under their tree on Christmas morning. FILE PHOTO

Please bring my mom some makeup. Please bring my brother a new kindle. Brennan wants a car. I want a stuffed animal.

Merry Christmas
Santa!

Kiley Gausden

Dear Santa,
Can you please give my family presents. My brother wants a tv to play video games. My sister wants a One Direction songs. I don't no what my mom wants so give her whatever she wants and do that for my dad.

I want a 2DS and legos star wars.

Merry Christmas!
Diego Dossantos

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my family some gifts. Please bring my mom some yarn. Pleae bring my dad a poster of a German Shepard. Please bring my brother Sam a pillow. Please bring my brother Henry a Pokemon cards. Pleae bring me Lego Friends set.

Merry Christmas!
Lilah Gray

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my familii gifts? Please bring my mom jewelry. Please bring my dad something for sports. Please bring my brother a phone. Please bring my brother Ammar a phone. Please bring me some toys.

Merry Christmas!
Alishba Aqeel

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring presents for my family? Can you please bring my mommy medicine? Please bring my dad a new Bible. Please bring my uncle new jeans. Please bring me Ometrix.

Merry Christmas!
Tamer Deaibes

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring presents for my family? Can you bring my mom jewelry. Can you bring my dad a new hammer. Can you bring my sister a new Monster High doll? Pleaes bring my sister a new baby doll. Please bring me an art set.

Merry Christmas!
Jewel Benward

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my family presents? Can you bring my Mom some slippers and a new pair of boots and my Dad some new pair of slippers and a State helmet. Please bring me a 4 by 4 toy.

Merry Christmas!
Cooper Austin

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my family presents? Can you bring my Mom some slippers and a new pair of boots and my Dad some new pair of slippers and a State helmet. Please bring me a 4 by 4 toy.

Merry Christmas!
Cooper Austin

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring

Could you please bring my mom Lipstic. Could you please bring my Dad a machine. Could you bring my brother a remote control racecar? Could you bring me a Lego Millenium Falcon.
Merry Christmas!
Dhruv Hegde

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my family gifts? Can you bring my mom slippers? Can you bring Dad a toolbox! Can you bring my sister a doll? Can you bring me a Toy Story Mr. Potato Head?

Merry Christmas!
Angad Chauhan

Dear Santa,
Can you please give my family gifts? Can you bring my mom a kitchen Super Star DVD? Can you bring my dad a toolbox with tools in it? Can you bring my little brother new toys? Can you pleasee bring me a Just Dance 1 video game?

Merry Christmas!
Siddharth Srinivasan

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring presents for mom? She wants a new car. Dad wants a new truck. Also could mom have a new house and Dad a bike. Please bring me a blue skate board. Thank you.

Merry Christmas!
Shane Dulin

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my family presents? Can you please bring my Mom money? Can you please bring my Dad a tie? Can you please bring my half brother video games? Can you please bring my sister toys? Can you please bring me a chemistry set?

Merry Christmas!
Sammy Gharbia

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how are you doing? How are the elves doing? I bet they are working hard!

My mom wod wot a new blue car. My dad wod wot a jrill. My brother wod wot a toy zoo. My sister wod wot her own press breees. I wod wot a frde boom.

Layla Martinez

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how are your reindeer? How are the elves doing I bet they are making the toys at the northpole. My dad would like achsion figurs pleas. My mom wolud like rowbey red earrings pleas. My sister wolud like new pajammas. I wolud like the new coraline Amacin doll. My bayby brother wold like a new bowcer.

Pilar Perry

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus and how are you? Are you busy? My Mom would love gloo for a brokin ring. My Dad rely would wot a tigrs dlakit. My brother wod wot a radfol dog. My sister would love a gric book. I will love a teenage mutan ninja turtles house. Tak you Santa.

Abigail Brenner

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa. How are you. How are the elves they are busy. you are ready for your trip. My mom

Want a new iPad, my dad want a watch. My brother wants a toy gun. My sisters want a toy teenage mutan ninja turtles. I want a American girl doll.

Ariel Davenport

Hi Santa how are you? how are the reindeer? My Dad wants star wars guy. My mom wants new cloths. My brother wants a new foot ball. My dog wants a new chew toy.

I rilly want a Pacific Rin set. Have a good trip!
Nathan Sadowski

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How are the reindeer are they exrsing well. How is Mrs Claus, is she baking cokes al lthe time? And how are the elves are they making the toys.

My mom would like a cozy slapsr. My Dad would like a Ipad. My brother would like the Lego Lion Chi Temple from China. What I rile rile wont the Meet the Masters vapiurs casl. And I hoop you have a very saf trip every crismis and good bles you.

Jacob Caruana

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa how have you been doing? When I see you I will give you a present it will be on the tabil. It is a speler present. It will be a Lego Ghima present. All for you.

I hope you have a safe trip. Please bring my mom a puple dres. And bring my Dad a trothy.

Mason Yager

Dear Santa,
What are you doing? Are you busy with Christmas? Santa please bring my mom a shirt and pants. Please bring my dad a coat. I have been a good boy. Please bring me a puzzle. I will give you cookies.

Masahiro Nishikawa

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa how have you been doing? I bet you have been very busy getting ready for your big trip. My dad wants tools. My mom wants braslets. My brother wants a toy gun. I want a rel I fon they have games. A Ninja turtles set toys too. Can I have a uWii and Wiii games. I want a wiii. I want new Sper Mario Bros 2. New sper mario wii.

Gurkirat Singh

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? We love you, Santa. My mom will love a new red car. Dad will like to give a present to you Santa. My brother Ethan will like a ipad. Hanna Nowlen will want a beautiful princess doll with a pink dress.

Hannah Nowlen

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa how have you been doing? I bet you have been very busy getting ready for your big trip. My dad would really like a new phon. My mom would really like a new purce. My sister would rally like a dog house. I will wont a monster truk Hot Wheels.

Have a great trip.
Brodi English

Legal Notice
Charter Township of Plymouth
2013 Winter Taxes

Winter Taxes are due **December 1, 2013** and payable through **February 14, 2014** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the **Treasurer's Office.** After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The **Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2013 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.**

RON EDWARDS
Treasurer
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TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

Pets are always prominent on Santa's list

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Chapman Wolf of Northville doesn't know it yet, but he's going to have the pleasure of unwrapping a new coat, some food and a toy penguin for Christmas gifts.

"We buy a lot of both (food and toys)," said Chapman's human mom, Marney.

In fact, the one-year-old wheaten terrier — and Marney Wolf — stops in Celebrity Pets on Center Street in downtown Northville on their walks almost every day. That's one of the reasons he's getting a new Kong jacket. It's water- and snow-repellant and is made of reflective material.

Rose Misiolek, who owns Celebrity Pets, needed more room to showcase products for pets this holiday so she is using the lower level of the shop as a sort of Christmas store. Up and downstairs, the store is filled with fresh-baked treats, jackets, collars, leashes, beds, food and you name it.

Big this year is what are called Paw Musers, a wax to put on dog paws to keep the salt off their pads. "It's made for sledging dogs," Misiolek said.

At 3 Dog Bakery in downtown Plymouth, shoppers were lined up in front of cases filled with fresh-baked dog treats this past week.

"We have been very busy," said Nate Atkinson, son of Gary, who owns the bakery.

"There hasn't been a five-minute period when it wasn't like this," Nate said, watching the line of people waiting their turn to buy pet treats.

Big dollars

Unabashed is what pet owners are when it



Kelsey Anne Ogradnick of Canton, who works at Celebrity Pets in Northville, reviews the pet inventory. PHOTOS BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI

comes to spending money on their canine and feline family members, especially when it comes to putting something under the tree or in the holiday stocking.

In fact, they are so willing to spend money that as a group pet owners will spend more than \$55 million before year's end, according to the American Pet Products Association.

That's good news for pets and owners of pet product stores. "They are part of the family. They are treated the same way as children or spouses," Misiolek said.

Kristin Schmitt, owner of Pet-N-Paw on Woodward in Ferndale, witnesses the same type of dedication with shoppers in her store. "We have had a lot of people come in. People in this area don't have as many human children as they do fur babies."

The rise in awareness about healthy food and treats for pets has even brought pet owners into Schmitt's store for consultations: "We won't sell anything made in China. We only sell products that have had no recalls." That includes foods such as Pioneer Naturals,

Taste of the Wild, Natural Balance and Happy Howie's Deli in Detroit. "I can't compete with the Big Box stores, but everyone can afford good pet food," she said. "We have had a lot of people coming in here."

Big in the healthy treats department are pigs ears and bully sticks — without mites or arsenic. "Everything we sell is holistic, organic and U.S.A. made," Schmitt said.

She doesn't stock a lot of toys because many are made in China, which doesn't have the same level of product regulation as does the U.S. Collars and leashes are also popular at Pet-N-Paw, as is its connection to adoption and rescue groups. "We give discounts to the person who will adopt. There are a lot of good designer dogs on PetFinder.com," Schmitt said.

Shopping

Also on Woodward, Gina Ray, who owns Napier's Kennel Shop, said shoppers at her store are going for toys — for cats and dogs — as well as a variety of coats and jackets. One of the popular treats is a Yaky Stick,



Nate Atkinson, son of Gary Atkinson, who owns the popular 3 Dog Bakery in downtown Plymouth, helps customers who have stopped to buy freshly baked dog treats.

made of yak milk. "It's much more digestible than rawhide," Ray said.

A lot of grandparents shopping for their granddogs and grandkitties stop into her store. Ray suggests toys. One of the new popular ones is the Choobee, developed by an auto engineer in Lake Orion. It is shaped like a 'T.'

"We've sold like 400 of them. I think it is something about the shape of the toy that dogs love," Ray said.

Interactive toys have grown in popularity for cats and dogs. At Napier's, Ray has sold a number of puzzles in which pet owners can put in treats and the dog has to figure out how to get the goods.

For cats, interactive toys include the Bamboozler Wand, which has a long, braided string, that encourages pets to play and bat and swat, said Anne Klein, owner of Backyard Friends Cat

Shopper at Drake and Grand River in Farmington Hills.

But catnip toys remain the most popular for the kitty population. Catnip actually comes from a plant that is a member of the mint family. "The oil in the plant is what cats react to," Klein said. "Premium catnip is the best way to go."

And Klein has a plethora of catnip toys ranging from those in the shape of a cat tail to a tomato to teddy bears. "Catnip won't hurt your cat," Klein said.

Also popular for cats are crinkle balls, which are like tin foil and fur and definitely capture the feline attention, Misiolek said.

Growing in popularity for cats who like hopping on the counter to get a quick drink from the kitchen or bathroom faucet is their very own drinking fountain. They come in all sizes and offer water dripping into

a bowl. "They are fascinated with dripping water," Klein said.

And like people, dogs and cats love good beds. A variety of types and sizes have been popular this Christmas shopping season.

For cats, Klein suggests a doughnut-shaped bed that allows a cat to crawl in and keep their head on top of the comfy retreat. Long-haired cats, she said, prefer beds that allow them to lay on top so they won't get overheated.

Over at Celebrity Pets in Northville, Misiolek said she is selling a good number of orthopedic beds for dogs, especially large dogs, and heated beds for cats.

The orthopedic beds range in price from \$59.99 to about \$150 and come in all sizes for small and large dogs.

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his position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing auto businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new auto business. The Auto Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

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Observer & Eccentric Media is looking for an Account Executive for the South Lyon, MI Territory. This position will work out of the South Lyon, MI location.

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RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Cure case of cabin fever with outdoor fun

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

There's plenty to do when the weather is frigid and cabin fever gets dangerously unbearable. But cold, snowy weather doesn't mean you have to hibernate on your sofa, in front of the television with a blanket until spring.

Check out the Wild Lights show at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak as you take in the holiday entertainment, from arts and crafts, storytelling, ice carving and a Lego holiday train display. The Wild Adventure Zone is also featuring *The Polar Express 4-D Experience*, a 14-minute film starring Tom Hanks.

The show runs 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 20-23, 26-30 and Jan. 2-5, staying open until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the gate for ages 2 and older. Parking is \$5.

Or head outdoors to some place like Kensington Metropark, where there's plenty to keep you busy.

Up north feel

The wooded, rural setting off Interstate 96 offers the perfect scenery for Dave Hardin of Royal Oak, who uses the park to the fullest all year. He usually meets friends, because it's a halfway point from where everyone lives. He was out recently to hike with buddies in 28-degree weather and he also uses the trails to snowshoe, bike and cross country ski.

Ben Buyawe of Farmington Hills walks the trails around Kensington for close to three hours two or three times weekly, depending on the temperatures.

Bruce Darr rode his horse Hammer from his Milford home to Kensington recently. Hammer prefers colder weather to warm, said Darr, who dresses in layers and wears winter riding boots to keep warm.

Kim Jarvis, Kensington Metropark superintendent, said there are five miles of hike/bike trails that are plowed from the East Boat Launch to the Bay Woods Picnic area. Two ice rinks are available at the boat rental, one for free skating and other designated for hockey use. There are no skate rentals available.

The park also offers 12



Cindy Stanndard heads off on a cross country ski trip at Northville's Maybury State Park. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

miles of cross country ski trails. Cross country skis are available at the golf course clubhouse, which is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekends and holidays, when snow conditions permit. Snowshoeing is available on the nature trails, too. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, if there is enough snow, are available on the weekends at the Farm Center. The cost for adults is \$5 and children and senior citizens are \$3. The Nature Center is also open during the winter.

Sledding, tobogganing and a beginners snow boarding hill are available at the Orchard Picnic area, which is also dubbed the winter sports area, Jarvis said.

Huron Meadows Metropark in Green Oak Township offers both classic and skate skiing. The park makes snow for a one-kilometer cross country ski trail, Jarvis said. Both classic and skate skis are available for rental at the Huron Meadows club house 2-7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The metroparks require a vehicle entry pass, which is \$5 daily.

Flying down hills

Thrill seekers love the rush of mounting their sleds and flying down the hills at Edward Hines Drive between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Northville or between Middlebelt and Inkster roads in Westland. The lines can get daunting, but it gives the adventurous time to catch their breath.

Sledders also test their speed at St. Andrew's Church in Rochester Hills; at Beverly Park in Beverly Hills; and Shiawassee Park and Heritage Park, both in Farmington.

Grab your hiking boots for outdoor fun at Maybury State Park in Northville, which is open all year for hikers and runners. Trails are plowed and during the winter, paths are groomed for cross coun-

try skiing. Snowshoes are available for rental by calling 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday to make arrangements for weekday and weekend outings. Adult snow shoes are \$10 to rent and children's sizes are \$7. Call 248-349-8390.

