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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014 • hometownlife.com

City plans to buy Saxton's site for downtown parking

Much of area could become municipal lot

By Matt Jachman
 Staff Writer

Plymouth officials are taking steps to add 40-some public parking spaces to the downtown area in a matter of weeks, plus about 60 more spaces a few months after that, in order to ease a parking crunch.

Officials are planning to buy the site of the former Saxton's Garden Center on Ann Arbor Trail, plus two adjacent residential properties on Maple Street, and eventually convert much of the space into a municipal parking lot.

An offer of \$2.25 million for the parcels has been accepted by members of the Saxton family, Mayor Dan Dwyer said, and the parties are in a due-diligence period and hope to close on the deal early next year.

If successful, the mayor said, the project will be the biggest step the city has taken to provide public parking in about 30 years.

"Our goal is to get possession of it, get the houses down and get it ready for considerable parking by late spring," Dwyer said. He noted downtown parking has been discussed by officials for years and is a formal Plymouth City Commis-

See **PARKING**, Page A2



CITY OF PLYMOUTH
 The city of Plymouth is planning to buy the former Saxton's Garden Center on Ann Arbor Trail, plus two adjacent properties, to boost parking in the downtown area.

Plymouths win honors for top economic growth

City, township cited in annual eCities study

By Matt Jachman
 Staff Writer

Plymouth and Plymouth Township were recognized earlier this month for their work in fostering entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by iLabs researchers at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Both were honored as five-star communities, along with 15 other communities across the state.

The eCities research surveyed 83 communities from 30 counties in Michigan that are home to 26 percent of Michigan residents and 33 percent of its college graduates. These communities count nearly one-quarter of the state's entrepreneurs, with more than \$2.6 billion in self-employment income, as residents. These communities saw more than \$12.3 billion in commercial construction last year and account for more than 31 percent of Michigan's commercial property.

"We are seeing the nature of economic development evolving and eCities is a tool to help local governments demonstrate their role in the changing economy. These governments are supporting unique and innovative efforts locally, while collaborating regionally to help Michigan business compete in an ever-changing business climate," Tim Davis, the iLabs director, said in a press release.

The annual eCities research project, which began in 2007, uses data supplied by the participants, as well as public records, to assemble a six-factor, 32-item index of entrepreneurial activity, looking at such factors as clustering, incentives, growth, policies, community and education. The study focuses on entrepreneurship because of its importance to expansion and diversification of Michigan's regional economies and the impact small businesses have on job creation.

To date, 197 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.

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Fred Hill Briefcase Drill team steps toward retirement

By Matt Jachman
 Staff Writer

Thanksgiving Day will mark the beginning of the end of an era for the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill team.

Founder and drillmaster Fred Hill said Monday his team's appearance in America's Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit will be its last and that the team will be shelving its briefcases and "marching off into the sunset" for good next summer.

The finale, Hill said, will be the Fourth of July during next year's Good Morning USA Parade in Plymouth - 30 years to the day after its first performance there. "Kind of poetic, isn't it?" Hill said.

The drill team - 16 men in business suits, carrying briefcases, stepping in unison and directed by Hill - is a crowd favorite in the Detroit area and has made appear-



FILE PHOTO

Fred Hill, seen here directing his Briefcase Drill team, says Thursday's appearance in Detroit will be the team's last Thanksgiving Day parade.

See **DRILL**, Page A2

OLYMPIC MOMENT

Homegrown Olympian delivers inspiration to students

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

Dorothy Gale closes *The Wizard of Oz* by telling Auntie Em, "There's no place like home."

Allison Schmitt felt much the same way Monday, returning to Canton Charter Academy to talk to students there about the virtue of setting goals and working hard to attain them.

The Olympic Medal-winning swimmer from Canton, who was a member of the first graduating class of eighth-graders

from the charter school, spoke Monday to the assembly full of cheering students, staff and families for about 30 minutes, talking on topics ranging from eating vegetables to overcoming adversity.

"It's awesome every time I get to come home, because Canton is where I grew up," Schmitt said. "I love to give back. If I can change one kid's life, that would be a huge success for me."

Standing in the school that served as a springboard for

See **OLYMPIAN**, Page A2



BRAD KADRICH

Canton Charter Academy fifth-grader Holly Pringle presents Allison Schmitt with a plaque commemorating her visit to the school Monday, as Principal Janelle Magyar looks on.



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DRILL

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ances around the country, including at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona, Navy Pier in Chicago and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

"If you look back over, I don't know, maybe 150 appearances, we've done some pretty unique things," Hill said.

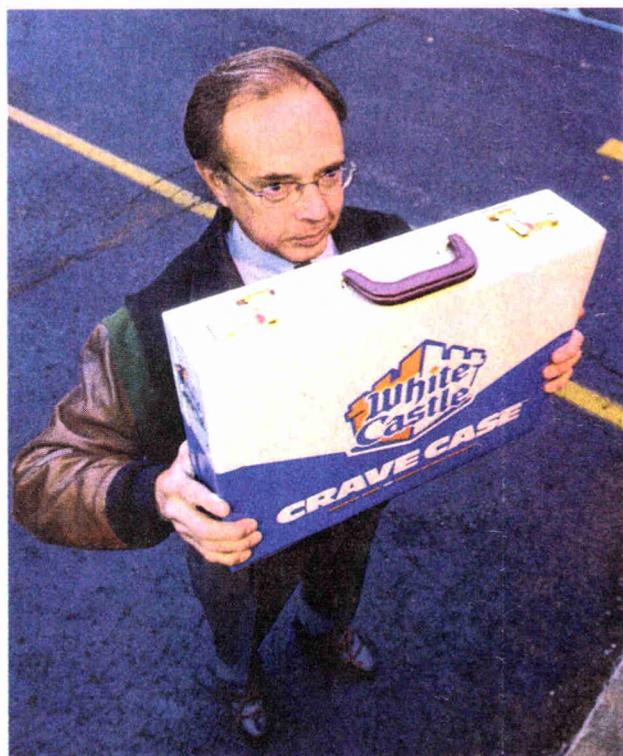
Hill said the decision to retire is in step with the times.

"If you look around, people don't carry briefcases any more," he said.

In addition, Hill said age has crept up on the team since he founded it nearly 30 years ago.

"None of us were really kids when we started," he said. "Too many guys on injured reserve."

Hill added that he has marchers on standby and has never had to run the team short of its full



There was the year Fred Hill and his Briefcase Drill team got their marching orders from White Castle.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

complement. "It seems like every time we have to appear, there's some-

one I have to replace," he said.

Thursday's performance in America's Thanksgiving Parade will be its 25th appearance at that event; since 1988, the team has only missed the Detroit parade in 2009 and 2012, years when it opted for the New York parade.

Hill promises Thursday's show will include favorites like the Businessman's Shuffle and Boom-Chucka-Lucka, plus a surprise move the public hasn't seen before.

"It's kind of a last goodbye move, I'll call it," Hill said.

For those who aren't going, the parade, which starts at 9 a.m. will be broadcast on WDIV-TV Channel 4; Hill said he learned his team will be on the air at about 10:50 a.m., although that isn't a certainty.

Hill hasn't ruled out bringing the team to events held between Thanksgiving and next July 4.

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KATIE BAKER

Olympic medalist Allison Schmitt came home Monday to talk to students at Canton Charter Academy, where Schmitt was a member of the first graduating eighth-grade class.

OLYMPIAN

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her, Schmitt extolled the virtue of doing well in school, pointing out her parents, Ralph and Gail, made sure she did her school work before she was allowed to do anything else.

Facing adversity

Schmitt pointed out that, despite her swimming success, she has "had a lot of adversity" in her life. The most recent came last year when, after winning five medals in the 2012 Olympics, she failed to make the U.S. team in 2013.

"When I look back, the (adversities) were just little bumps," she said. "Everyone has failed to do something at some time. I could have cried and quit swimming. But I set my goals to do better. You learn life goes on."

Schmitt's message about setting goals was of particular interest to Canton Charter Academy Principal Janelle Magyar, who said that message is part of daily life at the school.

"We always talk about goal setting and how failure is just an oppor-

tunity to learn and grow," Magyar said. "Allison embodies that perseverance. When she spoke to that, it was important. The kids know it wasn't always easy for her."

Lighter touch

In a lighter moment, one student asked Schmitt to identify her "favorite treat." While the students chuckled, Schmitt admitted to having a sweet tooth. She quickly turned it into a discussion about health, urging kids to enjoy their treats, but eat their vegetables at the same time, a suggestion that drew a good-hearted groan from the kids.

But Schmitt, nearly 6 feet tall, pulled kindergarten Mihita Lokesh to her feet and, noting the differences in their height, pointed out "eating my vegetables helped me get this tall."

There were more serious moments, too. One questioner asked Schmitt how she attained "balance" in her life and Schmitt was quick to point out the importance of having balance. For instance, Schmitt said, she had friends and family in her life, also loved soc-

cer and plays the piano. "It's an important lesson in life to have balance," Schmitt said. "It's like a domino effect. If you don't focus on one part of your life, it can come crashing down on the other parts. In order to be successful, you have to have that balance."

Ralph and Gail Schmitt were in the audience for their daughter's appearance and, not surprisingly, Gail Schmitt was reduced to tears.

"We're very proud," Gail Schmitt said. "It's very emotional. It's great to see your child set goals and reach them, whatever they are. It's very rewarding."

Allison is one of five children (she has three sisters and a brother) and she made a big point about how her parents have inspired her throughout her life. But Ralph Schmitt said it's really the other way around.

"She said we inspire her, but she inspires us ... all of our kids do," Ralph Schmitt said. "Whatever your child does, it inspires us."

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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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PARKING

Continued from Page A1

sion goal this year.

There are roughly 40 spaces at the former Saxton's currently. Dwyer said the houses on Maple and some ancillary buildings will be demolished to make room for more parking once the city owns the site.

Preservation

But, Dwyer said, there are no plans to tear down the brick building that housed the original Plymouth Saxton's, which is now occupied by the Plymouth Train Shop and two second-floor apartments.

"We don't have any intention of tearing down the original building," he said.

Still undecided, however, is the fate of the one-story plate-glass storefront facing Ann Arbor Trail that was the public showroom and retail space for Saxton's Garden Center until it closed about two years ago. The space had been occupied by a fitness center until early this year and is now vacant.

Tom Vanmoorleghe, who runs Saxton's Power Equipment on another part of the site, said he'd like to stay on the property and move his business into the storefront, where it would occupy the showroom space. The space would offer greater visibility and be a good business move, he said.

"I really hope it works out that we can stay here. We've been here for so

long," Vanmoorleghe said.

Vanmoorleghe was the parts manager at Saxton's Garden Center when it closed and has continued selling and repairing snow blowers, lawn mowers, trimmers and other power equipment there, obtaining the right to use the Saxton name.

City officials seem open to that possibility. "We would like to have him stay," said Paul Sincock, the city manager.

'Essential property'

Dwyer said the new municipal parking will be more than a flat place to put vehicles. It will be paved, with lighting, signage and perhaps a decorative wall. "It's an essential piece of property," he said.

The city is paying for the site purchase and improvements to the planned parking lot through \$900,000 from the Downtown Development Authority's capital improvement fund, \$100,000 from the parking fund and part of the proceeds of a \$3.5 million bond sale the city commission authorized earlier this month.

Some \$2 million in bond revenue will be earmarked for water main and sewer improvements under the right of way along Mill Street, between Main Street and Ann Arbor Road, when it is repaved. The repaving project, headed up by Wayne County, is scheduled for next year.

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ALAN PRINCE

Many hands make light work: Geneva Presbyterian Church volunteers pose with their quilts in the Canton sanctuary. The 18 quilts were donated to Inkster-based Starfish Family Services.

Event honors U.S. armed forces members

Plymouth Community United Way and the Plymouth Whalers are teaming up with Family Heating, Cooling and Electrical for the Salute to Heroes Night Saturday, Nov. 29, at Compuware Arena, 14900 Beck, Plymouth.

The 12th annual event pays tribute to members of the United States armed forces.

Active and veteran soldiers with military ID will be admitted to the game free. Discounted \$10 tickets are available for their family members.

Local representatives, on behalf of the military branches, will receive certificates of thanks during a special ceremony. Fans at the game will have the chance to show their appreciation at the Plymouth Community United Way table by writing postcards to thank soldiers for their service.

For information, call Randi Williams at 734-453-8679, ext. 7, or email randi.williams@pcuw.org.

To reserve your veteran's group tickets, call 734-453-8400 or go to plymouthwhalers.com.

Go to www.plymouthunitedway.org to learn about a variety of ways to give and volunteer.

Teddy Bears will rain down at Whalers game

The Plymouth Whalers and Plymouth Community United Way are hoping it will rain a torrent of teddy bears Saturday, Dec. 6, after the hockey team scores its first goal at Compuware Arena.

The annual Teddy Bear Toss not only provides toys to brighten the holidays of needy children, but comfort them in shelters and traumatic situations throughout the year.

Last year, more than 800 teddy bears were thrown onto the ice, creating an avalanche of stuffed animals. This year, fans are being asked to bring a bevy of bears to top that total. The fun begins at 7:05 p.m.

For information, call Randi Williams at 734-453-8679, ext. 7, or email randi.williams@pcuw.org.

For tickets, call 734-453-8400 or go to plymouthwhalers.com.



JULIE BROWN

Cheryl Sprague (left) and Charlene Jones, both Canton residents, display one of the 18 quilts volunteers from Geneva Presbyterian Church made for Starfish Family Services.

Church quilts offer warmth, love

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The sanctuary of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton was especially colorful during worship Sunday, Nov. 16.

The occasion was prayers over 18 quilts women of the church made, with help from a couple of men, to donate to Inkster-based Starfish Family Services.

"This is the fourth year," said Charlene Jones of Canton, a registered nurse who works in pediatrics in Ann Arbor. "Because we want to help those in need, help those who are establishing homes. Compassion, love. We have a passion for the young children."

About 10 women meet each Monday evening at the church on Sheldon Road, with some volunteers doing machine stitching of quilts from their homes. "It's a fun form of Christian fellowship," said Cheryl Sprague of Canton, a part-time office manager for an engineering firm in Lincoln Park. "We always have a fun time."

Sprague noted when the project began several years ago, the volunteers tried to use patterns, but realized the patterns weren't needed. "Every one is so unique," Sprague said. "There's no two alike."

The 18 quilts made this fall were set up in the sanctuary for Nov. 16 worship and prayers over them and their creators. Quilter Lisa DeGroot of Canton paraphrased Teresa of Avila, in that Christ has no body.

"We are His eyes, His ears, His hands," said DeGroot, who works in culinary arts at the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center of the Wayne-Westland schools. "This is providing warmth. It's very practical."

The quilts have Scripture labels put on by volunteer Ella Bastine. There's a small inscription, "Made by Loving Hands, Geneva Presbyterian Church."

The previous set of quilts from Geneva also went to Starfish Family Services. "They were so welcoming to us," Sprague said. "It was overwhelming."

Jones and Sprague spoke during the worship service, noting illiteracy is an issue for families served by Starfish, increasing the likelihood of dropping out of school, poor parenting and mental health issues. "Their mission is strengthen families to create better futures for children," Jones said.

"If it weren't for God's guiding us, we wouldn't be able to do this," Sprague added.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Identity theft

A Canton couple notified police after it became apparent they had become victims of identity theft, a police report said.

A 68-year-old man told police Friday he had received a call from a bank fraud department asking about some charges he hadn't made or authorized on an account. He said he was able to cancel the fraudulent charges.

The man said he also was advised that his wife's name was used to open a furniture store account. He said items purchased fraudulently had apparently been delivered to an address in Hamtramck.

The man, according to a police report, contacted authorities about the incidents after he was encouraged by a credit card company to do so.

Sprinkler box vandalism

Police went to a residential area near Grandover Court and Lilley following reports someone had tampered with a sprinkler system box, causing water to flow over Grandover.

Police were summoned to the neighborhood shortly before 4 p.m. Saturday for what was initially reported as a possible ruptured water line. Turns out someone had taken a backflow preventer from the sprinkler system box, causing the spillage.

Neighborhood residents said it wasn't the first time such an incident had occurred.

Bad blood

A 36-year-old Canton woman told police she was being harassed by a former boyfriend and his new girlfriend, leading to lewd messages and prompting her to change her phone number, a police report said.

The victim told police she had dated a 37-year-old Canton man about six months when she learned he had been cheating on her with the other woman, 26, from Highland. She said the other woman began sending lewd messages to her on Facebook, prompting her to respond in kind, a police report indicated.

The victim told police she blocked the other woman on Facebook, but then started getting calls at work. A police report also indicated the victim and her ex-boyfriend had exchanged text messages, including lewd comments.

The victim said the ex-boyfriend began contacting her by email after she changed her phone number. She notified police because she said she wanted all communication from the former boyfriend and his new girlfriend to stop, though she didn't yet want to prosecute.

The victim also was advised how to get a personal protection order.

— By Darrell Clem

Craigslist robbery defendant fails to show, warrant issued

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A defendant charged with robbing a 42-year-old Canton man he befriended through a Craigslist ad has failed to show for trial, prompting a Wayne County Circuit Court judge to issue a warrant for his arrest.

Eric Lee Taylor, 35, was supposed to appear Nov. 20 before Judge James Callahan for a jury trial on charges of unarmed robbery, identity theft, receiving and concealing stolen property less than \$20,000, theft of the victim's vehicle and using a financial transaction device — a credit card — without consent.

Taylor, a Van Buren Township

man who has been free on bond, now has a warrant for his arrest, a court clerk said.

Taylor could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison if he is convicted of charges arising from an incident Canton police say happened about 11:30 p.m. Saturday, April 5, on Hunters Way, near Geddes and Canton Center.

Canton police Lt. Chad Baugh has said Taylor was arrested following allegations he was involved with two intruders, described as black males with their faces partially concealed, who police say robbed the victim in his home.

Police said the two intruders weren't captured, but an investigation led authorities to the defendant. Baugh has said the victim left his

garage door open because he believed he was being paid a return visit by Taylor who, according to police, he had known about a year after they met through Craigslist.

Baugh said the intruders entered the house through an access door off the garage, robbed the man, took his vehicle and fled the scene. Baugh said the victim's 2012 Ford Escape was later found in Ypsilanti and his laptop computer was seized from the suspect's residence.

The victim's credit card also had been used. Baugh has said Taylor and the victim "had a relationship" after they met through the website.

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Teach fire safety to prevent needless tragedies

A fire ripped through a two-apartment house Halloween night near the University of Southern Maine in Portland. The fire claimed the lives of six adults following a Halloween party at the house. The fire is the deadliest in Maine in more than three decades. While the house was almost 100 years old and in poor condition, some questions are being asked as the fire is being investigated.

Two bodies were found on the second floor and three were on the third floor. The sixth victim had jumped out of a window and his clothes were on fire, witnesses said. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital for treatment. He later died from those injuries. Seven people escaped from the burning building.

This fire raises many questions. First, neighbors have stated they have complained to the city



Shadd
Whitehead

about the run-down condition of the building and the fear that too many people were living in the building. Residents want to know what became of those complaints. Another question is whether or not the home had working smoke alarms. While codes require them, neighbors claim they heard no smoke alarms sounding during the early stages of the fire.

Let's speculate on some of the things that may have caused that fire. While I have no inside knowledge of the cause of the fire, this guessing game allows us to talk through possible causes to find a safer alternative than the one I may suggest caused the blaze.

It certainly could have

been open candles in or near the pumpkins for the party. While candles are great to look at, they are open flames and need to be watched carefully by a responsible adult. Candles should be kept out of the main paths of travel, where they can be easily bumped or knocked over. When the party is over or the adult watching the candles has to leave the room, the candles should go out as well.

The cause could have been careless use of smoking materials, like cigarettes. If smoking is allowed, there should be plenty of large, sturdy ashtrays on hand. This allows the ashtray to capture the entire cigarette, even if it has been forgotten by the smoker.

The temperatures drop this time of year, so the blaze could have started when ignitable materials were placed too closely to a space heater. Heat sources,

like space heaters, need a three-foot area around the unit that is completely clear of combustible material. This is a good time to go over your home's safety features, test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and practice your home fire escape plan.

The cause could also have been related to party decorations. Overloaded wiring in an older home can cause a fire to break out behind the walls. Older homes should be checked out by electricians and you should have ground-fault circuit interrupters and power strips with power shutoffs when necessary.

These are just some speculations on how this fire may have started. I hope this won't happen to you ... teach your children fire safety behaviors when they are young.

Shadd Whitehead is the chief of Livonia Fire & Rescue.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FARRAND FAIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Dec. 4, 4-8 p.m.
Location: Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar Lane, Plymouth Township
Details: Farrand Elementary School hosts its annual Vendor/Craft Fair, featuring more than 25 vendors and crafters. The event also features jewelry, purses, health and beauty items and more. Admission is free.

BAREFOOT AUDITIONS

Date/Time: Dec. 8-9, 7 p.m.
Location: Barefoot Productions theater, Main near the railroad tracks in Plymouth
Details: Barefoot Productions announces auditions for *Distracted*, a dark-comedy by Lisa Loomer. The play deals with A.D.D. and its treatments. Roles for three men and six women. Actors should bring a resume and head shot, if available.
Contact: For more information, call Chris at 734-673-4244 or go to www.justgobarefoot.com.

COLLEGE WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Thursday, Dec. 4, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton
Details: A free workshop on funding a student's college education features Robert Hoger, certified college planning

specialist with Michigan College Funding LLC. He will be discussing such topics as how to send kids to the school of their dreams without going broke; how to increase eligibility for aid; how to find scholarships and grants. Admission is free, but seating is limited by the size of the room.
Contact: Call 248-662-1300 to reserve a seat and for more information.

FOOD DRIVE

Date: Month of November
Location: Plymouth Comfort Keepers
Details: According to the Mayo Clinic and the American Dietetic Association, more than one in three seniors in the care of others is at risk for under- or malnutrition. The Plymouth office of Comfort Keepers will be conducting a food drive through November. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Plymouth District Library (223 S. Main), the Plymouth Cultural Center (525 Farmer) and the Canton Community Foundation (50430 School House Road, Suite 200). The Senior Alliance and the Salvation Army of Plymouth will assist Comfort Keepers in distribution.
Contact: For more information, contact Comfort Keepers at 734-771-7404 or go to

www.ComfortKeepers.com

NEW SCHOOL MEETING

Date/Time: Monday, Dec. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Township offices, 9955 N. Haggerty
Details: New School High, a community-based, teacher-led, self-managed, tuition-free public school academy opening in Plymouth in fall 2015, is hosting informational meetings. Interested families may also visit the website at newschool-high.org or the New School High Facebook page.
Contact: School leader Cyndi Burnstein at cburnstein@newschoolhigh.org.

ANNUAL WCGH REUNION

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet, 6539 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: The 30th annual Wayne County General Hospital employees holiday reunion will be held in the party room of the Hibachi Grill Supreme. There is a large choice of food selections and a senior discount. All retirees and former employees are invited to attend. No reservations are needed. You can pay at the door.
Contact: For questions, call the restaurant at 734-729-5688.

Canton artist featured in Potters Market

Leslie Greeniesen of Canton, who has been working with ceramics since high school, will be one of the artists featured at one of Michigan's most popular art events.

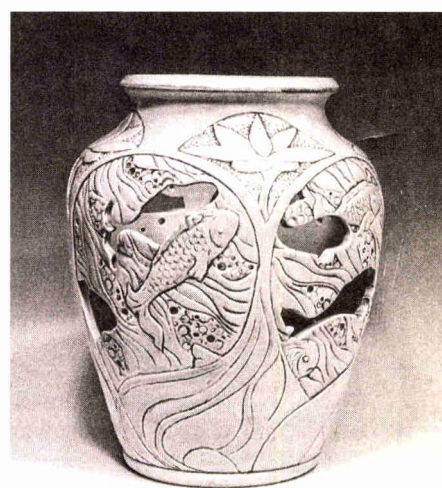
The 39th annual Potters Market, billed as the largest pottery sale of its kind in the country, takes place Friday through Sunday, Dec. 5-7, in a new venue: the 20,000-square-foot Southfield Pavilion in the Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen.

The Potters Market was held for more than 30 years at the UF&CW Union Hall in Madison Heights.

"We are extremely excited about the big move," said Carol Fitzpatrick, Potters Market co-manager. "The new facility is bigger and gives us the opportunity to add even more potters to the roster and expand and improve the sales floor layout. We are now able to bring additional well-known Michigan potters on board, as well as new young potters we are excited about. The wider aisles will afford a much more comfortable layout. We know everyone will love the new look and feel of the Potters Market."

Fitzpatrick added that a special new feature will be daily pottery demonstrations. Other improvements include more parking, a refreshment café, vending machines and ATM and free coat check.

Admission and parking are free and the new location is within easy access of the Lodge and I-696 freeways. The Southfield Pavilion is lo-



POTTERS MARKET
 The 39th annual Potters Market will feature the work of Canton artist Leslie Greeniesen.

cated on Evergreen at Civic Center Drive between 10 and 11 Mile.

The pottery sale features 145 potters offering nearly 35,000 pieces of pottery ranging from pots, vases, platters, tiles and mugs to bird baths, jewelry, ceramic framed mirrors, sculpture, lamps, tile-topped tables and just about every product possible in clay.

Typically more than 8,000 customers shop over the three-day weekend.

Hours for the Potters Market are 2-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.



Christmas classic

Forever After Productions presents "A Christmas Carol," at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill for six performances Dec. 4-7. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, plus a 2 p.m. matinee Saturday; there are 1 and 4 p.m. shows Sunday, Dec. 7. Tickets are \$22 and are available at www.ShowTix4U.com, www.iheartforeverafter.com. The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. For more information, call 734-547-5156.

Canton DDA brings back Instagram contest

The Canton Downtown Development Authority invites visiting foodies to show off their photographic creativity.

From Dec. 8 through Jan. 2, visitors to Canton's Ford Road can dine during the holiday season and post a photo of their favorite dish on Instagram for a chance to win using #Dine-FordRoad, giving Shop-Canton permission to re-post and possibly publish in print.

The photo with the

most "likes" on Shop-Canton social media will win a prize pack of gift certificates from many ShopCanton restaurants.

What's it going to be? Sushi? Italian? Middle Eastern? Dessert? Ford Road offers three miles filled with more than 300 stores, services and diverse dining options and has something for everyone. The area in the contest is located from just west of Canton Center Road to just east of Lotz Road, off

I-275.

For ideas of where to dine and how to get there, visit the mobile-friendly directory at ShopCanton.org and choose from a variety of eateries, ethnic restaurants, coffee shops, pizzerias, ice cream and fast food.

The winner will be announced on Facebook.com/ShopCanton, on Twitter.com/ShopCanton, at Instagram.com/ShopCanton and at ShopCanton.org.

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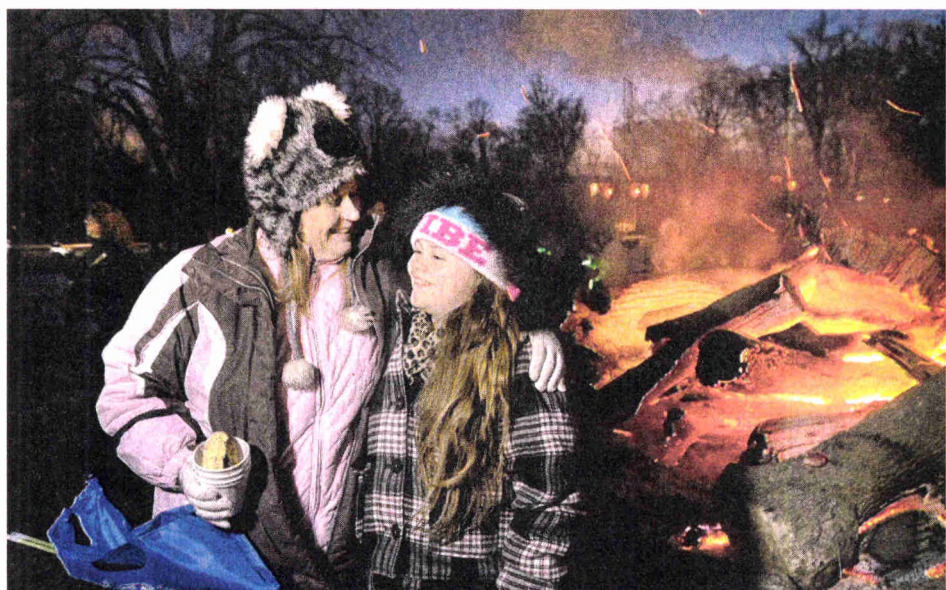
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Bennie, an American Staffordshire terrier, wears a glow stick necklace to celebrate the opening of Lightfest. His human, Fred Ryan, is from Livonia.



Debbie Gaber of Dearborn brought granddaughter Alaina Smith, 11.



Driving through the tunnels of light.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hines Drive lights up for the holidays



The Livonia Franklin High School Chorus entertains with holiday tunes.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

More than four miles of Hines Drive are a glow with the opening of Wayne County Parks' 21st annual Lightfest.

A popular holiday attraction, Lightfest features more than 55 animated holiday-themed displays that line Hines Drive from Merriman Hollow in Westland to Warrendale Park in Dearborn Heights.

It's now open 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Hines Drive closes to traffic at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The display is closed Christmas Day. Cars can enter at Merriman Road north of Warren Road in Westland. The cost is \$5 per car.

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16, also will be Toy Nights with visitors invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee. Toys will be donated to the Wayne County Family Center.

And there's more to Lightfest than the lighted displays. Youngsters can visit Santa in his workshop at Warrendale Park. Santa will be there now through Tuesday, Dec. 23, to visit with children. And for youngsters, who'd prefer to

write to Santa, can drop their letters in a giant mailbox outside his workshop.

And there are more lights to be turned on. The Friends of Nankin Mills and Wayne County Parks will be holding the Family Holiday Fest and 26th Annual Mill Lighting on Saturday, Dec. 13.

There will be children's holiday crafts and games with prizes 3:30-5:15 p.m. Families can participate in holiday games, such as "fruitcake bowling," "Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt", and "Reindeer Antler Wreath Toss" as well as make several seasonal crafts to take home. Prizes are awarded for games.

The annual Friends of Nankin Mills Traditional Mill Lighting and Sing-A-Long will be 5:15-6 p.m. and include a visit from Santa Claus.

A limited number of spots are available. Call the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center at 734-261-1990 for registration information. Nankin Mills is at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland

For more information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.



Who cares about cold and snow when you have a chocolate-covered doughnut? Nicole Giacchina and 2-year-old daughter Novella Ventimiglia are from Wayne.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The parade of cars move through Hines Park.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln Vehicles are Luxury for Less at Varsity Lincoln

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln CPO-A-THON is on. The dealership offers no turkey, no stuffing, no pumpkin pie. Just great deals. More than 100 Lincoln Certified Pre-Owned vehicles are on-site, ready to drive off the lot, for as low as \$12,995.