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Goodell uses skills, leadership to manage Harvest

Local food rescue executive's humility breeds success

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

The leader of metro Detroit's only food rescue organization is poised, accomplished and well-respected. Her name graces multiple awards. She holds a Johns Hopkins University diploma. She has better than 25 years of nonprofit management experience and can claim many firsts and milestones in food rescue. But the word that best describes Susan Goodell, president and chief executive officer of Forgotten Harvest, is "humble."

Goodell, 50, a Birmingham resident, had humble beginnings. She grew up on a sheep farm in Maine and to this day loves to work with the fibers her family farm produced. "I like to weave," she said. "That's my quiet time to reflect and think about what's next."

Goodell's work life is anything but quiet. At the helm of Forgotten Harvest, she's responsible for "rescuing" more than 45 million pounds of food annually from restaurants, grocery stores, caterers and food manufacturers and getting it to 280 emergency food



Susan Goodell is leading the way to help feed the needy.

providers throughout metro Detroit. Not that she would take credit for it, but that's up from 23 million pounds of rescued food two years ago and less than a million pounds before she joined Forgotten Harvest in 2001.

Since moving to Michigan in 1994, Goodell has worked with many nonprofit organizations, but Forgotten Harvest, now occupying newly donated office space in Southfield, has provided the most hands-on work, she said. Not only does the charity provide a very basic human need - food - but it's also an extremely lean organization, with 80 employees working to combat hunger throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and 96 cents on the dollar used solely for food rescue and distribution.

"Every day is different," Goodell said. "The tasks that need to be done are so different." On any given day, she could be drumming up publicity for Forgotten Harvest, discussing government policy in her seat on the Michigan Food Policy Council, meeting with food providers or working with staff on logistics and fundraising.

"I love being engaged in every aspect of what we do," she said. "I absolutely love this work. Every day is like your birthday."

Figuring out why and where there's food waste and putting that food to good use, fascinates Goodell. She noted that, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, about a quarter of all food produced in this country goes to waste.

Manufacturers cast off imperfectly formed sausages and discolored or broken beans. Bakeries discard day-old bread. Restaurants toss surplus meals.

"We provide that critical link between where there's too much and where there's not enough," Goodell said.

Helping people

What really makes Goodell tick, however, is seeing the end result of Forgotten Harvest's efforts. "I am personally motivated by the people we serve," she said.

"Certainly for all of us there comes a time when you're at your desk thinking about the mountain of work that needs to be done and wondering 'Why am I doing this?' When that happens to me, I go out and see the people whose lives we make better."

Goodell paints a picture of what she sees at the food agencies, which receive 875,000 pounds of rescued food weekly from Forgotten Harvest.

People are lined up outside the building, pushing wheelchairs, garbage cans on wheels, strollers, wagons and anything else they might use to transport food. They've likely walked a mile or more to get there. They tell stories about how they found themselves in this situation. Many times, a health

issue triggered the strain on finances or loss of a job - something that could happen to anyone.

"It's shocking to realize how vulnerable we all are," Goodell said. "It's just so compelling. You know this work is so important."

While seeing the fruits of her labor inspires and energizes her, Goodell is far from complacent.

Even at 150,000 pounds of food per day making its way to people in need, courtesy of Forgotten Harvest's 35 refrigerated trucks and 65 mobile pantries, and a projected 5-percent increase in that number over the next five years, there's still a food shortage in metro Detroit.

"There's significantly more need than we can fill," Goodell said. "Seven hundred twenty thousand people in our region are living in poverty."

That the need outpaces Forgotten Harvest's work is evidenced by the 100 or so agencies on the organization's waiting list.

Expanding reach

That's why Goodell continues to find new ways to expand her organization's reach. For example, Forgotten Harvest Farms in Deerfield Township, a recently donated 92-acre plot of land, produces just under 900,000 pounds of fresh produce for distribution

to local food agencies.

A new partnership enables Forgotten Harvest to use Garden Fresh Gourmet's Inkster plant to process farm-grown produce. "It gives us the ability to process items in large quantities for winter months," Goodell said.

"We're often the beneficiary of the goodwill of the community," Goodell said of the Garden Fresh partnership.

Goodell exudes gratitude for a job she loves and a community that supports her, all the while working to improve that community. Two years ago, she received the Eleanor Josaitis Unsung Hero Award from the *Detroit Free Press* and the Metropolitan Affairs Committee. The award "recognizes an individual who may not have yet received the widespread recognition he or she deserves for long-standing efforts to further regional cooperation and understanding."

Goodell is quick to point out that she's just an ordinary mom who spends much of her free time helping her 11-year-old son complete his homework, enjoying family time with her husband and son or weaving.

To donate, volunteer or learn more about Forgotten Harvest, visit www.forgottenharvest.org.

Forgotten Harvest uses donated office space to expand its reach

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

'Tis the season to remember that gifts come in all forms. Forgotten Harvest, the region's only food rescue organization, received an early holiday gift last month in the form of 8,000 square

feet of fully furnished office space.

The gift-giver was Grant Thornton LLP, an audit, tax and advisory firm with offices in the Southfield American Center building on Franklin Road. Grant Thornton consolidated its offices and wound up

with an entire floor of unused space, so the company subleased half of it and gave the other half to Forgotten Harvest for use through November 2017.

The nonprofit company runs lean, with 80 employees responsible for collecting 875,000



The development and finance committee gathers in the Superior Room of the new Forgotten Harvest offices. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

pounds of unused food each week from manufacturers, grocery stores, restaurants and other sources and distributing it to emergency food agencies throughout metro Detroit. Nevertheless, Forgotten Harvest's staff had far outgrown the available space in its Oak Park warehouse and distribution center.

"We were bursting at the seams," said Forgotten Harvest President and CEO Susan Goodell, a resident of Birmingham. "There were so many people crammed into a small space. We couldn't even think. There were often literally several meetings going on at once in the same room."

"We have individual work spaces now. Having this space is really allowing us to work more efficiently."

What's more, Goodell says, it's a luxury for a nonprofit to have such nice offices. "It's absolutely beautiful," she said. "There's even artwork on the walls."

Generous donation

Since the offices are so beautiful and since Forgotten Harvest is so committed to efficiency - 96 cents of every dollar donated to the organization goes directly toward food rescue - Goodell felt the need to let visitors know where the office space came from. The Forgotten Harvest sign includes an "offices generously donated by Grant Thornton" note.

Goodell said she met a former Grant Thornton partner a few years ago and since then the organization has provided continued support in the form of volunteers. "Grant Thornton really

wrapped their arms around us," she said.

Jim Trouba, a partner at Grant Thornton and Forgotten Harvest board member, said his organization chose to get involved with Forgotten Harvest through its GT Cares program. "We were impressed by not only the mission of Forgotten Harvest, but with the commitment of its people and the significant number of people in our community that they help," he said.

The donation, Trouba said, just made sense, especially in light of Forgotten Harvest's mission to reduce waste.

The Southfield office frees up a good deal of space in the Oak Park warehouse, which provides food storage, houses the organization's fleet of 35 refrigerated trucks and provides work space for logistics staff.

From the warehouse, Goodell explained, local trucks depart with some of the food on hand in storage such as repackaged items that were cast-offs from manufacturers and donated non-perishable goods.

The trucks then pick up donated food from 10 to 12 businesses and then drop off food at three different emergency food providers.

Other trucks go outside metro Detroit, as far as Ohio, to retrieve donated food and bring it back to the warehouse.

Forgotten Harvest has 455 partner businesses that regularly donate food.

The Oak Park facility is also where Forgotten Harvest prepares some of the produce it grows on its 92-acre farm in Deerfield Township, which then goes to the

Inkster processing center for canning.

The processing center is a recent development made possible through a partnership with Ferndale-based Garden Fresh Gourmet, which owns the Inkster facility.

The arrangement enables Forgotten Harvest to supplement its inventory during winter, one of the two times of year when the food supply is depleted because less fresh food is available.

The other time of year that's challenging for Forgotten Harvest is summer, Goodell said.

More than 250,000 children in the region qualify for free or reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches at school because of low family income, but in the summertime, that resource isn't available.

In response to that need, Forgotten Harvest developed a summer feeding program that provides sack lunches to 3,000 children each day.

Forgotten Harvest also provides 65 mobile pantries in the summertime that function like farmers markets. "The only difference is there's no bill at the end," she said.

Forgotten Harvest is responsible for getting 45.5 million pounds of food each year that would otherwise be destroyed to metro Detroit residents in need through its 280 partner food agencies.

The organization is poised to grow that number by 5 percent each year, Goodell said.

To donate, volunteer or learn more about Forgotten Harvest, visit www.forgottenharvest.org.

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Heartbreak of homelessness haunts children

School districts reach out to help area kids survive, thrive

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Ever since she was a young girl, having a large family was part of Lisa Sadler's plan. But she never imagined that one day she'd wind up an unemployed, homeless mother of 15.

While six of her children are now adults and on their own, Sadler, 47, said it's her niece's generosity — allowing them to stay in her one-bedroom, one-bathroom Farmington Hills apartment — that has kept the rest of the Sadler family off the street for the past few months.

Certainly, it's a challenge for 11 to live in such a small space, Sadler said. Bedtime for them, which includes her husband Cecil, a 22-year-old disabled son and eight other kids ages 5-16, consists of lights out at the same time for everybody and crawling into sleeping bags strewn across the living room and bedroom floors.

But they make it work. And they are grateful to be together, Sadler said.

"I really appreciate the compassion of not being turned away in our time of need," she said. "Sometimes, people see a need and turn away — they're blind to helping."

Despite having a roof over their heads for now, based on criteria established by federal law, the Sadler children are con-



sidered homeless. And it's a designation they share not only with 80-some other Farmington Public Schools students this year, but with hundreds of other students identified as such throughout metro Detroit.

Widespread problem

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 1987 provides federal funds to ensure homeless kids continue to have access to public education. It also has established guidelines for school districts to determine which students qualify for services mandated by the act.

According to the act, a student can be considered homeless if they lack adequate sleeping accommodations, share housing with other families due to economic hardship, live in a motel, car, campground, emer-

gency shelter or similar circumstance.

The act in many cases calls for a school district offering its homeless students transportation to the district where they had been attending school prior to becoming homeless, if they were forced to move away during the school year. Should that condition apply, the two districts typically share the cost of transporting the students, whether by school bus, public transportation or taxi cab.

In the Farmington Public Schools district, \$67,477 was spent on transporting homeless students to and from school last year.

FPS Director of Instructional Equity Naomi Khalil said school buses are used to transport the kids "as much as we can," but sometimes that isn't feasible, particularly for the lengthier routes — as far away as Ingham or Macomb

counties in some cases.

Districts also have use of other federal dollars to help homeless families with school supplies, provide free/reduced lunches and connect them with outreach centers that assist with clothing and other services.

"The whole purpose is to allow them to maintain some consistency in their lives," said Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Plymouth-Canton's executive director of staffing, student services and policy. "School is one of those areas that can be consistent."

According to Paul Salah, Wayne-Westland deputy superintendent, about 150 students in the district are considered homeless, including those living with a relative.

In the Northville Public Schools district, just four students are identified as homeless this year, while South Lyon Community Schools reports having 48 homeless students. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials estimate they're currently serving some 80 homeless students. Those students have come to the Plymouth-Canton district from areas including Wayne-Westland, Van Buren and Detroit, officials said.

Livonia Public Schools identified 99 homeless students so far during the current school year, of which five have already left the district. From September through November, taxi cabs and gas reimbursement for homeless students totaled just under \$6,000,

with an undetermined amount spent using LPS buses. And while a few of the district's homeless students live in Wayne, Westland, Detroit and Belleville, according to LPS Homeless Liaison Phillip Francis, most of the identified homeless students live within the district's boundaries.

"By far, the most common homeless situation is what's called 'doubled-up,' which is when a family lives with friends or family on a temporary basis," Francis said.

Becoming aware

Identifying a student as homeless is sometimes done at registration time, based on answers to enrollment questions about a child's living situation. When homelessness occurs during the school year — and if the student or parent doesn't make the situation known — it's up to school staff to pick up on signs which suggest that's the case.

Homelessness can, indeed, affect academic performance, noted Pamela Swert, superintendent of Clarenceville Public Schools, which currently has 22 students identified as homeless. Any instability in a student's life, including homelessness, increases stress and impacts the ability to perform and remain attentive during the day, she said.

So does having no legal right to housing, knowing they can be asked to leave at any time, Francis added.

"Additionally, when (in a) doubled-up (situation), the homeless fam-

ily may be living in an unfinished basement, sleeping on the floor or couch or a similarly unsuitable situation when a student doesn't have his or her own space," he said.

Some LPS homeless students are living in hotels or in foster homes, while others are unaccompanied youth — either kicked out of their homes or are runaways, living without a parent or legal guardian, he said.

FPS Homeless Liaison Hatty Ligon said staff undergoes training to be more aware of the signs commonly exhibited by homeless students, which can include excessive tardiness and absences, hunger and other indications "that something is not right." She encourages parents or guardians of homeless students — or others that know of kids in that situation — to come forward so they can get the help they need.

"A lot of the time, people are afraid. They don't know what to do," Ligon said. "And then a lot of times, parents are relieved to know that a law is in place (to provide services), that they can stay in their school of origin."

Also, students identified as homeless automatically qualify for academic intervention, as needed, funded through Title I.

Supplemental learning tools can include software tutorial programs, Francis added.

Not hopeless

Though Sadler isn't sure where she and her family will be in upcoming months, she has her sights set on staying in the Farmington area. One dream — or goal — is to land a job with the school district, possibly in food service. Another is to find suitable housing that she can pay for once she's employed.

Quite simply, she said, the Farmington community "feels like home." Her kids' teachers, administrators and others embraced them all right away, she said, welcoming the family and helping to ease the burden of living with such uncertainty.

"Here, I'm in a good place," she said. "And I haven't felt that in a long time."

A series of events which began about a dozen years ago — when the family was forced out of their Detroit home due to toxic black mold discovered in the attic — derailed them.

And they haven't been able to get back on track, she said.

"It's been like dominoes," Sadler said, noting that the family has spent time with several friends, lived in shelters and rented a problem-filled home before landing in the Farmington Hills apartment. "Chronic, severe hypertension" prevents Cecil from working, she said; disability insurance helps to sustain them. Caring for their disabled son also brings in financial assistance.

Pinching pennies and always hunting for bargains is a way of life, she added.

Sadler said it feels like she's been "living in a storm" for years — but she's optimistic that "it's a storm that will soon pass." Until then, she said, she'll keep a positive outlook and remain grateful for those who've helped her family endure these trying times.

"A lot of people don't realize the blessing they have in being a homeowner. A lot of people take it for granted," she said. "And for a lot of people, they're only a paycheck away from this, too."

Sadler urges anyone who can help her find affordable housing and a job — either in food service, home care or similar work — to contact her at 269-823-4231.