Hurry over to Varsity Lincoln these next three days to catch the deals:

- » Friday, Nov. 28, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- » Saturday, Nov. 29, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- » Monday, Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles come with many benefits, including:

- » A meticulous, 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians
- » 6-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage
- » Complimentary roadside assistance

Customers spoke for themselves, detailing their experiences with the team at Varsity Lincoln.

"I have the MKS and I love, love, love the technology in it," exclaimed Lincoln MKS owner Latanya Tarleton, who has been a customer at Varsity Lincoln for 16 years. "I get the best service here. I never have to worry about anything," she continued about her Varsity Lincoln experience.

"I have an MKZ from Varsity Lincoln; I've had it for about a year now. It's a beautiful interior, a beautiful exterior, it handles well on the road and gives me good gas mileage!" said Lincoln MKZ owner Gary Trudeau. "I love this place. I wouldn't even consider buying a car from anybody else!"

"I'm very, very satisfied — very happy with it," said Rich Lewnau, describing his Lincoln MKZ purchase.

Jason Towe told us why he got into a Lincoln, stating "I definitely love the comfort and the sportiness of the Lincoln.



A 2013 Lincoln MKX Ultimate FWD (Stk # 39131) is one of the more than 100 Lincoln Certified Pre-Owned vehicles on site for Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln CPO-A-THON.

The cost was a big factor for me, it was actually cheaper than my last car I owned, and I feel I'm getting a better quality car for what I'm paying!"

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Certified Pre-Owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," conveyed Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. "The 100,000-mile free bumper-to-bumper warranty that comes alongside all Certified Pre-Owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost,

exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

Loaded with features, a Lincoln will satisfy any customer, Law explained.

"Certified Pre-Owned vehicles not only provide a peace of mind on the road, but also provides a combination of sporty and luxury. Benefits include FWD or AWD, EcoBoost, Navigation, Bluetooth, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof, and heated and cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few," Law articulated.

"Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that Lincoln vehicles will hold their value," Law said. "Any depreciation has already been

taken on by the previous owner. Plus, the advanced styling and dependability are advantageous to a Lincoln vehicle's value."

"The warranty is the key with all these cars; with Certified Pre-Owned, you get the best from Varsity Lincoln," Law said. Certified Pre-Owned financing is available for as low as 0.9% APR.*

Varsity Lincoln is the number one dealer in the nation, based on 2013 Total New Retail Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction, per a Lincoln sales report.

"Leasing or buying from the number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection,

price and service," Law expressed. "Our dealership is ready for any situation that may arise, whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are before, during and after the sale," Law concluded.

*0.9% APR for 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.



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Welcome Dr. Irby-Johnson

The St. Mary Mercy Medical Group would like to extend a warm welcome to NiJuanna Irby-Johnson, MD. She joins our medical group of over 25 primary care and specialty physicians as an internal medicine physician. She has more than 10 years of experience in adult primary care, preventative care and management of chronic disease.

Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

stmarymercy.org/smmm

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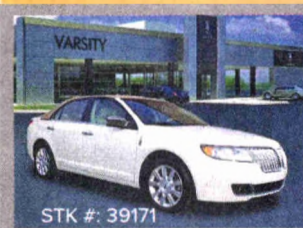
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Tea time has British feel in downtown Plymouth shop

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

There was just a touch of England among the prim and proper crowd at the Tranquili-Tea open house Sunday, Nov. 16.

The business on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth hosted an open house with tasting of nine teas, five from the popular PBS *Downton Abbey* television series set in Great Britain in the early 20th century.

"This gives them an opportunity to try products that normally aren't available for sampling,"

said Colleen Cannon, who with her husband Pat owns TranquiliTea. "We were very pleased with the end product. We thought it was quite delightful."

The *Downton Abbey*-based tea is new and popular. "They are based on characters," Livonia resident Pat Cannon said of the *Downton Abbey* teas. "We actually carry *Downton Abbey* jewelry as well and *Downton Abbey*-inspired tea cozies."

He paused to compare the British series' venue and Plymouth. "I think it has to do with the small

town aspect of the area," Pat Cannon said. "Obviously we don't have a big manor hanging over us. It's kind of that hometown feel."

The Cannons, in business at TranquiliTea for nearly nine years, were pleased with the steady turnout at their business open house.

"Business is picking up. I think it'll really start taking off after Thanksgiving," he said. He agreed last winter's weather hit many retailers hard.

"We are in Michigan and we do get snow," Pat Cannon said.

One visitor Sunday to TranquiliTea was Suzan Zissimos of Redford.

"I was going through town and I always like to stop here," she said. "It's fun to taste all the samples."

She picked Holiday Spice as her holiday tea favorite. Zissimos was accompanied by husband Pete, with both avid *Downton Abbey* fans.

"The acting is very well done," Pete Zissimos said. "The character Matthew should have never died. It's a time-piece. I like that."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



Colleen and Pat Cannon of Livonia were pleased to welcome visitors to the open house Sunday, Nov. 16, at their TranquiliTea store in downtown Plymouth.

TechShop offers place to build, grow business to members

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Got an idea for business, but need space to work out the details? You may be interested in TechShop, near the Detroit Lions practice facility in Allen Park.

TechShop began in Menlo Park, Calif., some eight years ago, and has been in metro Detroit 2½ years.

It's a do-it-yourself fabrication studio whose senior account manager, Addie Langford, spoke to Westland Rotarians last week.

The member fee is \$175 per month, Langford said, for the 17,000 square feet of work space, with additional space in the property. TechShop founder Jim Newton began in IT.

"This became his mission to get this off the



Addie Langford, senior account manager for TechShop Detroit, speaks to Westland Rotarians.

ground," Langford told Rotarians and guests.

Newton taught at community college and found

his students retaking his classes for equipment access.

Langford displayed a PowerPoint of the computer numeric controlled equipment, with machinists, engineers and artists among TechShop customers.

"You bring your ideas to the table," she said.

A class is first required for safety. Langford showed via PowerPoint how the water-jet cutter can even cut granite.

Some woodworkers use the Allen Park TechShop, which can also handle the custom packages that can make consumer products difficult to open. The plastic injection molder can be used for knobs, other controls, keyboards and more.

There are also uses for electronics and soft-

ware and the local site is launching a student robotics team, Langford said. She showed a slide as well of 3D printing and scanning, along with a laser lab for etched glass and more.

The large project bay can accommodate cars, as well as a kayak.

"This is an exciting thing to come and watch," Langford said. "Skill sharing happens really naturally. There's this incredible exchange."

She added that referrals to incubators for business help are available at TechShop. Rotarian Earl Ludwig of Dearborn Heights, who arranged the visit, said, "It's all skill levels, from very basic."

Langford said TechShop doesn't take any proceeds nor protect intellectual property,

meaning your work must be able to be out in sight.

She showed a knitting needle gauge that has been developed. "She cannot make these fast enough."

The Square, Inc., mobile payment for smart phones came from TechShop in San Francisco. There was also a low-cost infant warmer developed.

"It's really meant for the Third World," Langford said, noting such preemies have much better survival chances if they reach cities.

The Allen Park TechShop is in the Rotunda-Southfield Freeway area at 800 Republic Drive. For more, go to www.techshop.ws. The phone is 313-583-3831, email info.detroit@techshop.com.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS



PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Second home

Circle of Life Chiropractic moves in to its second location this year after Dr. Jennifer Darling's practice continues to expand. Her new location is at 42187 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township. Darling treats all types of patients and is finding she has great success with pregnant women.

New partner

Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, has elected nine attorneys as partners in six of the firm's offices, effective Jan. 1, 2015.

Ken Vermeulen, a native of Plymouth, was recently elected a partner in the Grand Rapids office of Barnes & Thornburg. He is a member of the firm's Real Estate and Environmental Departments.

Vermeulen has extensive experience regarding both real estate and environmental matters. His expertise includes commercial leasing, zoning, state and federal cleanups, brownfield development and acquisition and divestiture due diligence. He has also worked on significant lending transactions with respect to both real estate and environmental matters.

Premier designation

As a business leader and involved citizen in Plymouth, the Allstate agency of Adam Khalil



Vermeulen

has been designated an Allstate Premier Agency for 2014.

The Allstate Premier Agency designation is bestowed on less than 48 percent of Allstate's nearly 10,000 agency owners across the country.

This designation is being presented to Khalil for his outstanding business performance and commitment to putting customers at the center of his agency's work.

Khalil's agency is located at 15398 N. Hag-

gerty in Plymouth and can be reached at 934-545-8630.

Allstate also recognized several Canton agencies:

» Jill Gale's agency is located at B130 Canton Center and can be reached at 734-454-8888.

» Cheryl Bowker's agency is located at 5972 Sheldon Road and can be reached at 734-738-0300.

» Bruce Lamb's agency is located at 1722 S. Lilley Road and can be reached at 734-844-7000.

» Joseph Pacut's agency is located at 43679 Michigan Avenue and can be reached at 734-895-8123.

"The Premier Agency designation is not just about successful business results," said Gary Heslinga, Michigan sales leader for Allstate. "The honor also demonstrates commitment in being accessible to customers and using his knowledge to help ensure customers have the insurance products they need to protect themselves and their family."

Do research before making that charitable donation

I don't know about you, but I have been inundated with emails and phone solicitations from charitable organizations.

My parents taught me at a young age that it is important to give back to society, so I have always given to charitable organizations. That being said, unfortunately, not all charitable organizations spend their money wisely. In addition, there are lowlives in our society that use charitable solicitation as a way of scamming us.

Whenever you deal with charities, it is important to keep your eyes open. You want to make sure the money is actually going to a charitable purpose.

In today's world, there are numerous ways that charitable organizations solicit. Whether it is phone calls, letters or emails, the charitable organizations' marketing wings are out in force this time of year.

I don't believe in giving through a solicitation. In other words, if someone calls you for a donation, say no. The



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

reason is you want to be able to independently examine the charity before giving any money. Make sure the organization is legit and that it is spending its money wisely. You can't do that responding to a phone solicitation.

How do you check out a charity? After all, you're not going to audit their books. However, there are websites that can help and provide a wealth of information. I recommend www.charitynavigator.org and www.give.org.

Focus on the financial aspects of the charity. For example, I was recently approached by a charity and when I did some research, I found that half of its money is spent on marketing. That's not a charity that I want to contribute to. I want to donate to a charity where at least 90 percent of the money raised is used for the charitable purpose.

Marketing is impor-

tant, but it's not nearly as important as achieving the charitable purpose of the organization.

Just as a head's-up on these phone solicitations, it's not unusual, even for the legitimate charities, to pay a phone solicitor 50 percent of the money that they collect. If I was giving \$100 to an organization, I want to make sure that \$50 of that money is not paid to a phone solicitor.

Americans are the most generous and charitable people on the face of the Earth. It is in our DNA to help others. Unfortunately, many of the lowlives also recognize this and take advantage this time of year.

Spend a few minutes doing research before you make a charitable contribution to ensure your money goes to the charitable purpose that you desire.

Good luck.

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



Zayda Schneider and Amber Ohlsson have been chosen as members of the Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus for the 2014-15 season.

Plymouth girls part of Michigan Opera Theatre's children's chorus

The Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus has accepted two children from Plymouth/Canton into its prestigious program for the 2014-15 season.

The MOTCC is a permanent ensemble of Michigan Opera Theatre and appears with the company in main-stage productions, as well as its own performances. This elite ensemble teaches students top-notch technique, theory and exposes youngster to a professional performance environment. Members from Plymouth/Canton include Zayda Schneider and Amber Ohlsson.

Head Chorister Kristen Dubicki is a 10th-grader from Royal Oak.

"I have been in the MOTCC for four years and have learned an infinite amount of music theory and tips to sound the best I can," she said. "This choir has helped teach me responsibility in memorizing music and dictation on time. Every year I get to learn something new and exciting and this challenge has never lost its allure for me."

The MOTCC children will present their first

concert of the season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, on the main stage of the Detroit Opera House. The whole family is invited to enjoy a cultural experience at one of Detroit's historical gems while supporting the appreciation of the arts in a new generation.

The program features a variety of music, including folk songs, opera and traditional holiday favorites. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. A silent auction and raffle begins at 3 p.m., with proceeds benefiting the chorus. The auction features numer-

ous sought-after items, including tickets to Detroit Opera House shows, Red Wings and Pistons tickets, a raffle for a Detroit Tigers suite and more.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for ages 17 and younger and free for children 4 and younger. Tickets include the concert, strolling hors d'oeuvres and dessert and may be purchased in advance at www.michiganopera.org or by calling 313-237-SING. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Plymouth host featured at Detroit craft fair

Cari Cucksey of Plymouth, host of *Cash and Cari* on HGTV, will be featured at the ninth annual Detroit Urban Craft Fair, set for 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 at Detroit's Masonic Temple.

Cucksey will be showcasing her new RePurpose Chroma•Color Paint and Stain that she just introduced, along with a few of her re-purposed pieces of



Cucksey

small furniture. More than 100 juried

vendors from around metro Detroit will have a wide variety of unique holiday gifts. The fair will include festive music and food, in a historic setting that you'll want to share with family and friends.

The Masonic Temple is located at 500 Temple Street in Detroit. Admission is \$1, with children 12 and under admitted free.

The first 50 shoppers will receive free swag bags.

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OUR VIEW

Support local entrepreneurs on Small Business Saturday

Purists will stay home Thanksgiving evening to savor time spent with family and enjoy a second helping of dessert, but many folks will clear the table, grab their coats and head out to the malls and major retailers for an early start of Black Friday.

Those who prefer to avoid the frenzy and the crowds have Cyber Monday, the digital equivalent to Black Friday, to do their shopping with a click of a mouse.

But in between what have become the powerhouse shopping days of the year is Small Business Saturday, a national initiative to support local businesses which create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods around the country.

Created by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday is held the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. First observed Nov. 27, 2010, it's a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick-and-mortar businesses that are small and local – and with good reason. According to Forbes, there are almost 28 million small businesses in the U.S. More than 50 percent of the working population – 120 million individuals – works in small businesses, which have generated more than 65 percent of the net new jobs since 1995.

Approximately 543,000 new businesses get started each month. Seven out of 10 survive at least two years, half at least five years, one-third at least 10 years and one-quarter stay in business 15 years or more.

Keeping small businesses alive and healthy is important to local communities. Last year, millions of Americans shopped at independently-owned small businesses on Small Business Saturday, spending \$5.7 billion that day, 4 percent higher than the \$5.5 billion spent in 2012.

Small businesses have been the backbone of this country from its inception. Dry goods stores and millinery shops may have changed over the years, but the services they provide are still as important today as they were back then.

Communities like Wayne, Plymouth, Milford, Northville and Birmingham have downtowns filled with small shops, while newer communities like Westland, Novi and Southfield have created shopping districts that are anchored by regional malls. In all instances, the variety of goods and services rival what's available in big box stores and online this holiday season.

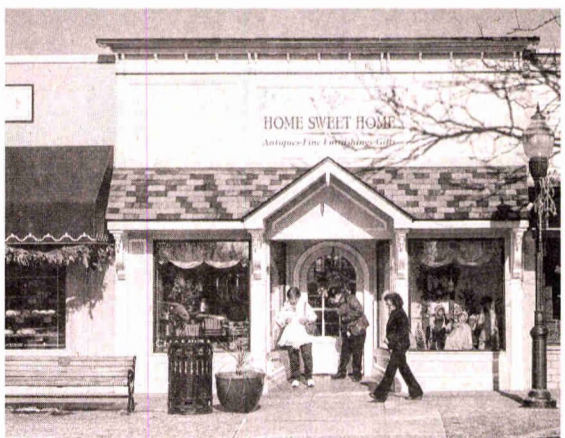
Canton and Plymouth business leaders and retailers applaud the program.

"I think it's a good idea," Canton Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Paden said. "Any time there's an idea that can bring more attention to shopping local and supporting local businesses, it's a good thing."

Canton has long had a Shop Canton campaign in hopes of keeping shopping dollars in the local community, spurred heavily by the Canton Downtown Development Authority.

"Sometimes when you think big, you forget there are these people who have small businesses who have amazing things to offer," DDA Coordinator Amy Colligan said. "I think it's important to patronize them. We want to have vibrant communities. When our local businesses are doing great, our schools, parks (and other amenities) do better. It makes Canton a destination place."

By all means, do your shopping Thanksgiving evening, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but save some money for Small Business Saturday. Think local and support Small Business Saturday.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth has plenty of businesses to visit for Small Business Saturday.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voters stupid

A recent NBC/ *Wall Street Journal* post-election poll found that voters ranked reduction of student loan interest rates highest as an issue with an 82-percent approval rating. Next came increased infrastructure spending and increasing the minimum wage, both with 75-percent approval, fighting Ebola in Africa by spending there instead of here at 65 percent, followed by reducing carbon emissions at 59 percent.

Excuse me, but the last election saw what could be described as a "Republican Wave" and none of the top five issues listed by voters could be identified as Republican Party objectives. Matter of fact, all are Democratic Party priorities.

According to the same poll, when respondents were presented with a carefully constructed statement describing the components of the comprehensive immigration bill passed by the Senate over 500 days ago that Republican Speaker Boehner has refused to bring to the floor for a vote, 74 percent of respondents approved of the language.

On top of that, although Republican presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush employed executive orders allowing millions of immigrants to be spared the fear of deportation with little or no blow back, 48 percent of those polled opposed the fact that Democratic President Barack Obama had the audacity to take the same exact type of independent action in spite of the fact that public support for comprehensive immigration was as strong as the NBC/ *WSJ* poll had indicated. One wonders why?

With large segments of the voting public regularly voting against not only their own opinion stances as measured in this and countless other polls, but actual self-interest, one may ask, "Are American voters stupid?" You be the judge.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Personal backslapping

I am an Army veteran. I have been quite prosperous in my life and consider myself to be quite benevolent.

That stated, I almost gagged when I saw the huge half-page article regarding wealthy car dealership owner Jim Demmer presenting the keys of an '05 Escape to the young veteran. Please give me a break!

OK, give the appreciative young lady an old car. That's fine. But that publicity hound will never get another car sale from me or my family. For this kind of spread, the cheap skate should have given a new Focus at least.

Disgusting bit of personal backslapping.

Mike Stewart
Garden City

Why Republicans won

As they gloat, Republicans could/should realize the reasons

for the results. They are:

1. Low turnout showing anger, apathy and disgust about Congress and many state legislators

2. Resurgence of Ayn Rand's philosophy as shown by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan that government should not serve people – people should improve their lives by their own efforts regardless of circumstances. Otherwise socialism results.

3. Fear about the economy even though gas is now about \$3 a gallon; unemployment is under 6 percent; the stock market is breaking records every day;

4. Money from individuals and extreme right groups thanks to the Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court;

5. Rapid changes in all aspects of life including technology and climate which are difficult to explain or understand; voter suppression as well as difficulty for some citizens to vote in nearby areas;

6. Fear plus uncertainty about terrorism and disease; and

7. Non-acceptance or agreement with any policies of a president who was unlike any previous president in race or ethnicity.

The burden after Nov. 4, 2014, is on Republicans to benefit and improve the lives of all U.S. citizens and to keep our country safe and respected throughout the world. I have doubts, but have hope. I know I will work even harder to make the previous statement a reality.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce Township

Arming bureaucrats

I object to the premise that bureaucrats need to be armed, especially with firepower that exceeds common reason. These untrained personnel have not been trained nor authorized to use weapons against the citizens of this state.

Even worse, is that bureaucrats are beholden to special interest groups that seek to criminalize the rights of the general public.

This smacks of the Nazi regime of the 1930s. History is repeating itself. And not in a good way.

Pointing out the foibles of politicians is akin to a perceived anarchy. We, as a free people, need to expose the abuses of those currently sitting in power. Of course, standing up for one's right will ultimately incur the wrath of paid-off judges and other politicians who have been bought and paid for by corporate interests.

Randy Zeilinger
Garden City

Constitutional powers

Please call and write your U.S. senators and congressman and request that they vote to sue and impeach President Obama on grounds of over-reaching his authority as president. Mr. Obama was elected president, not dictator or king. He says that the Constitution gives him

power to "go it alone."

I can tell you where the Constitution says the president does not have that power:

Article 1 Section 8 defines ("enumerates") all of the powers that the federal government, including the president or Congress, has. The 10th Amendment then says that if a power is not enumerated in Article 1 Section 8, the federal government does not have that power. Any power not expressly enumerated in the Article 1 Section 8 does not belong to the federal government, but is reserved to the states and the people. "Executive orders," which is what Obama is using to bypass both Congress and the will of the American people, are not an enumerated power granted to the federal government, (including the president) by the Constitution. In fact, the term "executive order" is not used anywhere in the Constitution.

If the president can pass laws by writing an executive order, then Congress serves no useful purpose and should be eliminated at great savings to taxpayers.

Gerald N. Wiggins
South Lyon

Protect our rights

If the media reports about the National Security Agency's warrantless spying program are true, our Constitution and our republic are in serious danger.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution is non-negotiable. It protects Americans from being searched by the government without a warrant and for good reason. Before independence, American colonists were subject to "general warrants" by the British government. The king's agents could search anyone whenever they felt like it, without suspicion of any wrongdoing.

The current NSA spying program is exactly the same. Government bureaucrats can spy on your phone calls, chats, Internet searches and emails. That's un-American.

State Rep. Tom McMillin, R-Auburn Hills, has a solution. His bill – HB 5420 – would protect the Fourth Amendment rights of Michiganders by banning Michigan state agencies from complying with the NSA's warrantless spying program.

Rep. McMillin's bill is a common sense way to protect our inalienable rights. But HB 5420 is stuck in the House Judiciary Committee. Our representatives should pass this bill and uphold their oath to the Constitution.

Government bureaucrats have no right to spy on me or any other American without a warrant. I encourage all my fellow Michiganders to pressure their representatives to pass HB 5420. Our Constitution hangs in the balance

Matthew Webb
Westland

Being flooded

I am very curious as to how these children manage to make

See LETTERS, Page A13

GUEST COLUMN

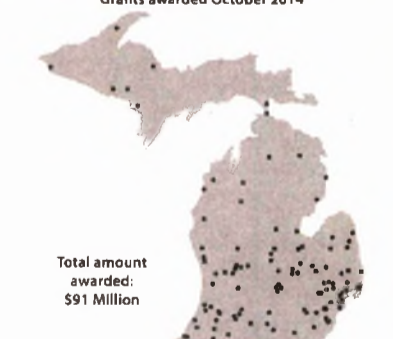
Protecting our waters: SAW grants are big step toward cleaner future

The intense rain events and flooding around Michigan last summer underscored something we rarely talk about in Michigan – the condition of community sewer systems.

Sewer systems are like any other infrastructure; we take them for granted until they stop working. And when sewers fail, everyone notices. While sewer backups and overflows have an immediate impact in residential basements and neighborhoods, these failures also are a leading cause of beach closures and environmental impacts. Overwhelmed sewers jettison raw or partially treated waste water into our rivers, lakes and streams.

Recently, the DEQ announced the second round of a special grant program Gov. Rick Snyder initiated to protect and improve our communities and our waters. Storm Water, Asset Management and Waste water grants offer communities up to \$2 million for the costly first step in any maintenance effort – planning for the

Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Grants awarded October 2014



Total amount awarded: \$91 Million

future. Historically, the DEQ has offered low-interest loans for repair projects and communities kept maintenance funds to handle emergency projects.

During Michigan's "lost decade," most townships and cities were forced to rob from their maintenance funds to pay other bills.

This put local units of government into the unfortunate position of scrambling to fund repairs when things break, instead of scheduling planned maintenance and preventing disastrous sewer failures.

No city is born overnight. They grow, one neighborhood and shopping center and office complex at a time. Roads and

sewers grow in tandem with the rest of the community. So any local unit of government is underpinned by a vast network of sewers that vary in age, use and condition.

Mapping and assessing that network is the first step toward proactive maintenance and maintenance is what will protect our waters and grow our communities in the years to come.

Gov. Snyder committed \$450 million to this four-year effort. Community sewer authorities were allowed to request up to \$2 million each for specific projects. Recently, DEQ announced the second round of funding – \$91 million going to 115 cities and townships.

DEQ still offers project loans for sewer and other water infrastructure. But the SAW grant program is a credit to Gov. Snyder's 40-year vision for a Michigan where we take responsibility for our future, plan ahead and never have to spend our summers hoping it doesn't rain.

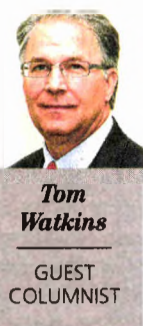
To learn more about SAW grants and how the DEQ protects Michigan waters, go to Michigan.gov/DEQ.

Dan Wyant is the director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

GUEST COLUMN

It's an empty feeling to be homeless

Children forced to sleep outside? That's cold. Today is Thanksgiving, yet across Michigan, far too many people are curled up inside cardboard boxes, worldly possessions on their backs, as they attempt survival on the night's mean streets.



Tom Watkins
GUEST COLUMNIST



Last week, Tom Watkins experienced the agony of being homeless – sleeping outside in a cardboard box with the temperature dropping down to 7 degrees – as part of Covenant House Michigan's mission to raise awareness and funds to help youth homelessness.

Last week, I experienced — for just one night — the agony, the agony of being homeless. It was cold that night — 7 degrees. I did it as part of Covenant House Michigan's (www.covenanthouse-mi.org) mission to raise awareness and funds to help youth homelessness. Covenant House, a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides hope to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 13-22, offers more than shelter. With its educational and vocational programs — it offers hope and pathways to success. The "sleep-out" event was co-chaired by Sue Snyder, Michigan's first lady, and Jacqueline Wilson, first lady of Wayne State University. Since its inception in 1997, Covenant House has served more than 54,000 youth, helping re-direct them onto a

path toward meaningful and successful adulthood. Many friends and neighbors helped me raise more than \$13,000 as a portion of the \$250,000 raised to help people who are homeless.

Lessons learned
Memories of my being out for that one night: aches and pains and a bad cold. The human body is not meant to sleep on cold cement. It was difficult to be productive the following day without a hot shower and a comfortable night's sleep. Yet this was an experiment — a single night in a controlled, safe environment. I can't even begin to imagine the fear, loneliness, isolation and trepidation if this was your

reality night after night, struggling to survive day after day. It was an uncomfortable night, even though we were prepared with insulated boots, long underwear, gloves, winter hats and a coat that turned into a sleeping bag — produced by a formerly homeless woman. (www.empowerment-plan.org). Hard to imagine youth on our streets, lucky to have a flimsy jacket, a pair of Nikes and a baseball cap as their survival gear. The physical discomfort also came with mental discomfort. Before we hit the street for the night, we shared dinner and a candlelight vigil with homeless youth who are nurtured, educated and sheltered by Covenant House. We heard

stories of hurt, pain, substance abuse, violence, neglect and abuse speckled with hope, courage, perseverance, friendship and love. We learned there are multiple paths into and out of homelessness to hope and success. Today there are more than 86,000 people who are homeless in Michigan. The reasons are myriad and include:
» lack of affordable housing
» inability to make a living wage
» mental health issues
» domestic abuse
» poor educational attainment and lack of marketable job skills
» prevalence of drugs, violence and gangs
» an average income of a homeless Michigan family just \$730 per month (www.thecampaigntoendhomelessness.org)
More than 600,000 people are homeless in the U.S. on any given night. Most (65 percent) were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs and 35 percent were living in non-sheltered locations. Nearly one-quarter of all homeless people are children under the age of 18, one in 10 are ages 18-24 and two-thirds (67 percent) are 25 years or older, according to www.hudexchange.info.
Give thanks
The need is great. There was no better reason to give thanks the next morning than wak-

ing up in my box — cold, disoriented but knowing my ordeal was over. Today is Thanksgiving. A time to give thanks. I awoke after one night in a cardboard box, humbled and full of gratitude for all I have. To those to whom much is given, much is expected. So hug your family, give thanks and give back. Your generous donation of time or money will help provide shelter, food, clothing and educational and vocational programs to persons who are homeless. Our children are a smaller part of our population, but 100 percent of our collective futures.

Tom Watkins, a Northville resident, is a former state superintendent of schools and state mental health director. He is the president and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (www.dwmha.com).

GIVE HERE:

- Give to Covenant House or to the many local organizations that need and deserve our support.
- Starfish Family Services Crisis Shelter: <http://www.starfishonline.org>; 313-563-5005
- Covenant House Michigan Michigan's: www.covenanthouse-mi.org; 313-463-2000
- Detroit Rescue Mission: <http://drmm.org>; 313-993-4700
- Team Mental Health: www.t-mhs.com; 313-501-0001
- Southwest Housing Solutions; www.sws.org; 313-841-9641
- Neighborhood Service Organization: www.nso-mi.org; 313-832-3100
- Coalition on Temporary Shelter: <http://www.cotsdetroit.org>; 313-831-3777
- Cass Community Social Services: <http://casscommunity.org>; 313-883-2277

LETTERS

Continued from Page A12
it to the U.S. It is a grueling journey and I can't believe that a 6-year-old could make this trip on his/her own. My son, who resides in Guatemala,

says there is little or no information on this there. It seems that suddenly our country is being flooded with these children and I do not understand how this has come to be the case. Any information you are able to provide would be of

interest to the community, I'm certain. I am deeply opposed to being financially responsible for illegal immigrants when so many citizens are desperate for help and the constant refrain from various agencies is that they lack the financial resources.

Something seems to be very wrong when resources can be found for non-U.S. citizens, but not for U.S. citizens. In the end, all the money comes from the U.S. taxpayer.
Lynn Markowitz
Farmington Hills

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Simmons-Hill House, Greenmead: A showcase of local area history

By Gene Scott
Correspondent

Livonia's most cherished historic landmark, the 1841 Simmons-Hill House at Greenmead Historical Park, has been getting a new lease on life the past two years with long-needed restoration and repairs.

Still a work in progress, the house has had major structural repairs to ensure its continued preservation and use as a showcase home of early Livonia history, according to Sue Daniel, Livonia Historical Commission chairman.

The public has several opportunities to tour the home in December.

The house is among Livonia's oldest. It was the Joshua Simmons House until 1920, one of many farms during Livonia's early days as a township.

Joshua Simmons III came to Livonia, then in the northern half of Nankin Township, Wayne County, in 1824. Seventh oldest of eight children of Revolutionary War hero Joshua Simmons II and Ruth (Andrews), he was born April 12, 1801 in Dighton, Mass. The family, with known descendants from the mid-17th century, moved that year to Bristol, N.Y.

\$1.25 an acre

Like his father, young Joshua went from school to farming and was on his own by 21, working on nearby farms earning \$13 a month. Two years later, in 1824, he went to Michigan, then a territory, using the old route through Ohio to select and purchase at \$1.25 an acre (the territorial rate) his own farmland — 160 acres.

He checked out his property after a long, arduous hike along Indian trails through the Middle Rouge River woods and the Territorial Road, now Ann Arbor Trail. While there were earlier pioneers in the township, Simmons was only the third to build a

house and start a farmstead. The first two were Henry Hunt and William Osband.

His property at Eight Mile (a.k.a. Base Line) and Newburgh roads was across the road from Oakland County and Farmington Township. There, he met John Thayer and Farmington founder Arthur Power. They told Joshua of an easier route from Detroit — northwest on the Grand River Road, then west on Base Line, one of the roads established by the Territorial Land Ordinance of 1785.