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Digging after a loose puck are Plymouth's Kyle Bauer and Canton's Jon Winberry (front). PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hunley's hot streak keys Chiefs to victory

Senior scores 22, Canton defense stops Spartans

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Every direction Livonia Stevenson players seemed to turn Thursday night they saw Canton senior center Taylor Hunley.

More times than not, the 6-1 Hunley was driving inside for another bucket as she spearheaded the visiting Chiefs to a 38-17 varsity girls basketball win — saddling the Spartans with their first loss of the season after four wins.

Hunley scored 22 points in the KLAAs crossover contest, including all but one of her team's 13 points in the first half, which ended with the Chiefs (3-2 overall) up 13-8.

Canton really broke the game open in the third, outscoring Stevenson 10-2 over the first 5:30 to build a 23-10 edge.

Scoring eight of those points was Hunley, with senior forward Paige Aresco (eight points) finally breaking free of Stevenson defensive shadow Amy Freed to get on the board with a fast-break layup for the other points during that run.

"She was awesome," said Canton head coach Brian Samulski about Hunley. "She finished around the rim, she just rebounded the ball outstandingly and got second shots.

"This is a tough place to score, and Taylor early on kept us in there with her (baskets)."

Hunley — who also led the charge with nine rebounds — smiled when asked about her offensive surge, but stressed that it all comes from the team mindset to defend, defend and defend some more.

"My coaches, Bob (Blohm) and Brian, before the game they made sure to say to 'Make sure you seal and get after it,'" Hunley noted. "It's definitely nice to know we have the potential to do that, beat some undefeated teams."

Costly indecision

Stevenson head coach Jen Knoph credited Canton's stellar defense,

See CHIEFS, Page B3



Canton's Taylor Hunley (No. 5) puts up one of her 22 points Thursday night. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Comerica experience lives up to billing for Canton, Plymouth icers

By Tim Smith | Staff Writer

With streams of morning sunlight shooting across the Comerica Park ice, Canton and Plymouth renewed their boys hockey rivalry Thursday before a small-but-vocal gathering of fans.

While the experience itself was unforgettable — the weather cooperated, almost balmy with temperatures in the low 30s — the game was more lopsided as the Wildcats dominated with a 4-0 victory, outshooting the Chiefs 40-19.

The ice itself drew mixed reviews, however. It was chippy, snowy and cracked under the players' skates, perhaps just like it might in the middle of a frozen pond somewhere.

"It was awesome," said Plymouth junior defenseman Kyle Bauer, who sported eye black under his hockey cage. "I heard that rain was supposed to happen today, so it was great that we got that in."

As for putting eye black on, Bauer said he did so following warmups after noticing there was too much glare on the glass and ice.

According to Wildcats senior forward John Van-



Racing after the puck Thursday morning are Plymouth's Mike Scarpello and Canton's Christian Flack (No. 23).

DenBeurgeury (one goal, two assists), the ice was "a bit bumpy in certain areas, a little patchy. But you just got to bear down on those passes and shots in front of the net. You just got to make everything with double the amount of effort."

VanDenBeurgeury added that it was "great to experience the first outdoor game

for Plymouth and Canton, I thought it was a great game overall by both teams."

"It was a great experience," Canton senior forward Christian Flack said. "Comerica Park, they really treated us well. It was real classy the way they did this, I wish it could have turned out a bit better."



The Wildcats' bench congratulates teammates following one of Plymouth's goals against Canton at Comerica Park.

Breaking through

The few hundred fans on hand, mostly standing from the far-away Tiger Den, witnessed another display of spectacular goaltending by Canton junior Nick Borg.

He kept the Chiefs in the contest until late in the second, when Plymouth broke a scoreless tie on goals by junior forward Zach Tavierne and sophomore forward Alex Bump just 1:14 apart to make it a 2-0 game.

Tavierne scored when he tipped in a shot from the left point by junior defenseman

See COMERICA, Page B5



Plymouth's Mo Youssef (left) battles against Hartland's Steven Tyler in the opening dual meet Wednesday. CHRIS GUDECK

PREP WRESTLING

Resilient 'Cats bring down Highlanders

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As though he were still playing football, Plymouth sophomore heavyweight Michael Jordan lifted his Howell wrestling opponent up and slammed him down.

"What I did was, I could tell he was off balance, so I slammed him really hard and did the hip toss," said Jordan, following his first-period pin Wednesday night against Tanner Damask that sparked Ply-

mouth's 45-30 KLAAs crossover dual meet victory. "When he was down he's really good at bridging. So I had to pick up the head and that was all I did."

Jordan's football coach, Mike Sawchuk, probably was smiling inside watching the youngster take control at such a key moment in the dual. Howell had just rallied to close a 12-0 deficit to 15-9.

"Both (sports) help me," said Jordan, now 9-5. "Football helped me to get lower at

wrestling. Last year I wasn't that good, but I've gotten a lot better this year."

Also pretty happy about that was his wrestling coach, Quinn Guernsey, because Jordan's takedown of Damask in 1:54 kept the Highlanders from gaining momentum.

Plymouth improved to 8-1 in duals, losing earlier Wednesday to state-ranked Hartland (52-16).

"Heavyweight is such an

See WRESTLING, Page B4



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MEN'S LACROSSE

Aquinas future home for Salem's Sommerville

By **Tim Smith**
Staff Writer

For Salem High School varsity boys lacrosse player Paul Sommerville, nothing could be sweeter than continuing his career at the collegiate level.

That's what the 17-year-old Sommerville will get to do, following his recent signing to play men's lacross at Aquinas College near Grand Rapids.

Sommerville, a defenseman for the Wildcats, said he is "extremely excited" about joining the Saints.

"From the beginning, I always knew I wanted to go to a smaller school," said the son of Ernie and Laura Sommerville. "After talking to a bunch of coaches, looking at schools and emails, Aquinas just stuck out."

He knew Aquinas was the perfect fit after his first campus visit, too.

"I just kept on comparing other schools to Aquinas and none were beating it," Sommerville continued. "Coach (Doug) Seites is also a great guy and I'm really looking forward to being on his squad."



Salem senior Paul Sommerville (seated) recently signed to play men's lacrosse at Aquinas College. Standing (from left) are Saints head coach Doug Seites, parents Laura and Ernie Sommerville, coach Alan Keicher and P-CEP co-athletic director Tom Willette.

"After I went to an overnight recruit weekend and got to meet the guys on the team and take part in a scrimmage with them I just felt that I would love to spend the next four years in Grand Rapids."

The Plymouth resident, who carries a 3.9 grade-point average, plans on studying for a degree in sports management.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



HOLIDAY CHEER

At their Dec. 11 hockey game at Arctic Edge Arena, the Canton Chiefs Varsity Team, along with Dick Scott Dodge, collected a van full of toys to support Toys for Tots. The Chiefs were winners off the ice, despite a hard fought 2-1 loss to Northville on the ice that evening. Chiefs Pictured include: Isaac Salinas, Kurt Snow, Justin Kolbicz, Bryan Eastman, Hunter Oatman, Christian Flack, Nick Borg, Cooper Rice, Nick Richmond, Jon Winberry, Tommy Kiddle, Michael Gaffka, Collin Smith, and Matt Eastman.

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BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING PREVIEW - PT. 2

Ready to make waves

Plymouth trio, large group of freshmen make upcoming season one to watch

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Kenn Forbes' rookie season as head coach of Plymouth's varsity boys swim and dive team was a big success and he likes the chances of an encore in 2013-14.

Last year's squad won the KLAA South Division title with a 5-0 mark (6-2 overall) and finished sixth in the conference finals while breaking school records in the 200-yard free relay and diving.

"We also nearly broke several more individual records and (in) the remaining two relays as well," said the former Redford Union coach. "(That's) something we hope to accomplish this year."

To find additional reasons for his optimism, merely look at the numbers. There are 39

members on the new team (including 19 ninth graders), a jump from last winter's roster of 24.

"I feel like we will be able to perform well this year in terms of having depth," Forbes said. "We had such a strong underclass group last season that played a crucial part in our success as a whole and they all returned."

"As for the enormous freshmen class they are proving to be very hard workers and are really coming along with their strokes."

As of late last week, when the Wildcat Invitational Relays will give Forbes more details on which of those newbies best slot into the lineup, he wasn't ready to give a "who's who" of the youngsters.

Forbes does know plenty about the returning "big three"

of sophomore Garrett Beauprez, junior Yang and junior Ryan Heinze.

All three will return with the talent and experience to put points up on the scoreboard in multiple events.

The coach is looking for Beauprez to "be promising" in the 500 freestyle, 200 free, 200 individual medley and various relays.

Likewise, Yang (200 IM, 100 backstroke, 100 butterfly, relays) and Heinze (50 free, 100 free, 100 fly and relays) look to contend for spots in the Division 1 state meet.

"Those are our big three from the looks of it, with a lot of support depth," Forbes continued. "We are looking for a lot of great individual performances and hope to get multiple individual state cuts along with our relays."



Garrett Beauprez made a big splash for Plymouth as a freshman in 2012-13 and he is being counted on for more of the same this season. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Time to 'pounce'

Forbes also is encouraged to have assistant coach Vikki Jouney on board to teach the team's divers. Jouney also was diving coach for the Plymouth girls team, working well with junior Megan McKeehan (who set the team's 11-dive record).

"Coach Cafarelli left big shoes to fill and without missing a step she (Jouney) has gone above and beyond to teach these kids," Forbes noted. "She's a real pleasure to watch and a great asset to have."

It remains to be seen how well the large contingent of freshmen improve over the season, but Forbes doesn't doubt the team's overall will and work ethic to excel again in 2013-14.

"I'm not one to anticipate certain outcomes," he said, "but based on pure work ethic I would say this team of Wildcats is ready to pounce."

"They are humble and understand if they want success like last year they need to earn it. It should be a fun season."

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CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

but emphasized her players are struggling with finding their identity on offense more than anything else.

Top scorers for the Spartans were senior guard Rachel Wilkinson and senior forward Kyra Johnson with eight and four points, respectively. Stevenson managed to connect on only 8-27 from the floor and barely stepped to the foul line (1-2) as the Chiefs played a strong, disciplined game all over the floor.

"We talked about how, when they're (Chiefs) running their offense they're running it with a purpose," Knoph said. "Every possession mattered and every shot was by design. We looked like we were forcing everything."

Knoph said the Spartans have gone up against strong defenses in previous games this season and prevailed. But the lack of a "true point guard" and some indecision against the Chiefs cost the team, she emphasized.

"They're all just wanting to get the ball out of their hands and hoping somebody else is going to take charge," she added.

Samulski said the winning record against a string of five, excellent opponents will be valuable once the league portion of the schedule rolls around in January.

"That's why we play who we play in the non league (schedule)," he said. "You want to challenge yourselves and see what we can get done. That's how you learn things about your team."

Chipping in with five points, five boards and four of Canton's 12 steals was senior guard Rachel Winters. Junior guard Alanna Brown helped the cause by forcing three Stevenson turnovers.

PLYMOUTH 60, SOUTH LYON 35: The visiting Wildcats were led by Shelby Cheston (18 points) and Jada Woody (10 points) Thurs-



Canton's Alanna Brown (No. 15) eludes Livonia Stevenson defender Amy Freed (No. 33) en route to the basket Thursday night. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

day night in this KLAA non-division matchup.

Plymouth improved to 5-0 for the second time in school history and looks forward to facing preseason top-10 team Farmington Hills Mercy on Monday, Dec. 30 (7 p.m.).

The Wildcats also were bolstered by Kendall Rose (nine points) and Kylie Robb (eight points).

After going up 15-7 following one frame, Plymouth built a 30-13 halftime edge — with treys in the second by Robb and Courtney La-Vallee.

Leah Kliczinski's four points in the third sparked Plymouth to a 49-29 advantage entering the fourth.

Plymouth first-year

head coach Nick Brandon said the team's hot streak, although welcome, isn't surprising given the squad's work ethic.

"This team has really united with a common goal to work hard for each other every day," Brandon said. "And they are displaying that every time we play."

"We have so much work to do and many areas to improve in and the road only gets tougher from this point, especially when we look at our next opponent."

Nine of Plymouth's 12 players got on the scoresheet against the Lions, now 1-3.

"South Lyon is traditionally a very tough, well-coached opponent, and I liked our focus and

preparation heading into the game," Brandon continued. "Going into Christmas, 5-0 was our goal at the beginning of this past week. And we worked toward that every day in practice."

SALEM 42, JOHN GLENN 21: Host Salem (5-1 overall) rolled to this KLAA crossover win Thursday over Westland John Glenn.

Shara Long led the Rocks with 12 points and seven rebounds.

Helping the cause with eight points was Kelly Whalen while Jamyra Wilson and Maranda Armstead each scored seven.

For the Rockets, Victoria McCloud tallied 10 points.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

BOYS BASKETBALL

Canton cagers get past Spartans

A big third quarter propelled host Canton to a 57-50 KLAA varsity boys basketball win over Livonia Stevenson.

The Chiefs upped their record to 5-0 with the win.

After breaking out to a 19-17 lead after one frame, the Spartans bounced back to take a 30-28 halftime advantage.

But Canton then went to work, with a 15-6 third and never looked back.

Scoring 22 points for the Chiefs was Javon Taylor, who connected on 10 of 18 tries from the floor. He contributed eight rebounds, as Canton held a 24-14 edge on the glass.

Shaine Keyandwy (14 points, five rebounds), Jordan Nobles (nine points, eight rebounds) and Chase Winningham (six points) all contributed to the victory.

For the Spartans (1-4), Noah Campbell and Jailen Webber led in scoring with 19 and 16 points, respectively.

Wildcats fall short

Despite 16 points by Randall Aikins and 12 by Josh Reynolds, the host Wildcats (3-1) were unable to overcome the Lions in Thursday's KLAA crossover varsity boys basketball game.

Chipping in with six points and six rebounds was Chris Walls, while Deji Adebisi tallied six boards.

"I was really proud of our effort tonight," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "We played extremely hard in more consistent spurts. So, for a young team, that's the uplifting thing."

The win upped South Lyon's record to 2-2.

Rocks lose

Westland John Glenn defeated Salem, 65-59, Thursday night in a KLAA cross-over game. DeAngelo Kirksey and Mychael Bradley both netted 15 points for the winners while Mo Foani poured in 13.

Allante Wheeler paced the Rocks' offense.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Rock the Clock Run Dec. 29

The first Rock the Clock Run is set for 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 29 at Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Proceeds from the 5K run/walk will benefit the Gerad Meteyer Foundation, which helps support the American Diabetes Association-operated Camp Midicha in Fenton.

Each participant will receive a long sleeve tech moisture wicking race shirt and a Rock the Clock pint glass will go to the first five finishers in each age group.