Joshua returned to his hometown to earn more money for his Michigan venture. While there, he wooed and wedded the girl next door, Hannah Macomber, in January 1826. That September, they went to Michigan by a different route — the new Erie Canal and across Lake Erie on the steamship Superior. With a horse, wagon and supplies bought in Detroit and two hired teamsters to haul their stuff, they went the more direct route to their property via Grand River Road.

When they arrived three days later, there wasn't a soul in sight, except for his friend John Thayer, who lived a mile north. Hannah stayed at the Thayers' home that night while Simmons and Thayer built a crude log cabin, calling to his wife the next morning by firing his rifle. It rained that night and the next day, but Simmons was determined to get started. Before winter, he built a more substantial cabin.

Originally named Meadowbrook

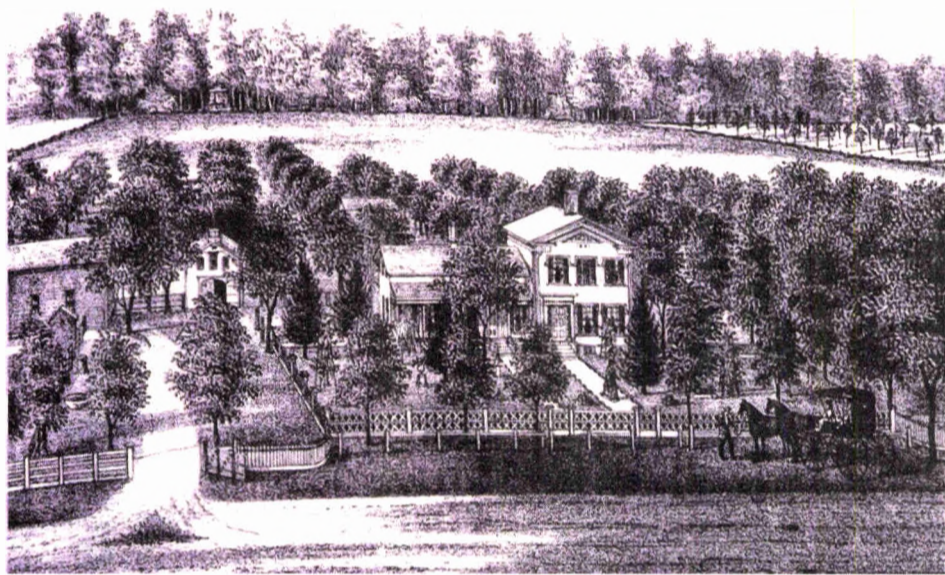
Over the next 50 years, the Simmons made their farm, called Meadowbrook, into one of the most profitable in Wayne County.

By the time the first of their seven children was born a year later, the farm was providing most of their food. Simmons eventually cleared and



The Simmons-Hill House at Greenmead Historical Park this fall.

GENE SCOTT



View of Simmons House from Eight Mile Road, 1860.

GREENMEAD ARCHIVES



Joshua Simmons III

ship after Livonia, N.Y., named for a village in Estonia that dates to the 12th century. It is the largest of six Livonias in the U.S.

For the 1841 township election, there were 207 registered property owners, 201 of whom cast votes. Earlier, Simmons had learned the value of a vote. He and a friend walked 10 miles to Dearborn to vote in the county election for the Rev.

See HISTORY, Page A15

tilled 120 acres, cutting down scores of trees and building a clapboard-sided home that's still there.

Simmons used his trade skills to build homes and barns for nearby settlers, including Erastus Starkweather of Plymouth. His own first barn, built in 1829,

remains on the property and is among the oldest barns in the state.

He built some of the first mills in Plymouth and Farmington, sawing and shaping the wood by hand. Joshua also started a foundry in Farmington, forging metals for making stoves and farm implements.

He traded at the store of George Collins, whose creek ran through Simmons' farm and still does, passing under Newburgh Road and through what is now Whispering Willows Golf Course.

In 1835, Livonia became a separate township. The residents named their new town-

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HISTORY

Continued from Page A14

Marcus Swift, who was running for county supervisor. The walk there and back took them all day. Swift won by two votes.

Home built in 1841

Also in 1841, Simmons had his elegant two-story, Greek revival-style home built at Meadowbrook. This was about the same time that Historic Fort Wayne was built on the Detroit River, in reaction to the Patriot Wars with Canada.

Meanwhile, the Simmons farm was thriving and had taken on several hired hands. The farm included several out-buildings and pens with dairy cows, horses, sheep and chickens, plus a carriage house and a house in which the help lived. Only their youngest child, Helen, was born in the new house.

By 1870, Simmons had retired from business and farming, leaving that to his sons Lawrence and Joshua Morrell. He also bought farms west of Meadowbrook for these two sons. For son Richmond and his wife Huldah (Power's granddaughter), he bought a farm in Oakland County. A fourth son, William, died at age 9.

The Simmons supplied milk for the Power family's cheese factory next door (where the golf course is now). Livonia cheese factories once produced a million pounds a year, most of it retailing at seven to 12 cents a pound.

Joshua Simmons died on his birthday, April 12, 1882. His wife Hannah lived another 12 years. Both are buried in Oakland Cemetery in Oakland County. At that time, the family legacy was surviving more strongly in Oakland than in their home county of Wayne. Joshua and son Richmond are included in early histories of Oak-



GENE SCOTT

A second barn and silo at the farm, circa 1877, also still stand.

land County, while there is hardly a mention in Wayne County histories.

A farmer, craftsman and politician (unpaid back then), Simmons was driven by hard work and challenges. Great-great-grandson Richmond Simmons, a retired physician now living in Mineola, Fla., said he was a vain and pompous man, extremely proud of his family.

Christmas 1875

He talked about a family Christmas in 1875 when Joshua had fancy gold watches made for all 31 of his children and grandchildren and spouses. After they opened their presents, the watches were hung on the tree so holiday guests could view the family's latest largesse. A month later, they bought the Simmons a fancy new horse and carriage for their 50th anniversary.

TOUR THE SIMMONS-HILL HOUSE

» Guided Christmas walks will be held through the Simmons-Hill House and Greenmead Historical Park 1-4 p.m. the first three Sundays in December. The Dec. 7 tour will conclude with entertainment featuring the Livonia Civic Chorus. Cost is \$3 a person.
 » A more extensive Christmas Walk and Tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Simmons-Hill House and five other Livonia homes. The cost is \$10, with no reservations required.
 For more information, call Greenmead at 248-477-7375.

Simmons' granddaughter Lucy German continued to live at the farm until 1915, when she sold the property to George Rackham. He was the brother of Horace Rackham, a Detroit attorney and major benefactor of the University of Michigan.

In 1920, the Rackhams sold the farm to Jean and Sherwin Hill, a prominent Detroit attorney. The Hills often passed the farm on their way to the recently opened

Meadowbrook Country Club, one of the several other places nearby called Meadowbrook. So they renamed their farm Greenmead.

The Hills continued the farm until his death in 1961. The Hill estate sold the property to the city of Livonia during the nation's bicentennial in 1976. Three acres of the farm property later were sold for the Greenmead Post Office.

The Simmons House was added to the Nation-

al Register of Historic Places in 1971 and a state historical marker placed there later.

Today, the Simmons-Hill House within Greenmead Park still includes nine other buildings, including a carriage house, caretaker's house, garage, two barns and several outbuildings – but no outhouses.

Greenmead also includes the restored homes of five other early Livonia residents, a church, schoolhouse, store, the former Quaker meeting house and four other buildings — all moved there to create a historical village. Together, they span nearly 100 years of early Livonia history. Since 2003, the village's main offices, meetings and events have been centered at the Judge Blue House (the one painted beige).

Meanwhile, restoration at Simmons-Hill House continues. Exten-

sive work has been done in the kitchen, sun room and basement. Window treatments, repainting and re-wallpapering are still on tap for the dining rooms, parlor, library and a first-floor bedroom.

Replacement or re-covering of period furniture in the downstairs rooms is being provided by the local Questers chapter.

Present sources of funds for Greenmead and Simmons-Hill House include the city of Livonia, Livonia Historical Society, Friends of Greenmead and the Questers.

Gene Scott has been a Livonia Historical Society member for about 12 years. He is a retired editor and teacher who has published four books on the histories of Michigan towns. The most recent is "Michigan Shadow Towns." He and wife Barb have lived in Livonia for 23 years.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW – PART 2

Rocks to bank on experience

Solid cast of six seniors ready to take team to next level

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last season was an undeniably emotional one for the Salem varsity girls basketball team.

Longtime coach Fred Thomann died in late December and the Rocks were left to pick up the pieces in January with a new coach, Lindsay Klemmer,

trying to keep the grief-stricken squad together.

Klemmer did an excellent job and so did the players, who found a way to be very competitive (12-9) for the rest of 2013-14.

But now comes the start of a new season and Klemmer wants nothing more than for the returning players — especially six seniors who either

will start or see yeoman minutes — to leave their high school careers on an up note.

“Yeah, I really had a connection with them after everything happened with Fred,” Klemmer said last week. “I really invested myself in them last year and the six of them are the core group of kids we

See ROCKS, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Salem's Jamyra Wilson (right) dribbles against a Canton player during a game from last season. She is one of the team's top returnees.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic makes one of his 43 saves Saturday night against Niagara. Here, he denies a bid by Anthony DiFruscia (No. 10).

BOUNCING BACK

Big game by Nedeljkovic, late goal lift Plymouth to 2-1 win

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

So far, nothing has come easy for the Plymouth Whalers this season, and that applied to Saturday's 2-1 victory over Niagara at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers, still smarting from a 9-3 loss Friday night at Guelph, thought they would be getting veteran defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto back after finishing a 12-game suspension.

They kind of did, for a while. Curcuruto injured his shoulder midway through the first period. Later on, forward Will Bitten took an elbow to the head and missed the final eight minutes.

Yet, the Whalers perse-

vered and skated off with the two points, improving to 9-12-1-1 and ending a four-game skid in which they were outscored, 26-10.

“It was a total team let-down yesterday (against Guelph),” Whalers coach Don Elland said. “And I give the guys all the credit in the world.”

“We challenged them; we went over film and we called a few of them out — that they got to be better and they all were.”

He joked the only player he thought *didn't* play well was goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, who stonewalled the IceDogs to the tune of 43 saves just one night after the Storm victim-

See WHALERS, Page B3



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Celebrating after scoring the winning goal Saturday is Plymouth Whalers forward Vincent Scognamiglio.

USA Hockey making play to purchase Compuware

Deal may be wrapped up by early '15; hope is for Whalers, youth program to remain

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

USA Hockey could be in line to acquire Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township, it was announced Monday.

Under such a scenario, the prestigious Compuware youth hockey program would remain at the Beck Road arena.

According to a joint press release from USA Hockey Foundation and Compuware Arena, an agreement is in place that “subject to due diligence” could result in a sale by the first half of 2015.

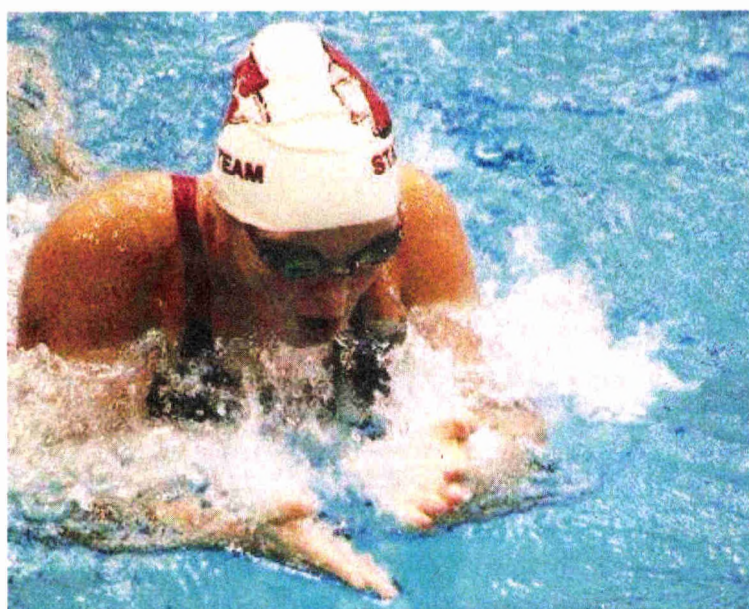
“Both parties felt it best to make public that there is intention to move forward with a sale, however, there are many steps in the process left to complete and nothing is final at this point,” Whalers governor Mike Vellucci said, representing Compuware Arena on behalf of arena and team owner Peter Karmanos. “It's important to note that the Compuware youth program would remain at Compuware Arena and be supported by Mr. Karmanos.”

“Further, Mr. Karmanos will continue to own the Plymouth Whalers. While there are likely to be questions, out of respect for the on-going process and confidentiality involved, we'll have no further comment.”

The press release did not indicate whether Karmanos intended to keep the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers at Compuware, however.

Last spring, Karmanos did not mince words when asked about the disappointing attendance for Whalers games at Compuware and said he would keep relocation options open for the team if metro Detroit

See COMPUWARE, Page B3



CANTON SWIMMING
Canton senior Emily Hugan competes in the 200 medley relay during Friday's preliminaries at Eastern Michigan University.

DIVISION 1 GIRLS SWIM FINALS

Park swimmers make splash at EMU

Bright spots abound for Rocks, Chiefs and Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Park swimmers enjoyed a field day or two at Eastern Michigan University last weekend, with Salem's incomparable Zhang twins grabbing a fistful of all-state medals.

But there were athletes from all three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity girls swimming and diving teams to show their stuff at the

Division 1 girls state finals.

Linda and Lisa Zhang had teammates also coming away with honors and accolades from the two-day event (preliminaries were Friday, with finals Saturday). The Rocks finished eighth in the team standings with 115 points.

Perennial powers Saline and Farmington Hills Mercy finished first and second with 267.5 and 262 points, respectively.

“Anytime you're in the top 10, I think it's pretty successful states,” veteran Salem coach Chuck Olson said.

The Rocks were paced by the Zhang sisters, who each earned all-state honors (top-

eight finish) in two individual events and as part of the 200-yard medley relay.

That relay team of the Zhangs and sophomores Molly Rowe and Katie Xu came in eighth (1:49.68).

Linda Zhang garnered a fourth-place finish in the 200 individual medley (2:05.84) and a fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.49).

Lisa Zhang took seventh in the 100 butterfly (56.54) and fifth in the 100 backstroke (57.30).

Xu also tallied an all-state medal in the 100 backstroke, taking the eighth spot with a

See SWIMMERS, Page B2

DIVISION 1 GIRLS SWIM FINALS

Marlins are runners-up behind champion Saline

Mercy freshman Katie Minnich is the individual champion in the backstroke; Skellett gets second

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Farmington Hills Mercy narrowly missed winning another state championship Saturday in the Division 1 girls swimming and diving competition at Eastern Michigan University.

The Marlins were runners-up to perennial contender Saline, 267.5-262. They have finished in second place two of the last three years.

Mercy was the defending champion and had won five consecutive state titles from 2007-11. The first four of those were in Division 2.

The Marlins were disqualified in the championship heat of the 200-yard freestyle relay. The minimum 22 points they

would have received was more than enough to secure a seventh victory in eight years.

"There were a lot of opportunities where we could have won the meet; that happened to be one," Mercy coach Shannon Dunworth said. "There's no point dwelling on any one of them. We certainly would have liked to win. Saline did a great job; I'm proud of my kids."

"Everything else is the results. As it is, we came up short. I'm not going to spend any time on ifs and buts."

Dunworth said he was happy with the meet overall and second place is still a fine accomplishment.

He added he was just as happy for the girls who scored in consolation

power. It's no surprise to me.

"Katie was a heck of a swimmer coming to Mercy. I think she planned on winning a year ago when she was thinking about high school. I'm not surprised, but it's certainly a great reward for her."

Sophomore Alaina Skellett, who was sixth in the breaststroke last year, finished second to Minnich with a time of 56.25.

Minnich also finished first in the prelims (56.36). Skellett was fourth (56.72) and moved up two places in the final.

"Alaina is such a rock-solid competitor and such a great kid," Dunworth said. "When Katie came here, the two of them got to train together."

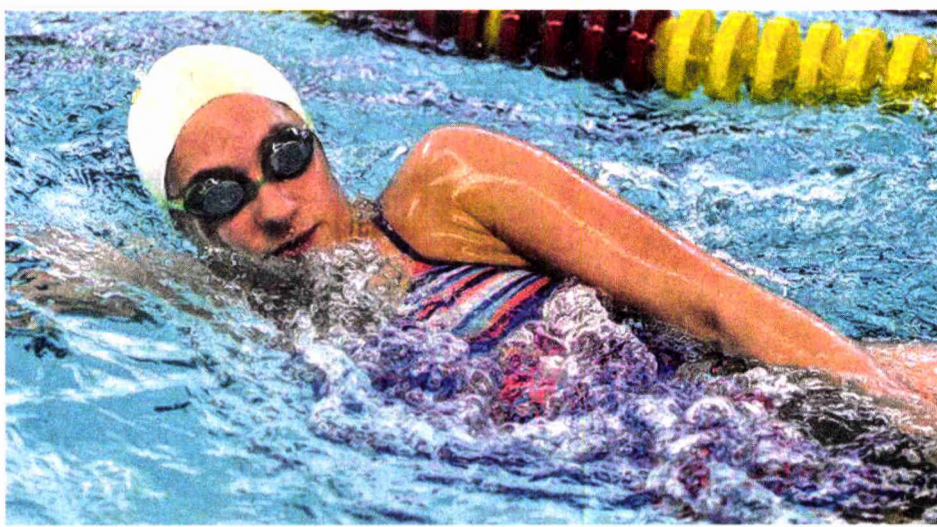
"Katie is strong under the water and Alaina is strong on top. The two of them improved this year, because they really helped each other."

"Katie made Alaina a better breakout swimmer and Alaina made Katie a better surface swimmer. It will be fun to have those two together for two more years."

Frosh wins state title

One of the great achievements by a Mercy swimmer was freshman Katie Minnich's victory in the 100-yard backstroke (55.06).

"The way she swims, everybody takes note," Dunworth said. "She's a tiny little thing, but she has tremendous will-



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Maddy Loniewski was third in the 200 IM and helped the Marlins win the medley relay.

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Big event for Mercy

The backstroke was Mercy's best overall event, with five girls scoring for a total of 48 points. Freshman Addy de Tassanyi was 11th (59.02), senior Michaela Bargardi 13th (59.16) and sophomore Jackie Baldus 16th (1:00.46).

"Addy had to come out of the 500 free, wait through the 200 free relay and jump right back into the 100 back," Dunworth said. "I don't know how she did it, but nobody does that. We thought we'd try it and what happened was the best that could happen."

"Michaela is a true gamer. She's skilled in just about any stroke. She knew we were counting on her to move up. She snuck in in the fly and moved up in the final and she did the same in the backstroke."

"If you're expected to score 20 points and you score 20, that's great. It's proportional to what you're trying to do come the end of the day. It's not all about the (top swimmers); it's as much about (the others, too)."

Minnich and Skellett also were part of the first-place medley relay team (1:45.00) with seniors Maddy Loniewski and Roxanne Griffore.

"The medley sets the stage," Dunworth said. "Everybody uses the medley relay to calm their anxieties. The medley is your key race. As has been typical in the past, the medley relay performed well again this year."

Other top finishers

Senior Kathleen McGee, junior Ellyse Conn, freshman Kendall Goit and Skellett were

second in the 400 free relay (3:31.26). Saline won the race (3:28.13).

Mercy had a pair of third-place swims from Loniewski in the IM (2:05.04) and Conn in the 500 freestyle (4:57.89). Conn also was fifth in the IM (2:07.27) and Loniewski 11th in the breaststroke (1:07.06).

"The 500 is a new event for Ellyse," Dunworth said. "She battled to win it until the last leg and she did a terrific time. Being her first year swimming that event, that's a big deal."

"She came right back and goes to the 200 and 400 free relays and did a great job in both. It's a unique combination. You have to be one tough cookie to handle and she did it extremely well."

Senior Roxanne Griffore finished fourth in the 50 freestyle (24.19) and seventh in the 100 (52.82). She was the defending champion in the 50, which was won by Grand Blanc sophomore Emma Curtis (23.60).

McGee placed eighth in the 200 freestyle (1:55.12) and ninth in the 100 (53.15). In the butterfly, Skellett was fifth (55.95) and Bargardi 14th (58.67).

Goit was 11th in the 200 free (1:55.39) and Minnich 12th in the IM (2:08.14); de Tassanyi was 10th and Goit 11th in the 500 free at 5:07.64 and 5:07.92, respectively.

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PLYMOUTH SWIMMING

Five Salem swimmers and one from Plymouth placed in the top 16 in the 100 backstroke. Pictured are Salem's Stephanie Solterman (left), Salem's Patricia Freitag (third from left) and Plymouth's Alexa Earls (second from right). Solterman finished 12th, Freitag ninth and Earls 14th. Also in the top 16 were Salem's Lisa Zhang (fifth), Katie Xu (eighth) and Molly Rowe (15th).

SWIMMERS

Continued from Page B1

time of 58.51.

Backstrokers from P-CEP were prominent in the top 16. Mercy and Salem each had five girls among the top 16, with Plymouth senior Alexa Earls also in that grouping.

"We had five backstrokers score in the top 15," Olson said. "I never thought we'd get all five of our backstrokers in at states."

Just missing out on an all-state honor in the 100 backstroke was Salem junior Patricia Freitag. She finished ninth (58.19).

In 12th for the Rocks was senior Stephanie Solterman (59.14), followed by Earls (14th, 59.37) and Rowe (15th, 1:00.21).

Also competing at EMU from Salem was freshman Jenna Chen. She was part of the 200 free relay, with Xu, Freitag and Solterman, which finished 21st at prelims (1:41.95).

Salem's entry in the 400 free relay placed 12th with a time of 3:36.32. In that race were the

Zhangs, Solterman and Freitag.

Canton stalwarts

Canton (22nd, 13 points) also boasted an all-state member in senior Claire Green (500 freestyle) as well as others who fared well during preliminaries.

"I was very proud of the way the girls swam," Chiefs head coach Ed Weber said.

Green finished seventh in the 500 with a time of 5:06.89. She also competed at Saturday's final in the 100 breaststroke, coming in 16th (1:08.80).

"She is a veteran at states and has represented the Canton team well," Weber said about Green. "She has already signed with Florida Atlantic to swim next fall."

Seniors Emily Downs and Jocelyn Moraw experienced their first state meet as part of the 200 medley relay, with senior Emily Hagan and junior Emily Osika.

The quartet came in 18th during prelims with a time of 1:53.98, missing by two places the chance to come back for the second day.

Hagan's time of 1:09.43

in the 100 breaststroke was good for 20th at prelims.

Record-breakers

Plymouth swimmers also enjoyed some podium time, as well as some team records. The Wildcats finished 28th overall with three points.

The Wildcats featured new school records registered by junior Allison Lennig (100 freestyle) and Earls, who broke her own record in the 100 backstroke with a time of 59.37.

Lennig finished with a time of 54.05 in the 100 free, good for 19th at Friday's preliminaries; she just missed the top 16 cut for Saturday's finals.

The 200 free relay team of Lennig, sophomore Isabella Giacobone, sophomore Kathryn Waters and senior Caylin Waters finished 25th at prelims with a time of 1:43.32.

"Our 200 free relay had good splits/swims from the girls on it," Plymouth head coach Kenn Forbes said. "Allison did a stand out job in all three of her events."

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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Wildcats top Pats for first victory of season

Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team earned its first win of the new season Saturday with a 2-1 triumph over Livonia Franklin at the Arctic Edge Arena.

Junior James Baldwin tipped in a centering pass from fellow junior forward Jake Silvester with 2:05 remaining in the second period to break a 1-1 tie. Senior defenseman Jared Merandi also assisted on the game-winning

goal. While the score was close, Plymouth controlled play most of the game and outshot the Patriots, 29-13. Head coach Gerry Vento said his team's play improved from the season-opening overtime loss Nov. 19 at Dearborn Divine Child.

"All we ask the kids to do is get better every game," Vento said. "I thought we did a good job carrying the play and lim-

iting chances. We still have a lot of work to do, but this was a good first step."

After a scoreless first period, the Wildcats opened the scoring with a power-play goal by junior forward Alex Bump 8:22 into the second period. Baldwin and junior forward Zack Weiner assisted on the score.

Franklin tied the game 1:50 later, when Trevor Lasaline banked in a shot off Plymouth

goalie Jared Maddock. Chase Wallis and Jonny Parkinson earned assists on the play.

After the go-ahead goal by Baldwin, Plymouth kept the puck in the Franklin end for most of the rest of the game. Franklin could muster only four shots on goal in the final period. The Wildcats controlled the play with an offensive zone fore-check that prevented the Patriots from pulling goalie Matt Monendo for a

extra attacker in the final moments of the game.

With Bump's goal, Plymouth scored on its only power-play opportunity of the game. The Wildcats killed off all three of Franklin's chances with the extra man, including a 25-second span when the Patriots had a two-man advantage.

Plymouth (1-1-0) was scheduled to play Wednesday against Park rival Canton at the Arctic Edge Arena.

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

have coming back.

"And they said to me they wanted me back for their senior year, so that's why I interviewed and took the position."

That core group of veterans includes post players Maranda Armstead and Shara Long, point guard Jamyra Wilson and shooting guards Hayley Rogers, Katie Latack and Allison First. They are leaders on and off the floor, Klemmer noted.

"All the underclassmen, they see what the seniors are willing to do and so they realize they have to put in that work and that time and that commitment," Klemmer said. "We had a big talk prior to the season with everybody about our goals."

"I know the seniors are on board for big goals, but I told the seniors, 'You got to get the rest of the kids on board.' Because they're not used to the kind of tempo that I'm coaching."

The epitome of the Rocks' tireless work ethic is First.

"She is relentless and never quits," Klemmer said. "She has worked on her shot quite a bit this summer and has definitely become a good spot-up shooter."

Plenty of versatility

Klemmer, a former player at Madonna University who went on to coach at Concordia University, said opponents (beginning with the opener Monday, Dec. 1, against Plymouth) won't be able to pigeonhole what any particular player brings to the court.

"I think the biggest thing we're going to have this year is versatility," Klemmer said. "People aren't just going to be able to guard our inside or guard our outside."

"Shara and Hayley both can shoot the ball, but you can also post them up and they can play with their back to the basket."

"I think we're going to have on the floor at all times five scorers. Especially out of those seniors, if you shut down one person, somebody else is going to step up."

The Rocks also figure to be pests on defense as they look for steals and transition points in hopes of challenging for the top of the KLAA Central Division.

"Defense is absolutely one of our strengths," Klemmer said. "I'm a very defensive-minded coach, so that's what we focus on a lot."

"Defensively, we're going to press. We're going to try to speed the game up a little bit, put the momentum in our hands."

Augmenting the seniors will be junior guards Leah Moss, Marisa Martin and junior forward Celeste Thomas, who stands about 6-0.

"You can't coach height, that's what she (Thomas) brings," Klemmer said. "Shara and Hayley are both about 5-11 on a good day."

"Celeste, she's really scrappy inside. I saw her in a scrimmage get five offensive rebounds in a row and just put them back up."

Quick athletes

Moss and Martin are excellent athletes who also play varsity soccer at Salem.

"They give us the speed and athleticism that I need," Klemmer said. "I can already see myself putting Leah on one of the other team's best guards."

"She's competitive, she works hard. I'm excited about the speed and tempo that they bring to our team."

Two other promising juniors vying for minutes will be guards Zoe Talley and Gabby DeLaCruz.

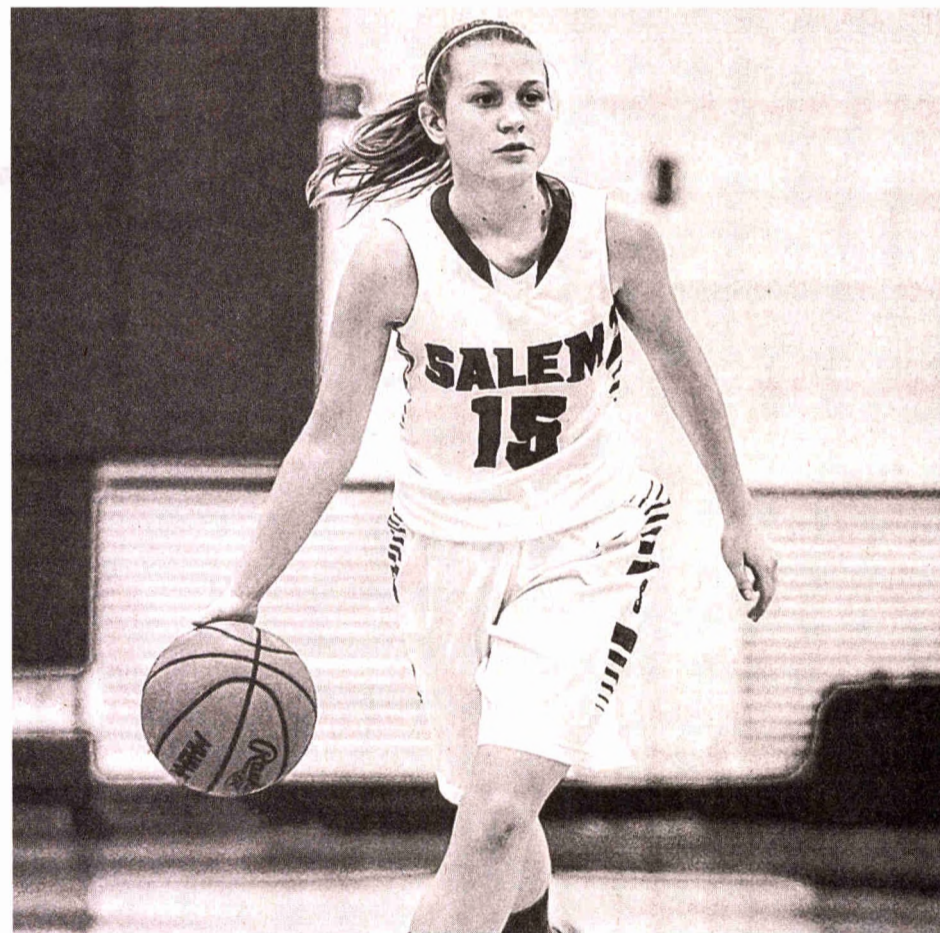
Rounding out the roster are two freshmen sisters who bring a wealth of potential — Jala Petree (5-8) and Lasha Petree (5-10). Both are wing guards.

Klemmer noted that she knows their dad, a professional basketball trainer based out of Livonia, from her days at Concordia.

"They're athletic, they're skilled



Going up for the ball last season is Salem's Shara Long (No. 34), one of six key returning seniors.



Katie Latack is another returnee for Salem's varsity girls basketball team.

because they've grown up around basketball," Klemmer said about the Petrees. "They've grown up training with their dad for the last 12 years."