For more information, go to www.rocktheclockrun.com

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Jerry Abraham will offer a fundamentals camp from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25 (cost \$150) at the MU Activities Center.

MU will also offer a pitching camp from noon to 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 (cost \$150 per player).

For more information, email Abraham at jabraham@madonna.edu or call at (734) 432-5612. You can also visit MadonnaCrusaders.com.

Softball defense

The second annual Eddy Kettlehut Softball Defense Camp (all ages through high school) will be from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 26, and 9-11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Precision Baseball, 7835 Market Drive, Canton.

The cost for the two-day camp is \$90.

Also appearing will be Amy Dunleavy (Ferris State) and Kayce Nieto (University of Utah).

For more information, call 734-459-5921 or 248-891-1241; or email coach-tomd@comcast.net.

WYAA volleyball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association girls volleyball (ages 9-17) is under way.

Games and practices will be at Marshall Upper Elementary School. League age-groups include 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17.

To register, visit wyaa.org. For more information, email wyaa-volleyball2013@comcast.net.

Learn to skate

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its Session III eight-week learn to skate classes beginning Jan. 13 through March 3 at Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon.

The cost is \$64 for residents and \$78 for nonresidents.

Among the classes offered includes: Youth (ages 4 and up) - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:25 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m. Mondays; tots (3-year-olds) - 5 p.m. Mondays. (No equipment is need for hockey classes.)

Registration will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (nonresidents) Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 1500 Hubbard, Livonia.

For more information, call 734-466-2918 or email BarbGamber@ci.livonia.mi.us.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Crusaders win border battle in OT

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It resembled a USA-Canada hockey game more than a men's basketball game.

Bodies were flying all over Madonna University Activities Center court Wednesday night as host MU outlasted the University of Windsor, 78-76, in overtime in the Crusader Classic.

Senior guard Travis Schuba had the hot hand for MU scoring a game-and season-high 33 points, including nine triples.

Senior point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson), named the tournament MVP,

chipped in with 13 points as Madonna goes into the holiday break with a 9-6 overall record.

The Crusaders led 35-33 at halftime, but fell behind by as many as eight, 52-44, with 13:13 remaining on a layup by 6-foot-7 forward Keron Brathwaite.

MU regained the lead, 59-58, on a layup by Donald Owens with 5:27 to go and opened up a nine-point advantage with just 2:16 left on a layup by Naubert.

But Windsor (12-8) scored nine straight points over the final 2:09 capped by Bradford Parkers' layup with only 10 seconds to go to knot the count at 70-all.

The Crusaders, trying to win it on their last possession in regulation, turned the ball over and Josh Collins' desperation three-quarter court one-handed heave just rimmed out at the buzzer.

In OT, the Lancers got a layup from Parker with 2:09 left to take a 76-73 advantage, but MU answered on a three-pointer by Jeff Schmitz followed by the game-winning layup from Naubert with only 1:06 to go.

Windsor had two cracks to tie or win it during the final 14 seconds, but came up short as MU held on for the victory

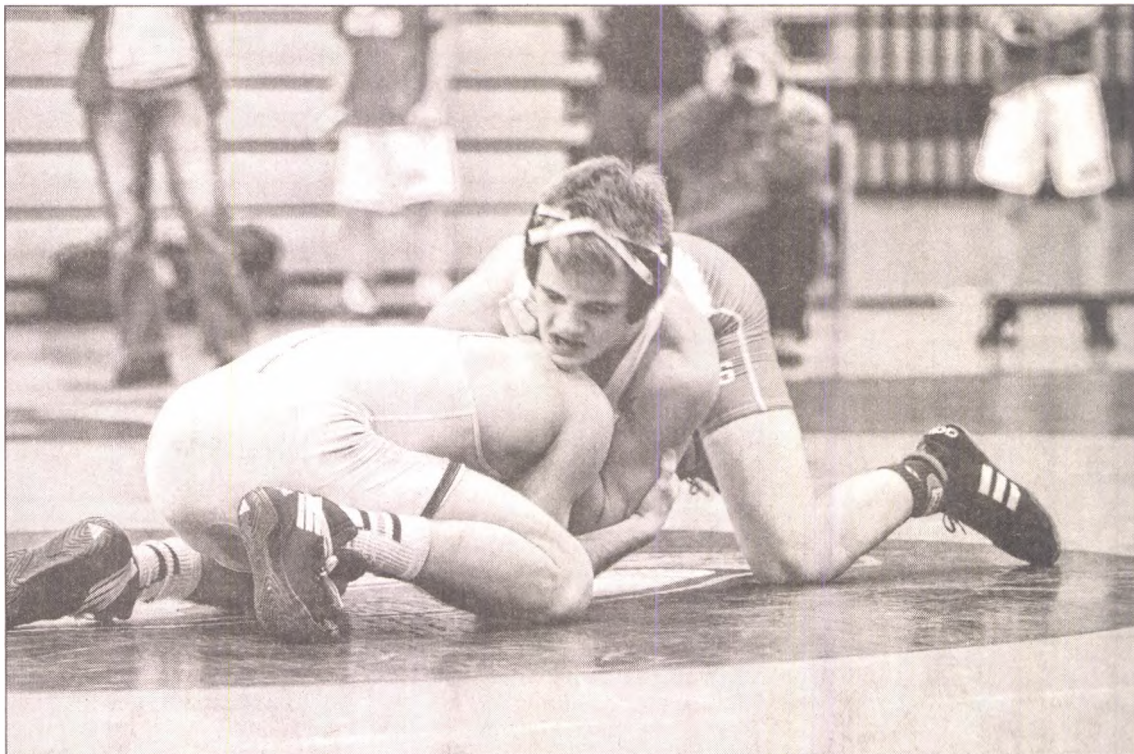
"We knew they were a big, tough team from what we had seen on film," Schuba said.

"They outsize us and outweighed us a little bit, but in the end it's the team with the most heart that gets it done."

Schuba has been a marked man this year and his scoring average has dipped a bit to 14.5 points per game. He is shooting better from three-point range (42.4 percent) than is overall field goal percentage (41.3).

MU is now off until Saturday, Jan. 4 when they travel to face Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference foe Siena Heights.

BOYS WRESTLING



In their latest matchup, Canton's Ben Griffin (right) gets position against Howell nemesis Ben Calandrino. CHRIS GUDDICK

Griffin's grit puts Chiefs over the top

Canton senior prevails against Howell's Calandrino in winning bout

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With teammates and Canton fans stirring it up, Ben Griffin went right after Howell nemesis Ben Calandrino with Wednesday's KLAA wrestling dual meet on the line.

It was 33-3 all when Griffin and Callandrino — ranked No. 1 at 130 to open the season — wrestled in the 135-pound slot.

Finally, in the third period (at 7:20), Griffin finished off Calandrino to put the Chiefs up to stay in their 42-33 victory.

Griffin couldn't help but pump his arm in triumph, just a little bit, while spectators at Plymouth High School cheered.

"That was the pin to win the match, against the No. 1-ranked kid at 130," Griffin said. "Last year in the KLAA finals, I actually sprained his ankle and he tore my meniscus and ligaments in my knee. This time, it's a little different than last."

Griffin said he is completely healthy now, and so is Canton senior Alec Pantaleo, who won by a 20-5 tech fall over James Payne.

"I'm back to 100 percent, my knee's supposedly better than it was before," Griffin added. "We have three or four kids out with injury, but right there we showed a lot of heart."

"We persevered and we beat a team we were not supposed to beat today. I can't be happier."

Both Griffin and Pantaleo (still undefeated after also winning their bouts later Wednesday against Hartland) are aiming for the Palace podium and hope to have plenty of company from their team with them.

"My team is pretty young and we don't have the most

talent," said Pantaleo, who missed the stretch drive in 2012-13 after breaking his hand. "But the thing is you get talent by going to face other good wrestlers. You learn from them."

Just a 'warrior'

Canton head coach Cory Mancuso marveled at what Griffin did against Calandrino, which upped the Chiefs record to 5-2 (although Canton later lost 56-19 to Hartland to take a 5-3 mark into the holiday break).

"He (Griffin) is just a warrior," Mancuso said. "The kid is really tough and he got the job done. Not only did he win a big match for himself but he won that dual meet for the team. That's what we expect out of a kid like that."

Mancuso added that Calandrino defeated Griffin last year "so it was a big match for Ben. They're both going to EMU, they're going to be teammates next year."

The veterans weren't the only ones to step up in the victory.

In the 145-pound weight class, Grant Trotman stepped in after being called up from the junior varsity. He came through with a pin in 5:24 against Matt Halstead.

"That's his first varsity match," Mancuso said. "We don't know what to expect out of him. He went out there and got a pin, big-time. That was big for us."

Pantaleo followed with his win to give the Chiefs a quick 11-0 and Nick Durocher (at 160) padded the lead to 17-0 with a first-period takedown of Caleb Gordish.

The Highlanders won the next two matches before the Chiefs got back on track. At 215, senior K.J. Wooley needed just 3:20 to pin Nathan Pajur;

then at 285, Andrew Blevins took care of Tanner Damask in just 28 seconds.

Other Canton wins were sported by Harrison Samoy at 112 (a 11-3 decision over Nathan Huff) and Ty Jasman at 140 (a 3-1 decision over Dylan Lester).

Mancuso was realistic about assessing how his team fared in the nightcap loss to the Indians.

"Hartland's a real solid team, they're third in the state," Mancuso said. "They're just better than we are right now."

Also Wednesday night, Hartland defeated Plymouth 52-16 while the Wildcats came back with a 45-30 win over Howell.

ROCKS LOSE DUALS: On Wednesday at Waterford Kettering, Salem dropped hard-fought KLAA dual meets against the host Captains and Walled Lake Northern.

The Rocks were defeated 42-27 by the Knights and 39-25 by the Captains.

"We had some tough match ups, but I was proud of how my kids fought," Salem head coach Pete Israel said. "I was happy with Peter Bushaw and Bruce Haslitt's performances (at 135 and 152, respectively)."

"Cameron Shaughnessy and Ahmad Abed had a good day as well going 2-0. Connor Thornbury (171) had a tough day against some state ranked opponents, but is still grinding away."

Victorious for the Rocks against Northern were Akash-deed Rai (by forfeit at 103), Shaughnessy (by pin at 112), Abed (a 6-4 decision at 145), Roy Foster (a pin in 4:39 at 189) and Mitchell Gross (by forfeit at 215).

In the loss to Kettering, Salem points were scored on pins by Haslitt, Abed, Bushaw. Helping the cause was a major decision (12-1) by Andrew Lindsay at 119 and Shaughnessy's 10-6 decision.

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GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

Winning Wildcats spring into new season

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth's 2013-14 varsity girls gymnastics team is literally beaming with potential with a strong start to the season.

Kensington Lakes Activities Association dual meet victories over Northville (135.175-to-119.1) and Waterford United (138.45-to-121.05) over the past week or so have the team in a good place entering the winter break.

And when the action returns in January, Plymouth (2-0 in the Kensington Division) could really put pressure on perennial powerhouse Canton (undefeated so far this year, too) let alone always-strong Livonia Blue and Livonia Red.

Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey's top performers Tuesday against Waterford United — Katie Salanga, senior captain Brenna Connelly and Haley Metz — will be called upon to continue their standout performances.

Salanga was victorious on balance beam with a 9.0 mark and took the top spot on floor exercise with a 9.1 total.

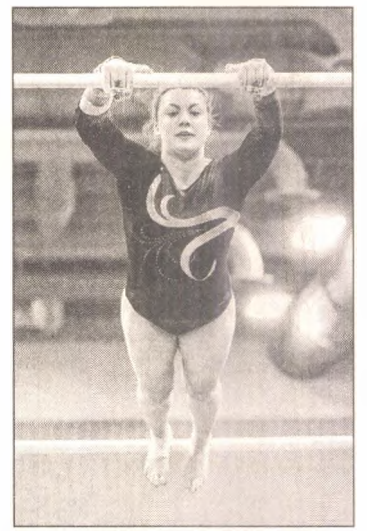
Also scoring nines in the opener were Connelly and Metz (who tied for first on vault with a 9.0).

Plymouth's chances are increased by others in the lineup, including Metz, sophomores Rebecca Simu, Sam Fontana and junior Molly McSween.

Metz shared first on vault against Waterford with Simu and Fontana while McSween and Simu (with 8.6 each) were the top scorers on uneven parallel bars.

"All have improved mightily since (the) first meet and will get stronger as the season progresses," said Yockey, noting that their routines on bars are not yet completely finished.

Promising performers on the 'B' team in the opener included Kayla Janeveski (8.7 on vault, 8.4 on floor) and



Plymouth senior captain Brenna Connelly performs during Tuesday's dual meet. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Going into her routine on the uneven parallel bars against Waterford United is Plymouth sophomore Sam Fontana. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Adriana Tao (8.35 on vault, 7.75 on beam, 8.0 on floor).

The Wildcats will resume the schedule with a tri-meet Tuesday, Jan. 7 against Brighton and Howell.

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Canton gymnasts improve to 5-0

Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team finished the 2013 portion of the season scheduled with Thursday's 145.025-to-135.925 victory over Livonia Blue.

The Chiefs improved to 5-0 with the victory.

Prevailing in all-around with a total of 36.3 points was Erica Lucas, who also won on vault with a 9.55.

Other Canton event winners included Hailey Hodgson on balance beam (a personal best of 9.675) and floor (9.25) and Maddie Toal (first on uneven parallel bars with a 8.95).

Jocelyn Moraw chipped in with second on vault (9.05) and sharing third on floor with teammate Melissa Green (9.1).

Goal came in second on balance beam and all-around, with tallies of 9.55 and 36.15, respectively.

"(We) had an excellent meet, even though we are still fighting nagging minor injuries," Chiefs head coach John Cunningham said. "Melissa and Jocelyn didn't do all-around and Ellie Bachman was out sick."

Stephanie Cox was fifth on bars (8.65).

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers top Generals in shootout

After spotting OHL East Division leader Oshawa an early 3-0 lead Friday night, the Plymouth Whalers got busy.

First, Zach Lorentz scored on the power play to make it a 3-1 deficit after one frame and the Whalers kept chipping away — ultimately forcing overtime and winning 4-3 in a shootout on Connor Chatham's goal.

Spectacular goaltending by Plymouth's Alex Nedeljkovic in the third period (he stopped 17 shots and 36 overall) enabled the Whalers to square the game.

Francesco Vilardi beat Oshawa's Daniel Althuller at 8:51 of the final stanza and Chatham made it 3-3 with 7:24 remaining in regulation (from Matt Mistelet and Gianluca Curcuruto).

Chatham found the mark to open the shootout and that was plenty as Nedeljkovic held the fort for Plymouth (12-20-0-4). With the win, the Whalers (28 points) jumped ahead of idle Sarnia in the West Division.