The team is primed to do whatever it takes to spearhead the Rocks to a winning season.

"Our motto, and the girls put it on

the T-shirt, is 'Hard Work, Heart and Hustle,'" Klemmer said. "I preach that on a daily basis. As long as we do those three little things, we're going to compete in every game."

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WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

ized him for nine goals. Nedeljkovic was selected as the No. 1 star Saturday.

"He knows that (loss to Guelph) wasn't on him," Elland said. "You don't give up nine goals (and) it's just the goalie's fault."

Plenty of others contributed, including forwards Cullen Mercer (one goal, one assist) and Vincent Scognamiglio, who tallied the winning goal with a screen shot from the left circle that beat Niagara netminder Brent Moran with 5:54 left.

"Mercer was great; Scogs was great, not just because he got the goal," Elland said. "First time we used him on PK, because we just don't have bodies. Did a great job."

"Misty (Matt Mistele) was really good. Sonny (Milano), probably the best game he's played since he's been here. Everybody stepped up tonight and we needed to after we weren't very good last night."

Scognamiglio skated down the left wing and, using a Niagara defenseman as a screen, snapped a low shot inside the right post for the tiebreaker. Assisting were Mercer and defenseman Mathieu Henderson.

There still were some tense moments the rest of the way, particularly during Niagara's 10th power play of the night. Conversely, the Whalers only had the extra man four times.

The IceDogs (6-16-0-0) fired off one last salvo in the final minute but could not hit the target.

Elland emphasized that the kind of team effort that the Whalers displayed Saturday is what will be needed to stay in the playoff hunt in the OHL West Division. Plymouth still has 17 of 18 games remaining against division rivals Windsor, Saginaw and Sarnia.

"Until we get everybody back on board it's going to have to be all hands on deck," Elland said. "I know that's a cliché, but everybody's going to have to go."

Mercer, who was a forechecking force all night, got the Whalers on the board late in the first period.

Plymouth's power-play goal was set up by Mistele and Milano, who threaded a pass in front to Mercer for the finish.

At that point, Niagara carried the edge in play and a 16-5 edge on the shots board.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Novi's bid for state championship is foiled by Romeo

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Jen Cottrill described her team as "relentless and fearless," and that was once again on display Saturday in the Class A volleyball final at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

Although it battled from two sets down for the second straight day, Novi came up just short this time as Romeo, led by Gia Milana's match-best 29 kills, survived a five-set thriller to capture its first state title, 25-23, 25-22, 14-25, 25-27, 15-9.

Novi, which finished its best season in school history at 54-6-1, nearly duplicated its stirring semifinal comeback Friday when it rallied from two sets down to stun Grand Haven.

But Milana, a 6-foot-1 junior committed to Maryland, asserted her authority in the final set as she came up with six kills, including championship point.

"That's pretty miraculous to do in the first place, at this point, at this place in the state tournament. Twice is a lot to ask," Cottrill said of the back-to-back comebacks.

Jodie Kelly and Lauren Korth added 13 and 11 kills, respectively, for Romeo (45-8-1), which lost twice to Novi in the Seaholm tournament.

Victoria Iacobelli, one half of the potent 5-foot-9 junior outside hitting twins for the Wildcats, finished with a team-best 19 kills; sister Paulina added 14 kills.

Sophomore Alyssa Cummings, who came on strong in the third and fourth sets, also had 14 kills.

COMPUWARE

Continued from Page B1

did not increase its support of the major junior team in 2014-15. Attendance for most games this season has ranged from 2,000-3,000.

Still, team officials have long emphasized that Karmanos' first choice

would be for the Whalers to remain in Plymouth for the foreseeable future.

Comments from a USA Hockey official seem to reinforce that stance.

"Our intention is to relocate the National Team Development Program to the facility and also use it to host and showcase other USA Hockey programs and international events," said Ron DeGregorio, president of the USA Hockey Foundation and USA Hockey,

Inc. "In addition, keeping the current users of the building is important to both us and Pete Karmanos."

"There are a number of issues we're still working through, and while I know people will have questions, we'll have nothing further to say until a final resolution is reached."

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COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Zoned out: Lady Ocelots' offense struggles in loss

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was a good-news, bad-news afternoon for Schoolcraft's women's basketball team Saturday against Glen Oaks Community College.

The Lady Ocelots lost 51-50 in the non-conference match-up against the visiting Vikings, but Schoolcraft head coach Kara Kinzer wondered whether a few positive plays down the stretch might have made a difference.

Although the Lady Ocelots — particularly T'era Nesbitt and Jessica Parry — played stellar defense to keep Glen Oaks scoring threat Anika Gasich to just 11 points, the Vikings were able to grab some offensive rebounds and score key put-backs in the final minutes.

"If we would have made a couple different plays, where we would have boxed out defensively it would have a totally different game," said Kinzer, whose team dropped to 4-2 overall. "Those were huge put-backs by them. We played great defense (otherwise), we kept their top scorer to eight points. She averages six threes a game; she had one."

The Lady Ocelots trailed 27-20 at halftime, struggling to find an offensive rhythm against the Vikings' zone defense. Schoolcraft hit just 10-of-40 shots (25 percent) in the first half.

Things improved slightly in the second half, in part due to a number of transition points off steals (Rikki Sherdt had three steals, Sara Gammons and Wayne Memorial alum Ashley Bland had two



Schoolcraft's Elise Tolbert (left), shown from a recent game, had six rebounds in Saturday's loss to Glen Oaks.

each). "They played a zone on us and we kind of hesitated from it," Kinzer said. "They packed it in on us and didn't let us drive much, so that hindered our scoring ability."

Schoolcraft was led by Bland, who scored 17 points. Chipping in 12 points each were Gammons and Nesbitt.

Contributing 10 rebounds was Sherdt, while Gammons and Elise Tolbert registered six each.

Gasich and AuZhane King scored 11 points each for the Vikings, while Courtney Moore tallied 10 for Glen Oaks (4-2).

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Schoolcraft's Lito Booth (right), shown from earlier this season, led the Ocelots with 23 points Saturday against Glen Oaks.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Schoolcraft men's cagers survive Glen Oaks' surge

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Young Schoolcraft players getting used to the college basketball grind were taught a lesson in what happens when assuming a game is well in hand.

An apparent blowout turns into a bit of a nail-biter.

That's what happened Saturday afternoon, when Schoolcraft's men's basketball team led 74-49 midway through the second half, but needed to hold off a late uprising by Glen Oaks Community College to win 95-85.

"It's what having freshmen's all about," Ocelots head coach Abe Mashhour said. "Obviously, we're a very young team, so it takes some learning for them to understand they have to close out games a lot better."

"I thought we were terrific for 32 minutes, we played very well, we played hard. They need to understand that at this level, guys can make plays. Every guy on the other team's a good basketball player. That's why they're playing at this level."

Mashhour, whose squad improved to 8-1,

attributed much of the momentum shift during the second half to players getting "complacent" and not protecting the basketball.

Leading the Glen Oaks charge in the final eight minutes was guard Christopher Harris (23 points). He scored 12 points — including a pair of treys — as the Vikings closed the gap from 78-52 to 81-71.

Glen Oaks (4-1) actually cut the gap to six points (88-82) with 46 seconds remaining before Schoolcraft's Lito Booth (23 points) made four consecutive free throws the boost the lead back to 10.

"I thought our inside people played very, very well," Mashhour said. "After the first eight minutes of the game, we did an excellent job of ... keeping them off the offensive boards."

"We did quite a few good things."

Mashhour cited the play of 6-foot-6 freshman forward James Pruitt (Westland John Glenn).

"He stepped up for us. This was his first game where he played quite a few minutes," Mashhour said. "I thought he was terrific, did a lot of the intangibles, blocking

shots, rotating defensively."

Schoolcraft built a 50-36 halftime lead, bolstered by back-to-back threes from the right wing by freshman forward Marcus Williams (19 points, a team-high nine rebounds).

Booth, a freshman guard, stopped-and-popped from the top of the key to expand the Schoolcraft advantage to 61-42 with 17:30 remaining.

Freshman forward Davon Taylor (seven points, seven boards in 18 minutes), a Canton alum, went strong to the rack for a layup.

With the Ocelots' quickness and aggressiveness paying dividends, a steal by Taylor in the defensive zone led to a put-back by freshman guard Ja'Christian Biles (15 points), making it 65-45 with about 14 minutes left.

Schoolcraft really got it going for a minute or two when Biles threw down a pair of slams, sandwiched around a backdoor layup by freshman forward and Brighton alum Nathan Kamal, upping the Ocelots' advantage to a whopping 74-49 with 11:54 remaining.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Sioux City-bound MU clips Union

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Madonna University women's volleyball team had to win a play-in game Saturday to advance to the NAIA National Tournament and the host Crusaders answered the call.

Senior outside hitter Casey Gates led the way with 17 kills and three others reached double figures as the Crusaders (37-7) punched their ticket to Sioux City, Iowa, with a 25-21, 25-22, 21-25, 25-20 triumph over Union (Ky.) College.

Kayla Vogel added 14 kills, while Samantha

Geile and Emily Johnson each added 10 as 16th-ranked MU hit at a .309 percentage.

"It actually was a good match and a good opponent," said coach Jerry Abraham, who guided MU to a runner-up finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. "Union was very scrappy and had a couple of hard hitters. I thought we played real well on both defense and offense."

"We a great, great match from both Sam Geile and Casey Gates on the outside. Both kind of controlled the nets today. They had a lot of terminating hits, a lot of game-

changing kind of hits. Kayla Vogel and Emily Johnson were unstoppable on the slide and from the middle attack."

Junior setter Spencer Stokes, a transfer from Oakland Community College, racked up 50 assists and senior defensive specialist Amanda Obrycki paced the defense with 15 digs.

Twenty-four NAIA teams advance to play Dec. 2-6 at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

The Crusaders will make their third appearance and the 14th under Abraham, in his 28th year at Madonna.

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- Novi News • South Lyon Herald

Sunday Dec. 28th

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- Farmington Observer • Garden City Observer
- Livingston Daily Press & Argus
- Livonia Observer • Plymouth Observer
- Redford Observer • South Oakland Eccentric
- Wayne Westland Observer

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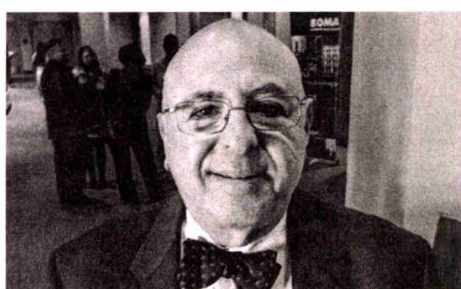
The Botsford Cancer Center in Farmington Hills, which was honored, has Farman Group as its management company. Adam Westrick is property manager, Botsford Hospital property owner.

Commercial real estate industry honored

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Metro Detroit (BOMA) held its annual awards program, The Outstanding Building of the Year (TOBY) and Leadership Awards Presentation, on Friday afternoon, Nov. 7, at the MotorCity Casino Sound Board, Detroit. The program honors outstanding leaders and commercial properties in the local commercial real estate industry.

The TOBY Awards, now in its 30th year, lauds the commercial real estate industry, recognizing excellence in office building ownership and management. Judging is based on community impact, tenant/employee relations programs, energy management systems, emergency evacuation procedures, building personnel training programs and overall quality indicators. A team of expert industry professionals conducted comprehensive building inspections.

"Each of this year's TOBY & Leadership Awards recipients has shown remarkable achievement in their respective categories," said Paul S. Magy, president of BOMA/Metro Detroit.



James Jonas of REDICO received a lifetime achievement award.

"These extraordinary professionals provide unsurpassed service and building management and each are commended for their commitment to the industry."

Leadership Award recipients were recognized for their contributions to the organization, the community and the greater industry. Recipients are:

» **Gina Goodin, RPA**, of CBRE, Property Manager of the Year; **John Guaridiola, RPA, LEED AP** of Bedrock Real Estate Services, Facility Manager of

the Year; **Ric Adkins** of Piedmont Office Realty Trust/Able Engineering Services, Building Engineer of the Year; **Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.**, Service Provider of the Year; and **Karen Skierski** of Comcast Business, Supplier Member of the Year.

» **Jason Gordon** of AlliedBarton Security Services, Emerging Leader; **Cindy Wiegand** of KIRCO Management Services, Outstanding Service Award; and **William Wylonis** of REDICO, the President's Award. **James Jonas** of REDICO was honored with a lifetime achievement award.

Twenty-two distinguished properties vied for first place in 8 categories for The Outstanding Building of the Year. The local winners are:

» Under 100,000 Square Feet - **m@dison**, Bedrock Real Estate Services, Detroit
 » 100,000-249,999 Square Feet - **Kennedy Square Office Building**, REDICO, Detroit
 » 250,000-499,999 Square Feet - **Oakland Towne Square**, REDICO, Southfield

» 500,000-1 Million Square Feet - **One Detroit Center**, Signature Associates, Detroit

» Corporate Facility - **1075 West Entrance Drive**, Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Auburn Hills

» Government Building - **Coleman A. Young Municipal Center**, Hines, Detroit

» Medical Office Building - **Botsford Cancer Center**, Farman Group, Farmington Hills

» Renovated Building - **Comerica Bank Center**, CBRE, Detroit

Metro Detroit TOBY winners will be invited to participate in the North Central Regional TOBY competition, including Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio, to qualify for the BOMA International TOBY Awards, one of the highest honors in the commercial real estate industry. Winners of the international competition will be announced at the BOMA International 2015 Every Building Conference and Expo in Los Angeles, in June 2015.