Plymouth now is idle until facing London 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29 at Comerica Park.

» On Wednesday, the Whalers got off to a quick 1-0 start when Mathieu Hen-



person scored against Belleville netminder Charlie Graham.

But Plymouth could not solve Graham the rest of the way, falling 4-1 in an OHL contest at Yardmen Arena in Belleville.

Cameron Brace paced the Bulls with two goals. Sharing goaltending duties for the Whalers were starter Zack Bowman (who stopped 33 of 35 shots) and Nedeljkovic.

WINTER FEST: The Plymouth Whalers and London Knights will square off at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29 at Comerica Park as part of the ongoing Hockeytown Winter Festival.

Tickets (\$38) remain on sale at the Computware Arena box office or at Plymouth Whalers.com. Call 734-453-8400 for more info.

One ticket is good for the Plymouth-London contest as well as the 1:30 game between Saginaw and Windsor.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

unpredictable weight class," Guernsey said. "... Michael's been doing a good job of being the aggressor. He's got some physical tools that most heavyweights don't.

"He's fast, he can shoot and he's strong. We're still working, it's a big adjustment for him. But we're pleased at where his progress is right now."

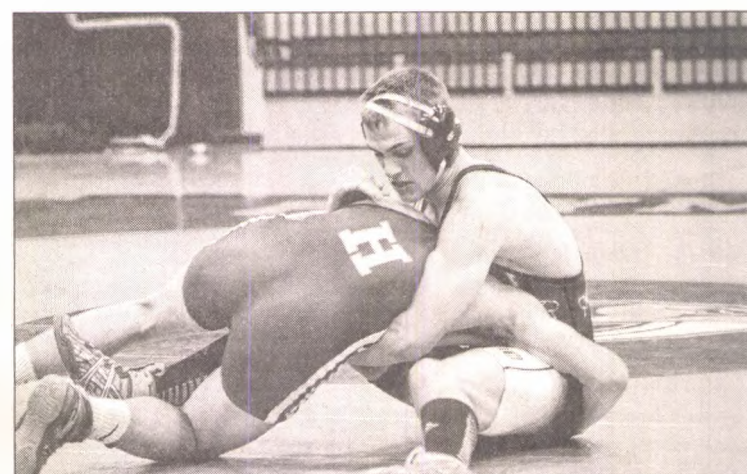
Get the six

Jordan, following his big win, caught his breath and slipped on his glasses before talking about why it was important for his team to get the fall.

"What inspired me to do that was my teammates," he continued. "My head captain, Jon Conn, he told me I needed to go get six for the team and I kept that in my head. I needed to get the six."

Guernsey, meanwhile, also pointed to the importance of a string of pins by 119-pounder Mo Youssef, Dylan Spencer (125) and Dylan Dwyer (130) that really broke open the dual for Plymouth.

"Those are the guys who have been coming through for us a lot this year," Guernsey



Joey Shaver of Plymouth (right) has a hold of Hartland's Lucus LaForg in their match. CHRIS GUDDICK

said. "I don't know what our record is when Spencer and Dylan win, but they're the guys who kind of separate us from other teams."

Youssef, who lost for the first time this season against Hartland, bounced back to pin Sawyer Hughes in 3:49.

Schiftar then brought down Nick Trackwell in just 1:33 while Dwyer's pin of Cristian Garcia required 2:48.

Wrapping up the victory was Conn, who pinned Matt Halstead in 2:54 at 145.

Other Plymouth points were secured by meet-opening 152-pounder Sofus Nielson (4:45 pin over James Payne) and Sam Campbell (pin in 5:19 over

Caleb Gordish at 160.

Hussein Youssef (189) tallied three points with his 13-12 decision over Austin Hanson.

After the lopsided loss to Hartland, Guernsey wanted to see some pushback against the Highlanders. That's what he saw.

"It was nice to see them wrestle back," Guernsey said. "It's been a trait of some of our teams in the past where we'll lose one, and then come out flat against the next one."

"Most of our guys rose to the occasion and really looked good in that second match. That was nice."

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With the Comerica Park scoreboard as a backdrop, Canton and Plymouth players and coaches gathered at center ice following the game. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMERICA

Continued from Page B1

Jake Zaborowski with 3:28 remaining in the stanza. Drawing the second assist was VanDenBeurgery.

"He (Borg) played great against us the first game and he did the same thing here," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "Sometimes you got to get one of those goals that goes off somebody's pant and in the net and that's what we needed. It seemed to turn the tide."

Plymouth opened up a two-goal lead at 14:46 on Bump's unassisted short-handed goal. He stole the puck from a Canton defenseman along the left half-wall, skated down below the circle and snapped a high shot inside the right post past Borg.

At that point, Plymouth enjoyed a 30-11 edge in shots on goal. Borg stood on his head, kicked out his legs and threw his hands at everything he could and gave Canton somewhat of a chance.

"It's just like playing pond hockey, having fun," said Borg, noting that there weren't any extra challenges to stopping the puck due to the outdoor ice or Comerica environment. "Not really, just trying to make sure that the puck stays out of the net."

Out of gas

But the depleted Chiefs (1-8) were worn down as the Hockeytown Winter Festival contest proceeded and Plymouth kept the pressure on in the final frame.

The Wildcats went up 3-0 with 13:10 to go in the third, when junior forward Josh Smith's rising



Canton's Christian Flack (No. 23) gets ready to receive the puck and fire it toward Plymouth goalie Erik VandenBosch.



Meeting at one end of the Comerica Park rink are Plymouth's John VanDenBeurgery and Canton's Bryan Eastman. In goal is Nick Borg of the Chiefs, who was sensational in the 4-0 loss to the Wildcats.

slapper from the right wing beat Borg. Earning assists were Zaborowski and VanDenBeurgery.

Closing out the scoring with 4:25 left was VanDenBeurgery, slamming in a centering feed from senior forward Charlie Supernois with Plymouth on the power play. The second assist went to senior forward Kyle Melnick.

Sharing the shutout for the Wildcats were junior goalies Erik VandenBosch and Jared Maddock, who stopped nine and 10 shots, respectively.

Both had their moments. VandenBosch, who started, stopped a

flurry of Canton tries late in the first, which ended scoreless.

Maddock had to come up big in the third period to keep the Chiefs from having hopes of a comeback. He flung his stick at a shot by Canton senior forward Christian Flack and moments later made a nifty toe stop on junior forward Bryan Eastman.

Still fun

Canton made one late bid to at least experience scoring a goal on the Comerica ice.

In the final minute, senior forward Kurt Snow made an end-to-end dash, veering in from the



John VanDenBeurgery had a big game for the Plymouth Wildcats at Comerica Park. He scored one goal and assisted on two others.

right wing and driving the puck from above the right circle that Maddock blocked with his chest. Junior forward Cooper Rice's rebound try also was smothered.

Canton head coach Brad Barath, whose team sported black-and-red Ottawa Senators-like throwback jerseys, said the team ran low on fuel as the game continued.

"It was good first period," Barath said. "It's our ninth game. We're worn down, we're tired, we're beaten up. The



Once the puck dropped at Comerica Park it was game on as usual for Plymouth's Charlie Supernois (No. 8) and Canton's Connor Wherrett.



Plymouth's Zach Tavierne scored with help from Jake Zaborowski (No. 4) in the second period to put the Wildcats on the scoreboard.

record's taking a toll on us.

"The break's coming at the right time, we have some guys with injuries. It's a tough note to go out on but it's a fun experience for them and it's something they'll never forget."

Vento called it "a great day. Just to play here was great for the program and for both teams. Obviously, the priority was to get the win and I thought the boys focused on that and

got the job done."

"I've been growing up playing pond hockey," Flack noted. "This was a little different, this ice actually seemed like it cracked up a little more than most pond hockey."

"It was better on the snow. Just a lot of divots in the ice, the puck was moving everywhere. (But) definitely a memory I'll keep my entire life, don't regret doing it without a doubt."

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SOAKING IT IN AT COMERICA

CoPa experience fun for families, too

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Shortly before 8 a.m. Thursday, cars filled with bundled up high school hockey fans pulled into the Comerica Park parking lot off of Montcalm.

With just over a half hour before puck drop for the Hockeytown Winter Festival game between Canton and Plymouth, it was tough for parents such as Ann Smith and Sue Maddock to do anything but smile about it.

"At first it was hard, but now it's getting real exciting now that the day is here," said Smith, whose son is Canton senior defenseman Collin Smith. "We're real excited to get in there and watch the hockey game, on ice outside."

"We're all packed up with blankets, hats, gloves, we're going to be warm."

Collin's dad, Pat, said things would have been perfect had the game itself had a later start time than 8:30 a.m. Because of that, it was tough for some to get down to the CoPa.

"The early time's kind of a bummer because family and

friends couldn't come," Pat Smith said. "But it's here, we deal with it and we're here to cheer them on."

According to Sue Maddock, who drove down to the stadium with her 20-year-old daughter Katelyn to watch Plymouth junior goalie Jared Maddock play in the outdoor game, she kept reminding her son all week about "having fun with it" and getting all he could out of the day.

But she had no idea how many layers of clothes Jared would be wearing under his equipment or whether he had plenty of hot food and drink Thursday morning.

"Actually they had something to eat on the bus on the way in and you know, I usually don't bother him in the morning," said Maddock, with a laugh. "And, I don't know what he wore, it's up to him. He's a big boy now."

Jared Maddock sat in the penalty bench as the backup goalie during the first half of the contest, wearing a wool hat pulled over the top of his goalie helmet.

When he entered the game

midway through the second period, Maddock skated out to the goal still donning the hat.

Her checklist

Inside the stadium, Christina Kiddle stood on the concourse behind the Tiger Den near home plate, with minutes to go before the opening face-off.

"I'm wearing three shirts, two pants, hat, gloves, coat, scarf, blanket," said Kiddle, whose son is Canton junior forward Tommy Kiddle. "But I'm excited. The boys are happy. Canton Hockey has special (throwback) jerseys and we're ready to go."

Kiddle noted that the rink itself, stretched out over the infield from left-to-right field, looked great except for the fact it was so far away.

"It's far away from the seats, but it's a great looking rink," she said. "We'll just hope that we can see it from here."

"... We were disappointed last year that this didn't happen because the Winter Classic got canceled, but we're very excited. The kids are really



Canton cheerleaders (from left) Emily Espinoza, Jamie Reich, Jasmine Testani, and Halle Mancuso made the early morning trip to Comerica Park to root for their Chiefs hockey team. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

fired up. We're happy for them."

Big picture

Not too many younger fans were able to make their way to Comerica, but that didn't stop Canton senior cheerleader Elena Ybarra, there with her teammates.

"I'm just really excited to see my school play at Comerica, it's exciting," Ybarra said. "A lot of our class is coming, our senior class, they're all excited to come see the boys play. I just got here but it's looking pretty cool."

Following the game, a 4-0 win by Plymouth, another

Canton parent gave a thumbs up to the experience.

"You're farther away than you are at the regular rink, but you could see the big picture of what was going on, which was awesome," said Theresa Wherrett, mom of Chiefs' junior forward Connor Wherrett. "Just being down here was phenomenal, seeing the backdrop of the city was wonderful."

"I could see my own son, you could see the numbers. It was great to watch him play. Absolutely, a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

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HOLIDAY PLAYLIST

Fa la la la la we love these songs

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

It's time for *Jingle Bells*.

Not just any *Jingle Bells*, but the version that was recorded in Denmark, released in the U.S. in the mid-1950s and re-released in the early '70s. Yes, that *Jingle Bells*, the one barked out by The Singing Dogs.

It just doesn't seem like the holiday season until I hear those canine crooners reminding me "oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh" in a chorus of deep woofs and staccato barks. I wouldn't let the dogs out as background sound during Christmas dinner, but the tune definitely ranks high on my holiday playlist, along with an obscure Slovak song (*Anjeli ludi*) that my family has sung since I was a kid, and Wendy Carlos' Switched on Brandeburgs, particularly *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major*, the "presto" section.

What's on your holiday playlist?

"I love music and my taste is generally very eclectic, all over the map, especially with Christmas music," said Launa Wakenhut, a Livonia resident and active member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. "I love everything from *The Nutcracker Suite* to the holiday standards to novelty songs and, of course, carols and hymns, but I guess Christmas is never really complete for me until we're trimming the tree and I'm listening to Mahalia Jackson sing *Silent Night* and *Go Tell It On the Mountain*."

Italian song

Rick Selva, Ph.D. and director of jazz studies at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, said *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle*, which translates roughly to "you descend from the heavens" tops his seasonal playlist. Selva once wrote an arrangement of the song for a church in Chicago.

"It's the *Silent Night* of Italy. It's beautiful," he said, adding that *Oh Holy Night* performed by Luciano Pavarotti also deserves a listen.

"And Larnelle Harris does a version of *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* that is beautiful."

Tracey Schulz Kobylarz, Redford Township supervisor, ranks *Oh Holy Night* as her all-time favorite reminder of "the reason for the season."

"Santa Baby — preferably Madonna's version — is my all time favorite jingle tune," she added. "And my all time silly song for Christmas is *Dominic the Christmas Donkey*."

Song, film

Dan West, Livonia Chamber of Commerce president, has one favorite Christmas tune and one favorite holiday film.

"My favorite song is *Christmas Time is Here*, from the cartoon *A Charlie Brown Christmas*," West said. "Then my favorite movie is *White Christmas*. Both were introduced to me by my parents when I was young, and now I see my two daughters (9 and 6) connect to those songs and shows as well."

Need more music ideas for the family Christmas gathering this week? Here's a sampling of other holiday "must hear" suggestions from your neighbors:

Original soundtrack

There has NEVER been a holiday in my 51 years that has not had Charlie Brown and the Gang right there. So, there has always been the music and sound of Vince Guaraldi and his trio, in my life at some time.

No Christmas season can truly be, to me, unless I hear *Christmas Time is Here* both the instrumental and with voice versions. It sparks the light and warmth of the holiday season for me. (It's) from the original soundtrack of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Next, one of my favorite pianists/musicians is George Winston. In the early 80s Winston created a series of albums based on the 'seasons. On his *December* album is a very small (short) piece, also written by Vince Guaraldi. ... the simple Guaraldi piece is titled *Prelude* and is as delicate as a still winter's night.

Finally, the arrangement of *Silent Nacht* on their very first, *A Mannheim Steamroller Christmas* album, brings a tear to my eye every time. From the simple beginning, shift to vocal, building, and then the ending simply played on a child's toy piano. Finally, the sleigh bells that "fly" from right to left speakers, completes the mystery of the "silent night." Listen and you will believe, in anything you want to.

— Craig Hane, artistic director of Barefoot Productions in Plymouth

Local band

1. Rob Thomas, *A New York City Christmas*
2. Pentatonix, a five-person a cappella group, has a festive Christmas album called *PTXmas* which has a fun new release of the *Little Drummer Boy*. You can check out the video on YouTube — http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ_MGWio-vc It has over 16 million hits on YouTube!
3. Canton's own, TwentyForSeven's new version of *O Holy Night* is beautiful! You gotta love local!

— Tina Lloyd, Canton Farmers Market manager

Sung by mom

There's a song that the Trans-Siberian Orchestra plays. It's on my cell phone. I love it so much that I used it for my walk down the aisle. It's the *Christmas Canon*. It would not be Christmas if I didn't hear that. *Silent Night* — I remember my mom would sing it (at Christmas) a ton. She'd sing it to me and we'd try to play it on the piano. The third one would be *Joy to the World*. We always hear that at church on Christmas at St. Pat's in White Lake.

— Misty Lindquist, manager of Beaver Creek Restaurant, Westland

Animals sing

I'm not too big on the holiday season, but by no means am I a Grinch! I love to give gifts during the holiday season, but Christmas music typically makes me crazy ... especially when radio stations start playing it in November. However, one of my absolute favorite YouTube videos to watch during the holidays are made by Andrew Grantham, who runs the "TalkingAnimals" YouTube account. Pet owners submit videos of their pets to Andrew and he does whatever it takes to give the pets

Women To Work program offered starting in January

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

JVS will again offer a Women To Work program beginning in January to assist those who've been out of the workplace and are seeking employment.

The program, also open to men, will have an informational session 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, at the JVS office, 29699 Southfield Road in Southfield. Those interested are asked to call Judy Richmond, employment specialist/Women To Work coordinator, at 248-233-4232 in advance.

Following the informational meeting, sessions will be held at JVS 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Jan. 21, 2014 and lasting five weeks. There is no charge to participate.

The program assists women who've been employed sporadically or not employed outside the home for some time, said Richmond. "We don't have a really strict criteria."

She noted participants should be able to start paid employment as soon as possible. Women To Work sessions cover resume writing, interviewing, job search skills, social media, networking and more.

Those of all faiths are welcome, too. Richmond hasn't had much response from men in the past.

She said women who've been homemakers or caregivers have skills that make them employable. Organizing a PTA bake sale, for example, requires organizational skills.

"Women sometimes are very critical of themselves," Richmond said. "You still have those skills, you still have your education."

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Postcards, gifts, engaging services welcome visitors to church at Christmas

By Sharon Dargay

Staff Writer

Bryan Amann, director of spiritual formation at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, expects a surge in attendance at Christmas services this weekend.

"I guarantee we'll have people hanging off the rafters."

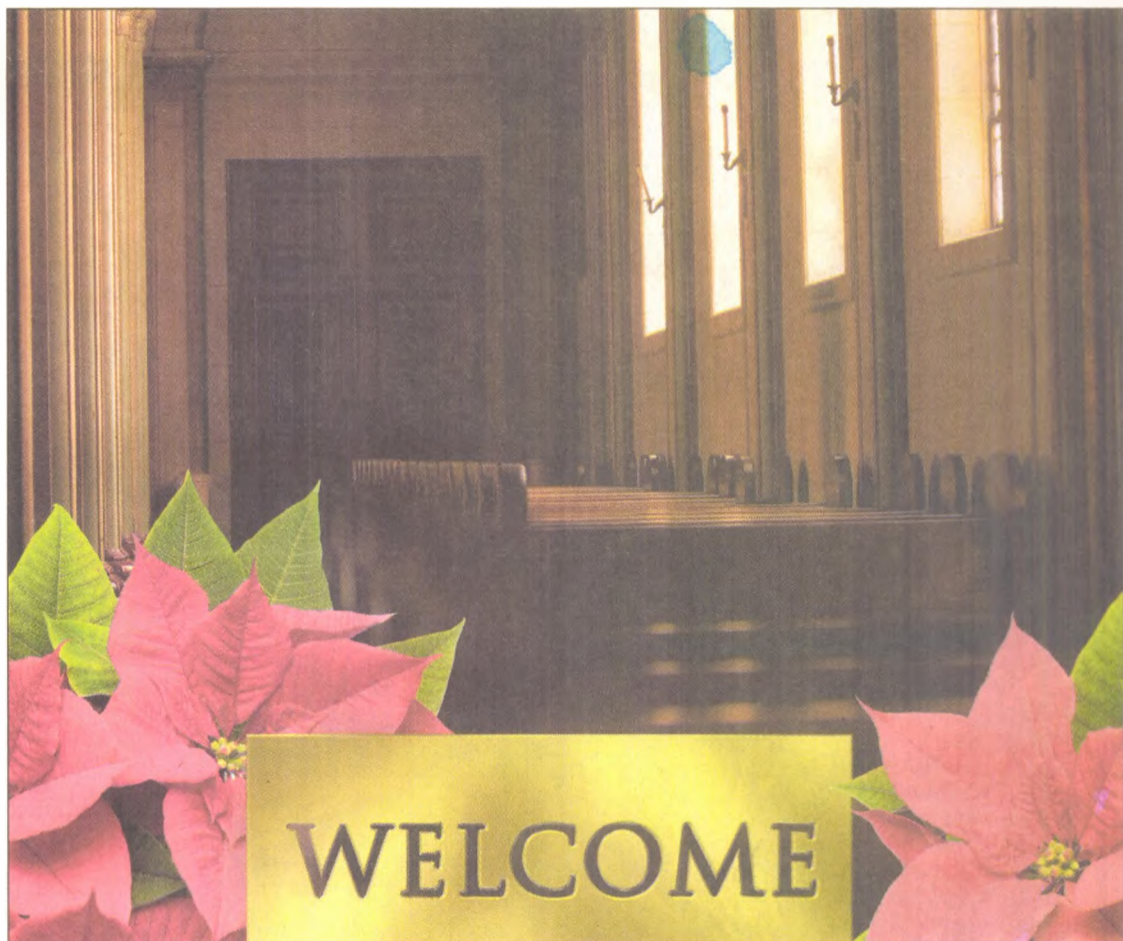
NorthRidge always holds Christmas services the weekend before the holiday, giving members a chance to spend Dec. 25 with their loved ones. In an interview earlier this week, Amann said first impressions count when it comes to welcoming — and retaining — newcomers, visitors and infrequent churchgoers to NorthRidge's four Christmas services.

"We hope people come and see that we're communicating from authentic life experience. It's not about rituals and rules. It's about your relationship with God. We give them a glimpse of what we're about," he said. That includes a worship environment with a coffeehouse in the lobby, cup holders in the sanctuary's movie-style seats, contemporary music, and a no-nag approach to visitors.

"We never ever intrude on people," he said, adding that newcomers who want to learn more about the church must request it.

No guilt

The congregation at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth also reaches out to Christmastime attendees with a low-key approach that it employs year-round. Sue Booth, operations director, said the church aims to "create an overall atmosphere, a no-guilt zone, where guests feel immediately safe and welcome, where they feel like they're surrounded by real human beings who have shortcomings and who can laugh with and at themselves even in the midst of worshiping, where the message they receive is relevant and meaningful to their daily lives."



fewer and fewer people are going to church.

"We look for ways to reach out, but the best way is going to be your own members inviting their own relatives and neighbors."

Visitors and children who attend Christmas service at Lola Park will receive a gift this year.

Awareness campaign

"It's not like we're giving them a brand new car," Gibbons said. "We have some DVDs on the basic message of Christianity. And for the kids, we've got some candy and fruit."

St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills plans to give the book, *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly to attendees at its seven Christmas Masses. The gift also includes a magnet that shows service times and a

letter of welcome from the pastor.

"We know at Christmas we'll get a lot of visitors and a lot of them have been away from church," said Celia St. Charles, pastoral assistant. "This is our way of saying welcome to church."

Kathy Weinberg, administrative assistant at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia, said postings on the congregation's social media pages this month may help draw infrequent attendees back to church.

"My effort has been using photos (on Facebook) of our congregation doing things. I know we have members who are not regular attendees or who haven't been here in a while," Weinberg said. "Perhaps if they see a photo of their kid dressed up as a shepherd they might say, 'I kind of miss being there.'"

Christmas reading

Part of our problem is we're not on the main drag" said the Rev. Gregory Gibbons, pastor. "It makes it difficult and we live in a time when



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Grand Knight Dan Vecchioni (left) and Co-Family of the Year Norb and Sylvia Giczewski

Knights of Columbus chapter celebrates 50th anniversary

The Dr. Thomas A. Dooley Knights of Columbus Council No. 5492 kicked off its 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration last month with a Mass, dinner and recognition presentations.

The anniversary Mass was held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, in Dearborn Heights, followed by dinner and presentations at Romanowski VFW Hall, in Westland. More than 130 Knights and their families attended the event. Disc jockey Matt Hanchon provided music for dancing and Current Grand Knight Dan Vecchioni presented some of the awards.

Metro "Mac" Sokolik was recognized as a charter member of the council. Bob Richter of Northville and Rick Gignac of Livonia were recognized as co-Knights of the Year. Norb and Sylvia Giczewski of Livonia and Northville residents Bob and Deb Rais were recognized as co-Families of the Year. The council also recognized



Metro "Mac" Sokolik (seated) is recognized as a charter member of Dooley Knights of Columbus. Deputy Grand Knight Jerry Sulak is at his side.

widows of deceased members, military veterans and past Grand Knights.

The Council was founded Nov. 10, 1963 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and

met regularly at Romanowski VFW Hall. It moved in 2002 to its current home, St. Collette Church in Livonia. Its next 50th Jubilee event is a pasta dinner on Feb. 9.

PLAYLIST

Continued from Page B6

highly comical human voices ... even if it means recording himself yelling into a trash can or speaking in a French accent with a mouth full of marshmallows! One of my favorites is last year's video, *12 Days of Christmas* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obGjx8Hry3M>. His videos typically put me in tears while trying to catch my breath from laughing so hard! I can't wait to see what he comes up with this year!

— Shannon Barrett, a Plymouth pet groomer and dance teacher

Rock tune

I try and listen for Bob Seger's *Little Drummer Boy*...that's my favorite of all time!

— Randall Masters, Westland resident and *Observer & Eccentric* editorial graphic artist

Elvis ornament

Favorites? Well, I can't carry a tune to save my life and I don't listen to a lot of music but I do have a few favorite artists ... Josh Groban and Elvis! Holiday music: Josh Groban holiday songs — *Noel* is a favorite to listen to on my way home from work to get the barking that is echoing in my head to dissipate! My husband and I love to have Elvis sing-

ing holiday songs while we put up the Christmas Tree Yes, we have an Elvis ornament on the tree that sings to us!

Movies that MUST be watched with grandchildren include *Elf*, *The Grinch* (Jim Carrey — Max the dog did a wonderful job! (HA)), *A Christmas Story* (love the part where the dog gets the turkey off the table).

— Deb Watkins, owner of Canine College in Farmington Hills

Memories of youth

Simply stated, my three-favorite Christmas "must hear songs" ... *Mary Did you Know* by Mark Lowry and Buddy Green... *Joseph's Song* by Michael Card, and one I can't sing, but love, Nat Cole's version of *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire*. That makes it complete, especially if there is light snow falling ... it does take me back to my youth Good times!

— John Delle-Monache of Northville, publicity chair for Base-Line Folk Society in Plymouth

Classic tunes

I love the holiday season and all the music brings joy to everyone. I grew up singing in church and playing the piano at an early age, so music and holiday songs have always been a major part of my life.

As for favorites, it

was really difficult to pick. Baking cookies with my Granny was always an annual treat, listening to traditional songs like *Silent Night* by Franz Gruber, and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* by Mendelssohn and not-so-traditional songs such as *Christmas for Cowboys* by John Denver always were great fun memories.

Some other favorites are *Mary Did You Know* by Lowery & Greene — this song makes you think that children could grow up to be great leaders in many ways and in our time. I also love *Let It Snow* by Cahn & Styne, especially when we can enjoy watching it snow by the fire, and of course *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town* by Coots & Gillespie because you always want to be on the "nice" list.

— Sherry Cantrell, volunteer assistant to the Therapy Choirs of Michigan in Farmington Hills

Irish tunes

Mick's favorites are *The Wexford Carol* by the Chieftains, *Adeste Fideles* by Kevin Keagan and *Silent Night* by Paddy Homan. Mine are - *The Carol of the Bells* by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, *Handel Messiah 11-44 Hallelujah* and *I Wonder as I Wander* by Joan Baez

— Anna Gavin of Redford whose husband, Mick, plays and teaches fiddle

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, *Observer & Eccentric*, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

All about pines

Find out more about the pine trees at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills through two workshops next month. The Getting to Know the Pines - Eating the Trees Workshops will be held 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014 and from 3-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 9 at the park, 24915

Farmington Road. The sessions are for ages 8 to adult. Participants will identify trees using a field guide, and then will explore the edible, medicinal, and utilitarian uses for a pine tree. They also will make a basic pine balm. Advance registration is required at <https://recreg.fhgov.com> or the Costick Center. The fee is \$35 per person. Participants should bring a lunch; all other materials will be provided. Call 248-477-1135 for more information.

Master Gardeners

Bob Bransky, amateur photographer, will talk about basic photographic techniques, lighting and hints for taking photographs, at the general membership meeting of the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, Jan. 2, 2014, at the MSU Extension, 5454 Venoy, Wayne.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, visit mgwwc.org.

20th Anniversary Wayne County's Lightfest

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST

Features more than 47 giant animated holiday themed displays!

Nov. 14 to Dec. 31
Mon. - Thurs. 7 p.m.-10 p.m.
Fri. - Sun. 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

\$5 fee per vehicle
(closed Christmas Day)

- **New LED lights!**
New displays and the show has been converted to LED lights!
- **Lightfest 8K Fun Run/Walk on Nov. 12**
- **Bike Through the Lights on Nov. 13**
- **Reindeer Nights**
Back by popular demand! There will be live reindeer at Santa's Workshop on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9 and 16.
- **Toy Night Tuesdays**
Nov. 19, 26 and Dec. 3, 10 and 17. Bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee. Toys will be donated to the Wayne County Family Center.
- **Live Entertainment**
Santa's workshop on Dec. 4 and 11!
- **Photos with Santa**
at his workshop nightly starting Nov. 22 until Dec. 23 at the end of the Lightfest.

For fees and registration information, visit www.waynecounty.com

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RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24, family Christmas Eve service; 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day service

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: Free gifts for all children and visitors

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Time/Date: 4 p.m. children's service; 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Children's service includes story, costumes, communion and singing; candlelight and communion at remaining two services

Contact: 734-422-1470

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City.

Details: Late night worship is candlelight service

Contact: 734-427-3660

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24

Location: First United Methodist Church, 3 Town Square, Wayne

Details: Candle service; barrier free

Contact: 734-721-4801

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: New Year's Eve service

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

JANUARY 2014

YOUNG FIVES PROGRAM

Time/Date: Jan. 6, 2014

Location: St. Paul's Preschool and Day Care, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: New Young Fives program begins. Preschool/day care runs 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday for ages 2 1/2-5.

Contact: Karen or Robin at 248-474-2488

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014

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

Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group of the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men and women to celebrate Mass, followed by friendship and refreshments

Contact: Pat at 734-895-6246

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

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

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

New Life Community Church

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

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: 734-846-4615

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.

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

Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Contact: 248-374-5920

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

FOOD BANK

New Hope Church

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

Location: 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at 734-270-2528.

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.

Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back

Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Sunday

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation.

Contact: 248-374-5920

Song Circle

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs,

alcohol, overeating, gambling.

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Riverside Park Church of God

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Adult Day Ministry offers an adult daytime care program with a specialty in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-367-4220 or 734-464-0990; www.riversideparkchurch.org; or email to rpadm@riversideparkchurch.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available.

Contact: 734-421-8451.

MILESTONES

ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

Clarence and Kathy (Hagstrom) Probst of Livonia marked their 70th wedding anniversary Dec. 13.

The couple married in 1943 at the Wayne County building in Detroit.

They met in 1940 after Kathy moved to Clarence's Detroit neighborhood, near the old Olympia stadium. They dated for several years before Clarence entered military service. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943-45 during WWII and was stationed in France. His unit was instrumental in the liberation of France and Dachau concentration camp in Poland.

The couple has three children: Kathy (Robert) Moore of Commerce;



Kathy and Clarence Probst have lived in Livonia 63 years.

Duane Probst of Morley; and Wayne (Tina) Probst of Wixom.

The Probsts also have eight grandchildren — four boys and four girls — and 15 great-grandchildren. All live in Michigan.

Kathy retired in 1997

BIRTH

AUDREY GRACE HALL

Audrey Grace Hall was born May 16, 2013, at Providence Park Hospital, Novi.

Proud parents are John and Jillian Hall of Livonia.



Audrey Grace Hall

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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GOODALE, MARGERY C.

A longtime Michigan resident and wife of Stephen L. Goodale passed on November 19 in Vero Beach Florida. She is survived by children Margo, Steve, Gloria and Nick; grandchildren Carey and Daniel and brother Dr. Archibald Carey. The family celebrates a life filled with a love of God, the arts and community service. Gery was a longtime member of the Birmingham Christian Science church and a pianist who performed in southeastern MI. A private service will be held in the summer of 2014. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Birmingham, Michigan or the Monitor Fund, CS Publishing Society, Boston, MA.

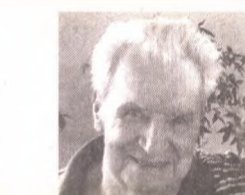


HILLIGAS, BETTY JANE

Age 70. Passed away December 17, 2013. She was born on June 29, 1943. Betty was known for her genuine, loving, caring nature and for her random acts of kindness. She was a beloved wife of the late John. Loving mother of Mike (Lori), Debbie (Chuck), Tammy (Billy), Cherie (Forest), Tom (Diane), Shelia, Mike (Terrie), and Patrick (Mary Jo). Cherished grandmother of Briana, Mikey, Kayla, Jacob, and Megan. Dear sister of Nora, Jerry (Jane), Carol (Tom), and sister-in-law Ginny. Preceded in death by her parents Earl and Hazel Fulcher; brothers, Leroy, Art, and DuWayne; and brother-in-law Clayton. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Memorial Service 1 p.m. Saturday, December 28 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington (1 block W. of Farmington Rd.). Memorial Gathering Saturday, December 28 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Pulmonary Hypertension Association and American Diabetes Association. Betty left behind many friends and loving relatives and will forever be in our hearts.

www.thayer-rock.com

A loving tribute



HUBERT, JOHN G. "MR. WONDERFUL"

formerly of Livonia, passed away in Safety Harbor Florida at the age of 87. Born and raised in Detroit Michigan, John was a decorated veteran of WWII, serving his country as a paratrooper in the 82nd airborne division. John parachuted into Ste. Mere-Eglise during the D-Day invasion of Normandy and was involved in Operation Market Garden. He was awarded two Silver Stars and the purple Heart. John was a Detroit Police Officer, engineer at Burroughs Corporation and a real estate broker in Michigan as well as Florida. John was involved in many school/community projects. John was preceded in death by first wife Betty in 1987. He is survived by children Linda Strockis (Dr. Vincent), Denise Newlands (Mark), John Hubert (Lisa), Jan Hubert-Ward (Steve); six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sisters Ann Horlacher and Ellen Peltier. John moved to Florida and married Elaine Turkowski. He is survived by Elaine and step daughters Terry Wynn (Greg), Cindy Telfer (Tom), Jody Carr (Brian), five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. John was a practical joker, always trying to make others laugh. He embraced family, friends and was a wonderful grandpa for foster children. We'll miss you "Mr. Wonderful," you are our hero. Interment will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. Service Friday, January 3, 2014, 12:30 p.m. at the cemetery. Contributions in John's memory can be made to the Salvation Army at Salvationarmyusa.org



MARANTETTE, SARAH MOORE

Age 40, known as "Gucci" to family and friends, passed away on December 19, 2013 as a result of a brain aneurysm. She has made her home in San Francisco for the past 17 years. Gucci was the daughter of Nancy Newell Baity (Michael) of Harbor Springs, Michigan and David T. Marantette, III or Norris, Tennessee. Sister to David T. Marantette (Kaye), Katie Hall (Dan), Lauren Wasson (Paul), Julie Kinnaird (Ed), and loving aunt to six nieces and five nephews. A memorial service will be held at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Kensington Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Sunday, December 29 at 3:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the California Transplant Donor Network (www.ctdn.org) or the San Francisco SPCA (www.sfspca.org).



WILCOX, DANIEL

Died at the age of 71 on December 18, 2013 after six years of treatment for lung cancer. Dan was born in Detroit, Michigan and attended Cray Elementary and Cooley High School. He was a three year Vietnam era veteran of the US Army, serving at Fort Harrison, Indiana, and the Panama Canal Zone as a Military Policeman. During his Canal Zone assignment he took up his long to be favored sport of sky diving. After his Army discharge, he joined the Livonia Michigan Police Department in 1965 and served for a time as President of the Livonia Police Officers Association, and as President of the Michigan Conference of Police. He was also a founder of the Police Officers Association of Michigan and served on the board of directors as its first Secretary. Mr. Wilcox left the police department in 19

Stress, conflict part of holidays, but there's joy, too

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The holidays are a joyful time for many, but aren't free of stress.

"We see it in our clients. My view of it is we have so many expectations surrounding the holidays," said Janet Terry, clinical manager with Oakland Family Services.

Trying to meet unrealistic expectations can cause problems.

"In that trying, the stressors occur," said Terry, who earned a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University and is a certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor.

All parents want to give to their children, she said, and that's been difficult with the economic downturn.

The holidays also bring family and work activities with alcohol served. "There may be a little more risk of some binge drinking," Terry said. Women should have no more than seven alcoholic drinks a week and Terry emphasized they never should "save up" and drink to excess.

The holidays also mean overeating for many and the excess drinking can start "as a little relaxation at the end of the stressful day," she said.

Positive experiences

The good part about the holidays is seeing family and friends, including some you don't see during the rest of the year. "There are a lot of positives that occur at that time," said Terry, whose family includes two daughters, two stepchildren and two granddaughters.

Remembering loved ones who've died is sad, but also brings good memories at the holidays. Terry recommends

doing things together as a family come holiday time, as well as delegating tasks. Religious rituals and the spiritual side of the season can uplift people, too.

"I think it goes right back to expectations," she said. "We need to get more realistic." Adding humor — the turkey falls on the kitchen floor or is otherwise a flop — helps relieve stress.

"Well, we still have all the fixings," she said. "We can still have a fantastic dinner."

Family activities

Volunteering is a great way to celebrate the season. Terry's office does an adopt-a-family as a staff, as well as Christmas baskets.

"You get so much out of it yourself," she said. Research shows volunteering enhances the volunteer's self-worth.

"The needs are there all year long," but surface at the holidays. Volunteering as a family all year for Meals on Wheels and including children sets a great example, Terry said.

She's pretty good about heeding her own advice.

"It's always a work in progress," said Terry, who has learned to delegate. "Could I always do better? Oh, yes. We all can."

She urges individuals to notice signs of stress, like irritability, memory issues, negative feelings or loss of energy.

She also recommends re-justifying traditions for absent family members, bypassing those that no longer have meaning.

"Just focus on the stuff that's really important to the entire family," Terry said.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES

» Christina Besh of Plymouth, the current Miss Wayne County, has organized a drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at Don Hubert VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft, Redford Township. For more information, visit www.redcrossblood.org under the sponsor code misswaynecounty.

» St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in partnership with the American Red Cross, will hold a blood drive, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23, in the north auditorium at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. Appointment signups also are available in the hospital cafeteria. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

» 8 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Jan. 16, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road in Farmington Hills. Giving blood takes approximately one hour. Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be 17 or older. To make an appointment, call 248-473-1800 or register online at www.redcrossblood.org. Enter the sponsor code costickcenter and follow the instructions to set up an appointment time.

DRUG SERIES

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," a free, ongoing, two-part workshop series, is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 and 14, in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Exhibition Room on the first floor, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. "What To Know," on Jan. 7, will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. "What To Do," on Jan. 14, will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified. Call 734-485-8725, or e-mail info@dawnfarm.org.

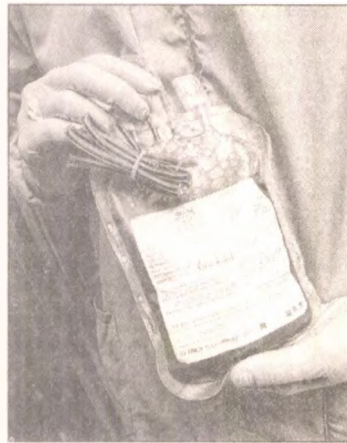
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Brent Lucas, from Envoy Medical, will present on the Esteem, the only implanted hearing aid, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, in Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. For more information, call Tony at 734-664-3297 or email afe-rack@comcast.net.

ONGOING AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK



Blood drives will be held Dec. 23 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and Jan. 16, 2014 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. To join or for more information, visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

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

BLOOD PRESSURE

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (\$5), and lipid panel (\$10) testing, 10 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of each month in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, at Wayne Road in Westland; 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City; and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

CHOIR THERAPY

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.therapychoirs.org for additional information.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral

Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

» St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at 734-895-1426 for more information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.

CPR CLASSES

Classes range from basic CPR for people who want to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. First aid classes are also available. Classes are offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Preregistration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call 248-937-3314.

DIABETES SUPPORT

» An adult diabetes support group sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will facilitate. Discussion topics will focus on understanding diabetes and self-management strategies. Call 734-454-0859.

» Botsford Hospital offers an ongoing, comprehensive class on diabetes management. It requires a physician prescription and includes a one-on-one appointment with a diabetes educator, eight hours of group classes with comprehensive diabetes management guidance, ongoing contact with the physician to ensure optimal blood glucose control, and follow-up at six weeks and again at six months. Daytime and evening classes available. Program certified by the Michigan Department of Community Health and nationally recognized by the American Diabetes Association and the American Association of Diabetes Educators. Insurance reimbursement available through Medicare, Medicaid, and many other insurance carriers. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas!

And, Keep Your Family Safe from the Hidden Dangers of the Season

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Hao Nguyen
Emergency Medicine

The holidays are an exciting time of year for children and families. From lighting candles to hanging fresh greens and stringing lights, GCH Health Expert & Emergency Medicine Physician, Dr. Hao Nguyen, offers tips on how your family can enjoy the season safely.

Filled with family gatherings, special traditions and delicious treats, the holidays are a wonderful time of the year, especially for kids. Unfortunately, for emergency room physicians it's also one of the busiest. Below are a few important tips to help protect your little ones from some common holiday dangers.

CHRISTMAS TREES - Look for a "Fire Resistant" label when selecting an artificial tree, and pick the freshest possible tree when choosing a real one. Properly set and frequently fill the stand with water on real trees. A dry tree is a fire hazard.

LIGHTS - Check all tree lights before hanging them on your tree, even if you've just purchased them. Make sure all the bulbs work and there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections. Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. Plug all outdoor electric into ground fault interrupters. Turn off all lights when going to bed or leaving the house.

DECORATIONS - In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations which are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to prevent pieces from being swallowed or inhaled. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.

FIREPLACES - Remove all wrapping papers, bags, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened. These items are flammable and pose suffocation and choking hazards to small children. Before lighting a fire, remove anything flammable from the fireplace area and make sure the flue is open.

TOYS - Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy received as a gift, read the instructions carefully. Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety or choking hazards for younger children. Be aware of "Button Batteries" and magnets found in toys, greeting cards and holiday novelties. If swallowed, they can create serious stomach problems and even death.

VISITS - The homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots like unlocked cabinets, unattended purses, accessible cleaning or laundry products, stairways, or hot radiators. Remember to clean up right after a party; you don't want a curious toddler coming in contact with alcohol or tobacco.

FOOD SAFETY & POISONING - Be sure to keep hot liquids and food away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can easily be knocked over. Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same. Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, and other holiday plants are poisonous, and should be kept out of the reach of young children and pets.

BE PREPARED - Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you need in case of an emergency. Include your pediatrician and the National Poison Help Line: 1.800.222.1222.

Have a safe and happy holiday from all the Health Experts at Garden City Hospital. We're here for YOU in every emergency. For more helpful information, visit GCH.org.

Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media COMMUNITY

Linda Robin, Owner of Showroom of Elegance in Canton speaks about advertising success in Observer & Eccentric Media



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EPA-estimated rating of
**23 city /
32 highway
MPG¹**

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**19 city /
27 highway
MPG¹**

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EPA-estimated rating of
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EPA-estimated rating of
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19 highway
MPG¹**

This Vehicle Features:

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JOBS

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By Robert Half

Whether you're about to start a new job search, or you're a passive job seeker who likes to keep tabs on potential opportunities, a recruiter can be a valuable ally.

Recruiters can enhance your job search by helping you broaden your network, providing job leads you wouldn't otherwise hear about and offering background on prospective employers. In addition, recruiters are an excellent source of career guidance and information. They can offer interview tips, salary data, résumé advice and other suggestions to help you improve your marketability. And once an employer makes an offer, the recruiter becomes a valuable go-between in helping you and the prospective employer reach a mutually satisfying agreement.

But getting noticed by a recruiter for the right reasons is key. Regardless of the type of relationship you're looking to forge with a recruiter, here are some guidelines that will earn you a place on a recruiter's go-to list:

Work with a specialist

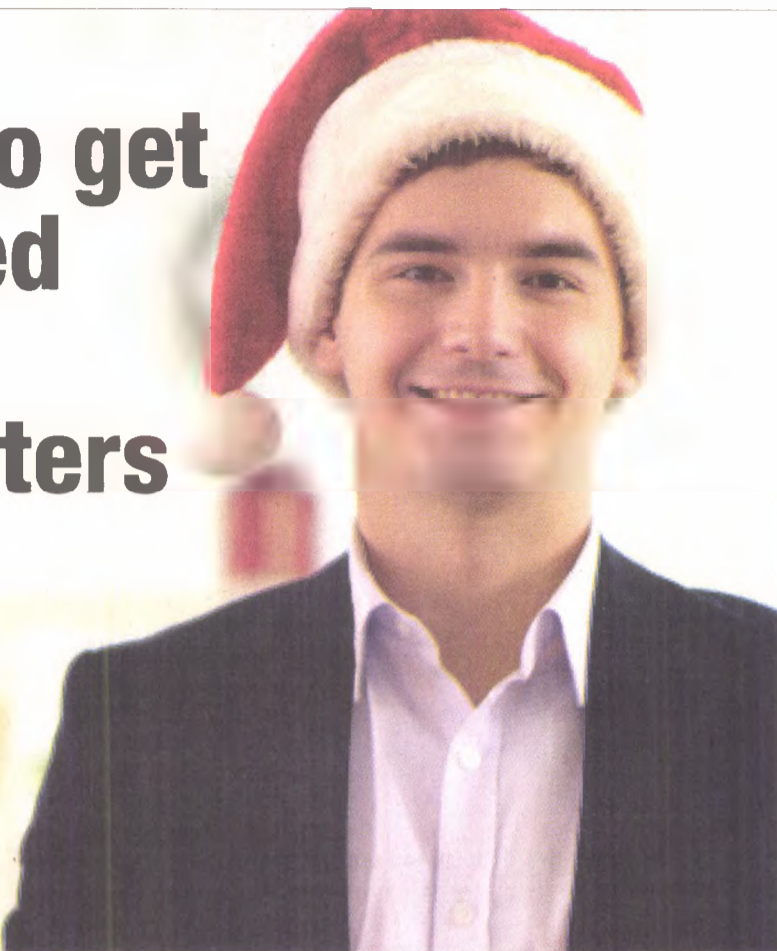
A specialized recruitment company boasts more industry-specific opportunities and contacts than a generalist company. As a result, a specialist company is more likely to excel at helping you accurately assess your marketability and identify openings that are a good match for your skills and preferences.

Trust the recruiter.

The time to thoroughly vet your recruiter is before you engage with him. Take your time screening potential recruiters, checking out their reputation and talking through any questions or concerns you might have about how you'll work together.

Once you agree to let someone act as your advocate, step back and trust the person to do so without undue second-

How to get noticed by recruiters



guessing. Remember that recruiters have a vested interest in ensuring an all-around good fit, so have faith in their ability and desire to help you find the right situation and reach a satisfying agreement.

Honesty is always the best policy.

Recruiters are busy and appreciate candor. If you're unlikely to consider a job change, say so. Don't string the recruiter along just to hear what's going on in the job market.

On the other hand, if you're actively working with a recruiter, make sure the person has all the necessary information to represent you properly. This includes being honest about what you're looking

for in a new job and your salary expectations.

Also, if you're trying to set up a job interview on your own through your contacts, mention this. It would be embarrassing for the recruiter to recommend you for a job that you're already pursuing.

Be helpful.

If a recruiter unexpectedly contacts you about an opportunity that you're not interested

in, consider whether you know someone else who might be. Recruiters love to be referred to good prospects, and the fact that they can say, "Joe Smith said I should get in touch with you" helps break down barriers to new candidates. Furthermore, you never know when something could change with your employment situation. By being polite and helpful, you'll be in a position to enlist the recruiter's help, should you need it in the future.

Spare them the extras.

Recruiters appreciate job seekers who are respectful of their time and needs. They know exactly what they're looking for in candidates and how to assess a possible fit with a role, so let them ask questions and answer them concisely.

They don't need to hear your life history.

In addition, don't tell them to check out your professional networking profiles, instead of offering a formal résumé. And don't try to friend them on more social-oriented sites such as Facebook. They need to learn about your skills and accomplishments, not your favorite bands or movies.

Stay engaged.

Keep in mind that finding the right position doesn't always happen right away. That's why it's essential you remain an active participant in your job search.

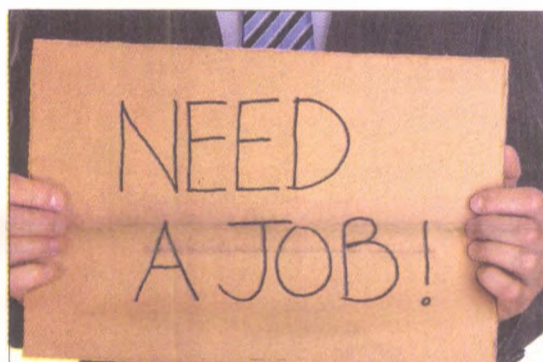
Back up the recruiter's efforts by reviewing notifications of new openings from the recruitment firm. You might see a position that interests you that your recruiter has not yet considered. By staying informed about the job market and checking in regularly with your recruiter, you'll demonstrate that you're committed to working together to reach a good outcome.

Although staying in touch is important, especially returning emails and phone calls promptly don't call or email the individual every day. There's a difference between being proactive and being a pest.

Recruiters love an easy sell, and who can blame them?

Candidates who do all the right things make the recruiter's job much easier. By observing some of these fundamental rules of interaction, you're more likely to land at the top of a recruiter's dream list.

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Help Wanted - General

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Help Wanted - General

LAUNDRY MAT ATTENDANTS
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1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	4.5	0	3.375	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(734) 673-2008	4.25	0	3.25	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	4.5	0	3.375	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	4.5	0	3.375	0
Co-op Services Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.5	0.25	3.5	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.5	0	3.625	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.5	0	3.5	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.5	0	3.375	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.375	0.625	3.25	0.875
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.625	0	3.625	0

Above Information available as of 12/13/13 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

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- Over 1,400 Sq. Ft.!
- ALL Appliances Including Washer/Dryer & A/C!

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*Conditions apply Expires 12/23/13 EHO WAC.

www.4northville.com

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www.ajrhomesales.com

Christmas CLASSIFIED HOURS

Publication	Deadline
Hometown Weekly, Thursday, Dec. 26th	Monday, Dec. 23rd, 3:30pm (South Lyon Herald, Milford Times, Novi News and Northville Record)
Observer & Eccentric, Thursday, Dec. 26th	Monday, Dec. 23rd, 3:30pm (Wayne County Publications)
Observer & Eccentric, Sunday, Dec. 29th	Friday, Dec. 27th, 4:30pm (Wayne County and South Oakland County Publications)

To place your ad, call: 1-800-579-7355

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LSE Pkg., V8, moon, Show-room New! Call for details!

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5 Speed manual, 263 hp, 4 cyl Turbo, heated seats. Certified Bose System. WOW!!!
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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Store the shore
5 Breeze through
8 Trippet
11 Candle
12 Filled up
13 Genetic strand
14 Dismantle a tent
15 Of little consequence
17 — Paese cheese
18 Geological beds
20 Citrus coolers
22 Mare's tidbit
23 Ticket givers
27 Bird of prey
29 Large yellow fruit
30 Dr. J, to some
33 Saying without thinking
34 In the thick of
35 House component

DOWN

1 Decreased in intensity
2 Crunchy snack
3 Ruby or Sandra
4 Jaws
5 Acela Express offerer
6 Jeweler's weight
7 Fix a manuscript

Answer to Previous Puzzle

MGM	CAN	BRIE
ELIS	ELF	ATOM
GOSH	COLI	SEUM
BOOGIE	SASSY	
REL	ALL	
JAUNT	ORATING	
ELK	CUM	COE
TEENIER	PRISM	
ORO	MAE	
TONTO	BOWERS	
BRAINIER	DAMP	
SERF	RVS	SPUR
PLAY	EYE	AGE

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ACROSS

36 — Adams of a 007 flick
37 Farm female
38 Nimble
42 Lofly goals
45 — de cologne
46 Ninjas' leaders
49 Swat
51 Traipse about
52 Fleck
53 Buenos — Argentina
54 Dead heat
55 Almost grads
56 Canasta play

DOWN

1 — de coeur
9 "Wheel of Fortune" buy (2 wds.)
10 Bad, for Sarkozy

8 — de coeur
11 Marching-band member
16 Hauls off
19 Hauls off
21 Lively party
24 Boathouse implement
25 Enlistee (abbr.)
26 Stockholm carrier
28 Mo. with no holidays
29 Day — paint
30 Pickle
31 Ms. Thurman
32 Gehrig or Rawls
33 Mixing need
35 Cooks
36 In embers
37 Pedro's honorific
39 Diver's find
40 Went fast
41 Hearty laughs
43 Debacles
44 Enjoyed the pool
46 Bilko's rank
47 "Bali —"
48 Keats opus
50 Scurry along

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11				12				13		
14				15				16		
17			18	19						
20		21		22			23	24	25	26
		27	28				29			
30	31	32				33				
34					35					
36				37			38	39	40	41
				42	43			44	45	
46	47	48					49	50		
51				52			53			
54				55			56			

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

			9	6		2			
	8		5						9
7						6			8
		9							
		8					4		
2			3	7		9			
6									
			1		2			7	
					4				

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

AUTOMOTIVE WORD SEARCH

K	T	D	R	O	T	O	M	U	B	D	K	M	M	R	O	A	D	S	S	
P	D	I	C	A	L	I	P	E	R	A	B	M	L	C	O	M	F	Y	G	
O	I	T	E	V	I	R	C	N	S	T	L	A	C	O	A	S	A	K	N	
W	S	D	F	S	T	H	G	I	L	D	N	L	Y	S	P	R	N	D	I	
E	T	V	I	T	E	R	V	C	G	O	R	H	B	E	E	W	B	R	I	
R	R	B	Y	R	C	V	Y	B	I	S	Y	E	E	E	L	V	E	O	K	
W	I	U	R	B	E	L	S	T	T	D	T	D	V	E	A	F	L	S	S	
W	B	Y	M	A	I	C	R	I	R	R	M	A	E	Y	R	T	A	R		
G	U	C	G	N	K	O	T	A	G	E	O	K	P	C	R	Y	I	M	V	
N	T	O	D	W	P	E	U	I	A	N	S	T	N	U	I	S	A	N	A	
I	O	E	B	O	I	L	S	O	I	A	O	A	K	S	P	E	G	G		
R	R	H	R	N	I	P	U	E	O	N	T	L	G	N	C	U	G	S	D	
E	M	P	F	C	T	R	A	M	S	F	L	A	R	V	A	E	G			
E	Y	S	S	E	P	R	M	I	M	B	H	K	H	L	E	M	N	S		
T	O	S	E	N	S	O	R	P	F	I	T	T	I	N	G	S	T	A	H	
S	F	S	P	E	C	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	L	C	L	S	
A	I	E	G	M	P	N	D	L	E	I	H	S	D	N	I	W	S	A		
A	I	G	S	R	E	P	I	W	O	R	E	V	I	T	O	M	O	T	U	A
A	N	O	E	R	O	T	A	L	U	D	O	M	O	V	T	A	U	O	B	
C	R	H	R	N	M	M	A	N	U	F	A	C	T	U	R	E	R	R	V	

WORDS

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LANES
LEAKS
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MANUFACTURER
MAP
MEASURE
MODULATOR
MOTOR
PISTON
POWER
PROPORTIONAL
REVERSE
RINGS
RIVET
ROADS
SENSOR
SIGNAL
SPEED
STEERING
VALVES
WINDSHIELD
WIPERS

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

3	2	5	4	6	9	7	8			
9	7	8	2	3	1	5	6			
4	1	9	4	5	7	3	2	9		
5	6	9	8	5	7	3	2	4	1	
2	9	3	7	6	5	2	8	9	3	
2	9	3	1	4	8	6	7	5	1	
8	5	9	3	4	1	2	4	1	5	
9	6	5	2	7	4	3	6	9	5	
4	3	9	6	8	2	1	7	8	2	1

Sudoku

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

K	T	D	R	O	T	O	M	U	B	D	K	M	M	R	O	A	D	S	S	
P	D	I	C	A	L	I	P	E	R	A	B	M	L	C	O	M	F	Y	G	
O	I	T	E	V	I	R	C	N	S	T	L	A	C	O	A	S	A	K	N	
W	S	D	F	S	T	H	G	I	L	D	N	L	Y	S	P	R	N	D	I	
E	T	V	I	T	E	R	V	C	G	O	R	H	B	E	E	W	B	R	I	
R	R	B	Y	R	C	V	Y	B	I	S	Y	E	E	E	L	V	E	O	K	
W	I	U	R	B	E	L	S	T	T	D	T	D	V	E	A	F	L	S	S	
W	B	Y	M	A	I	C	R	I	R	R	M	A	E	Y	R	T	A	R		
G	U	C	G	N	K	O	T	A	G	E	O	K	P	C	R	Y	I	M	V	
N	T	O	D	W	P	E	U	I	A	N	S	T	N	U	I	S	A	N	A	
I	O	E	B	O	I	L	S	O	I	A	O	A	K	S	P	E	G	G		
R	R	H	R	N	I	P	U	E	O	N	T	L	G	N	C	U	G	S	D	
E	M	P	F	C	T	R	A	M	S	F	L	A	R	V	A	E	G			
E	Y	S	S	E	P	R	M	I	M	B	H	K	H	L	E	M	N	S		
T	O	S	E	N	S	O	R	P	F	I	T	T	I	N	G	S	T	A	H	
S	F	S	P	E	C	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	L	C	L	S	
A	I	E	G	M	P	N	D	L	E	I	H	S	D	N	I	W	S	A		
A	I	G	S	R	E	P	I	W	O	R	E	V	I	T	O	M	O	T	U	A
A	N	O	E	R	O	T	A	L	U	D	O	M	O	V	T	A	U	O	B	
C	R	H	R	N	M	M	A	N	U	F	A	C	T	U	R	E	R	R	V	

Word Search

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Observer & Eccentric Media
A Gannett Company

Observer & Eccentric Media specializes in community-based information on a variety of platforms – print, web, mobile and video. O&E Media publishes 13 individually edited newspapers, a website and more than 75 special sections and specialty products annually. The staff includes more than 40 journalists, 25 advertising account executives and other key support personnel in circulation and production. O&E Media - Because local matters. Come join our team.

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REQUIREMENTS: An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.

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