For more information on the TOBY and Leadership Awards, visit www.bomadet.org.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 14-18, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BIRMINGHAM

278 Baldwin Rd \$1,400,000
 375 Baldwin Rd \$2,100,000
 1225 Derby Rd # 1 \$104,000
 890 Emmons Ave \$358,000
 1621 Haynes St # 23 \$320,000
 1898 Humphrey Ave \$235,000
 2833 Manchester Rd \$295,000
 571 N Old Woodward Ave \$240,000
 819 Ruffner Ave \$190,000
 1958 S Bates St \$279,000
 555 Smith Ave \$460,000
 547 W Merrill St \$575,000
 1708 Washington Blvd \$357,000
 1737 Webster St \$745,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

2642 Aspen Ln \$250,000
 5154 Kellen Ln \$351,000
 2205 Cameo Lake Ct \$370,000
 204 Charing Cross Ct \$590,000
 5649 Kolly Rd \$340,000
 733 N Valley Chase Rd \$340,000
 726 Parkman Dr \$479,000
 4669 Ravine Dr \$960,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4681 Charing Cross Rd \$438,000

1155 Crestview Ave \$228,000
 4785 Dover Rd \$626,000
 630 E Fox Hills Dr \$70,000
 643 E Fox Hills Dr \$75,000
 6185 E Surrey Rd \$335,000
 1141 Fox Chase Rd \$480,000
 2658 Heathfield Rd \$328,000
 835 Pine Hill Dr \$495,000
 178 S Williamsbury Rd \$335,000
 1650 Trailwood Path \$135,000
 6295 W Surrey Rd \$265,000
 294 Wilshire Dr \$730,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

3229 Adele Ter \$833,000
 9030 Gittins St \$314,000
 4046 Heatherwood Dr \$282,000
 4566 Hideaway Pines St \$250,000
 8712 Ringwood Dr \$131,000
 1715 Trace Hollow Dr \$305,000
 218 Vinona Ter \$139,000

FARMINGTON

23008 Lilac St \$90,000
 33924 Macomb Ave \$215,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

22003 Arbor Ln \$237,000
 37465 Carson St \$120,000
 25749 Castlereigh Dr \$238,000
 31180 Country Blf \$110,000
 35472 Fredericksburg Rd \$220,000
 37853 Glengrove Dr \$355,000
 23355 Larkshire St \$175,000
 24537 Martel Dr \$205,000
 30829 Misty Pines Dr \$150,000
 29668 Orion Ct \$282,000
 25535 Ranchwood Dr \$275,000

29592 S Meadowridge \$206,000
 29569 Sierra Point Cir \$203,000
 33673 Vista Dr \$160,000
 27650 Westcott Crescent Cir \$150,000

FRANKLIN

32855 Outland Trl \$540,000

HIGHLAND

1966 Elkridge Cir \$330,000
 1901 Grove \$545,000
 4534 Teal Ct \$542,000
 1590 White Lake Rd \$225,000

MILFORD

833 Abbey Ln \$209,000
 410 Peters \$200,000
 343 River Wood Trl \$430,000
 1650 S Creek Dr \$265,000
 2991 Tall Timbers Dr \$938,000
 895 W Dawson Rd \$225,000

NORTHVILLE

21124 E Glen Haven Cir \$93,000
 47141 S Chigwidden Dr \$235,000
 20828 W Glen Haven Cir \$145,000

NOVI

51097 Almafai Ct \$548,000
 25230 Buckminster Dr \$263,000
 24503 Dinser Dr \$212,000
 51224 E Bourne Ter \$323,000
 50904 Glades Ct W \$100,000
 24806 Joseph \$185,000
 40628 Kingsley Ln \$384,000
 22836 Renford St \$90,000
 24548 Riverview Ln \$268,000
 31186 Seneca Ln \$228,000
 31076 Silverdale Dr \$205,000

45736 White Pines Dr \$430,000

SOUTH LYON

61522 Brookway Dr \$411,000
 52072 Copperwood Dr N \$361,000
 1107 Gallop Ln \$255,000
 21143 Greenbriar Ln \$370,000
 331 Harvard Ave \$160,000
 859 Hidden Creek Dr \$288,000
 1051 Paddock Ln \$253,000
 22280 Quail Run Cir Unit 1 \$151,000

SOUTHFIELD

52349 Red Cedar \$380,000
 450 W Liberty St \$175,000

WHITE LAKE

20981 Dartmouth Dr \$165,000
 24701 Harden Ave \$90,000
 18787 Jeanette St \$165,000
 18272 New Hampshire Dr \$169,000

24260 Norwood Dr W \$249,000
 26891 Princeton Ct \$200,000
 17231 Roseland Blvd \$73,000
 30284 Southfield Rd # A202 \$54,000

29155 W Chanticleer Dr \$110,000
 17660 Windflower Dr \$125,000

WAYNE

4302 Adams Cir \$55,000
 3724 Elizabeth St \$34,000
 33200 Forest Park Dr \$84,000
 33200 Forest Park Dr \$80,000
 4426 Nymman Ave \$90,000

WESTLAND

31020 Barrington St \$95,000
 34034 Cambria Ct \$21,000
 37609 Colonial Dr \$73,000
 33132 Creston St \$86,000
 547 Darwin St \$77,000

30936 Grandview Ave \$58,000
 31041 Hiveley St \$80,000
 31123 Mackenzie Dr \$83,000
 32841 Mackenzie Dr \$109,000
 34105 Majestic St \$120,000
 32105 Merritt Dr \$125,000
 1272 Michael Dr \$150,000
 7786 Millwood Dr \$200,000
 38180 N Jean Ct \$107,000
 39125 Palmer Rd \$178,000
 240 Pattingill St \$125,000
 804 Rahn St \$105,000
 29615 Shacklet St \$150,000
 1397 Shoemaker Dr \$43,000
 36081 Traditions Dr \$165,000
 38350 Warren Rd \$189,000
 32702 Winona St \$129,000
 1491 Woodbourne St \$81,000
 7630 Woodview St \$40,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 4-8, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

7515 Admiralty Dr \$250,000
 2230 Antique Ct \$535,000
 43459 Applewood Rd \$190,000
 4055 Berkeley Ave \$105,000
 39815 Cather St \$155,000
 555 Cherry Orchard Rd \$183,000
 6170 Courtland Dr \$220,000
 1630 Crestview Dr \$279,000
 2315 Fairmount Park Ln \$82,000
 44149 Franciscan Dr \$200,000
 51140 Glen Hollow Ave \$50,000
 43958 Harsdale Dr \$220,000
 5879 Hathaway Rd \$341,000
 2527 Hogan Way \$250,000
 45752 Larchmont Dr \$269,000
 42753 Lilley Pointe Dr \$90,000
 3407 Milcroft Ct \$200,000
 50044 N Wintergarden Ct \$88,000
 7225 Oakmont Dr \$335,000
 39661 Peters Rd \$160,000
 6835 Pittsford St \$255,000
 44638 Ridgefield Rd \$166,000
 6755 Tiffany Cir \$305,000

41824 Wild Turkey Ln \$200,000

GARDEN CITY

28975 Balmoral St \$77,000
 130 Harrison St \$56,000
 28731 Kathryn St \$73,000

LIVONIA

15017 Alexander St \$115,000
 28671 Bayberry Park Dr \$139,000
 9909 Berwick St \$175,000
 19004 Canterbury Dr \$283,000
 15525 Deering St \$185,000
 17663 Dolores St \$124,000
 9910 Doris St \$125,000
 35245 Elmira St \$145,000
 19005 Farmington Rd \$130,000
 14740 Hix St \$164,000
 19496 Ingram St \$155,000
 9403 Lathers St \$93,000
 9357 Marie Ct \$161,000
 18892 Mayfield St \$348,000
 29876 Mcintyre St \$137,000
 39206 Meeting House Ln \$212,000
 19183 Milburn St \$175,000
 29537 Pickford St \$136,000
 38122 Ross St \$191,000
 19602 Saint Francis St \$114,000
 20126 Saint Francis St \$80,000
 36529 Sherwood St \$191,000
 14448 Stonehouse Ave \$145,000
 14180 Susanna St \$155,000
 18331 University Park Dr \$93,000
 30246 W Chicago St \$155,000

NORTHVILLE

18311 Blue Heron Dr E \$455,000
 17017 Horseshoe Dr \$550,000
 16782 Lochmoor Cir W \$309,000
 17076 Lochmoor Ct \$300,000
 46556 N Valley Dr \$455,000
 19663 Northridge Dr \$110,000
 17372 Oak Hill Dr \$675,000
 17290 Stonebrook Dr \$525,000
 18393 Stoneridge Ct \$901,000
 45131 Walnut Ridge Ct \$544,000
 42090 Waterfall Rd \$355,000

PLYMOUTH

44601 Albert Dr \$160,000
 1093 Ann Arbor Rd W \$150,000
 46550 Barrington Ct \$290,000
 46550 Barrington Ct \$355,000
 11921 Chandler Dr \$390,000
 42044 Clemons Dr \$120,000
 11326 General Dr \$130,000
 975 Hartsough Ct \$185,000
 292 Pacific St \$245,000

REDFORD

9317 Appleton \$66,000
 16851 Brady \$20,000
 17233 Five Points St \$40,000
 18829 Five Points St \$72,000
 26260 Graham Rd \$154,000
 9967 Hemingway \$98,000
 18317 Lexington \$145,000
 8972 Lucerne \$400,000
 20407 Olympia \$549,000
 17674 Sumner \$67,000
 20492 Wakenden \$30,000

14220 Westgate Dr \$70,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Midlebelt and I-96.

Email jeorgia@addvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

Table with 6 columns: Mortgage Company, NMLS#, Phone, 30 Yr. Pts., 15 Yr. Pts., Rate. Includes 1SP Mortgage, 1st Choice Mortgage Lending, AFI Financial, Ameriplus Mortgage Corp., Dearborn Federal Savings Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Gold Star Mortgage, Gold Star Mortgage, Group One Mortgage, Zeal Credit Union.

Above Information available as of 11/21/14 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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HOMES. HomeFinder.com. Listings in Fenton, Milford, Westland, Farmington Area, Garden City.

RENTALS. Childs Lake Estates Homes. \$699 moves you in PLUS free rent until January 2015! Rentals starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath.

JOBS. Manufacturing, Competitive wages and benefits, High School diploma or equivalent required, Higher education and or exp a plus.

PETS. SHIZ TZU PUPS, Dogs. hometownlife.com

WHEELS. SIERRA 1500 2011, BUICK JEANOTTE, BUICK ENCLAVE 2009, BUICK ENCLAVE 2012, CHEVY EQUINOX 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, FORD EDGE 2011, NORTH BROS.

WHEELS. CHEVY MALIBU 1LT 2011, CRUZE 2011, CRUZE 2012, MALIBU 2011, CRUZE 2012, CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011, GMC TERRAIN 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, GMC YUKON 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, BOB JEANOTTE, SCION IC 2009, BOB JEANOTTE, SUBARU LEGACY 2011, NORTH BROS., ALLURE CXL 2006, NORTH BROS., GMC SIERRA 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, LACROSSE 2012, BOB JEANOTTE.

RENTALS. WESTLAND Holiday Park, HAMBURG TWP, FARMINGTON AREA, FARMINGTON HILLS, GARDEN CITY, WESTLAND.

RENTALS. \$699 moves you in PLUS free rent until January 2015! Rentals starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath.

JOBS. Manufacturing, Competitive wages and benefits, High School diploma or equivalent required, Higher education and or exp a plus.

WHEELS. Airplanes, Snowmobiles, Trucks for Sale, FORD F-150 XLT 2012, FORD RANGER 2008, GMC SIERRA 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, LACROSSE 2012, BOB JEANOTTE.

WHEELS. Cadillac, Chevrolet, MUSTANG 2008, FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, FOCUS SEL 2012, FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS.

WHEELS. Pontiac, Saturn, Toyota, COROLLA XLE 2009, NORTH BROS., MUSTANG 2008, FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, FOCUS SEL 2012, FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS.

Chrysler-Plymouth. CHRYSLER 2005 T&C VAN, SEBRING TOURING 2008, NORTH BROS., FIESTA SE 2012, NORTH BROS., FIVE HUNDRED 2005, NORTH BROS., FLEX 2013 LIMITED, FOCUS 2012 SEL, NORTH BROS., FOCUS SEL 2012, NORTH BROS., FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS., FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, NORTH BROS., GRAND CHEROKEE 1993, GRAND CHEROKEE 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, LEXUS ES 350 2008, MKZ 2011, MKZ 2012, MARINER 2008, MERCURY '92 Grand Marquis, NISSAN 14' VER-SA V.

WHEELS. 4 Wheel Drive, Buick, Sports Utility, CHEVY EQUINOX 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, FORD EDGE 2011, NORTH BROS., FORD ESCAPE 2014, GMC ACADIA 2010, GMC TERRAIN 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, GMC TERRAIN 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, GMC YUKON 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, BOB JEANOTTE, SCION IC 2009, BOB JEANOTTE, SUBARU LEGACY 2011, NORTH BROS., ALLURE CXL 2006, NORTH BROS., GMC SIERRA 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, LACROSSE 2012, BOB JEANOTTE.

WHEELS. Cadillac, Chevrolet, MUSTANG 2008, FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, FOCUS SEL 2012, FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS., FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, NORTH BROS., FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS., GRAND CHEROKEE 1993, GRAND CHEROKEE 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, LEXUS ES 350 2008, MKZ 2011, MKZ 2012, MARINER 2008, MERCURY '92 Grand Marquis, NISSAN 14' VER-SA V.

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RENTALS. HomeFinder.com. Listings in Fenton, Milford, Westland, Farmington Area, Garden City.

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JOBS. Manufacturing, Competitive wages and benefits, High School diploma or equivalent required, Higher education and or exp a plus.

PETS. SHIZ TZU PUPS, Dogs. hometownlife.com

WHEELS. SIERRA 1500 2011, BUICK JEANOTTE, BUICK ENCLAVE 2009, BUICK ENCLAVE 2012, CHEVY EQUINOX 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, FORD EDGE 2011, NORTH BROS., FORD ESCAPE 2014, GMC ACADIA 2010, GMC TERRAIN 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, GMC TERRAIN 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, GMC YUKON 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, BOB JEANOTTE, SCION IC 2009, BOB JEANOTTE, SUBARU LEGACY 2011, NORTH BROS., ALLURE CXL 2006, NORTH BROS., GMC SIERRA 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, LACROSSE 2012, BOB JEANOTTE.

WHEELS. Cadillac, Chevrolet, MUSTANG 2008, FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, FOCUS SEL 2012, FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS., FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, NORTH BROS., FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS., GRAND CHEROKEE 1993, GRAND CHEROKEE 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, LEXUS ES 350 2008, MKZ 2011, MKZ 2012, MARINER 2008, MERCURY '92 Grand Marquis, NISSAN 14' VER-SA V.

WHEELS. Pontiac, Saturn, Toyota, COROLLA XLE 2009, NORTH BROS., MUSTANG 2008, FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, FOCUS SEL 2012, FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS., FUSION 2010, FOCUS 2012 SEL, NORTH BROS., FOCUS SES 2010, NORTH BROS., GRAND CHEROKEE 1993, GRAND CHEROKEE 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, JEEP LIBERTY 2008, LEXUS ES 350 2008, MKZ 2011, MKZ 2012, MARINER 2008, MERCURY '92 Grand Marquis, NISSAN 14' VER-SA V.

WHEELS. 4 Wheel Drive, Buick, Sports Utility, CHEVY EQUINOX 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, FORD EDGE 2011, NORTH BROS., FORD ESCAPE 2014, GMC ACADIA 2010, GMC TERRAIN 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, GMC TERRAIN 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, GMC YUKON 2011, BOB JEANOTTE, JEEP LIBERTY 2012, BOB JEANOTTE, SCION IC 2009, BOB JEANOTTE, SUBARU LEGACY 2011, NORTH BROS., ALLURE CXL 2006, NORTH BROS., GMC SIERRA 2010, BOB JEANOTTE, LACROSSE 2012, BOB JEANOTTE.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cinemax rival
 - 4 Slangy summons
 - 8 Grayish morsel
 - 12 Nose-bag
 - 13 Flying prefix
 - 14 Gamblers' mecca
 - 15 Hot — rum
 - 17 Holm and Woosnam
 - 18 Foul smells
 - 19 Artists' lifeworks
 - 21 Big lug
 - 23 H. Rider Haggard novel
 - 24 Not taking sides
 - 28 Publicity provider
 - 32 Pothole filler
 - 33 Quick to learn
 - 35 "— we having fun yet?"
 - 36 Luau numbers
 - 39 Mischievous
- DOWN**
- 42 Scout leader, often
 - 44 Eland cousin
 - 45 Harassed
 - 49 Urban cruisers
 - 53 Mournful wail
 - 54 Subject to uniformity
 - 56 In — (as found)
 - 57 "— Bayou" (Linda Ronstadt tune)
 - 58 Ms. Peeples of TV
 - 59 Briefcase closer
 - 60 Desires
 - 61 Legal rep

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | O | A | T | F | E | M | P | I | G |
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| E | D | N | A | E | E | R | T | E | R |
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| T | H | A | I | B | I | C | S | P | E |
| T | I | D | I | N | G | A | M | U | S |
| H | O | E | S | C | I | L | U | T | E |
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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | | |

- 6 Sandwich cookie
- 7 Leaf junctures
- 8 Gibberish
- 9 Raise, as kids
- 10 Murray or Rice
- 11 Honcho
- 16 Easy gait
- 20 TV band
- 22 JFK watchdog
- 24 Last degree
- 25 Perfume label word
- 26 Search engine find
- 27 RN helper
- 29 Contented murmur
- 30 PC monitor
- 31 Thing on a ring
- 34 Give a ticket to
- 37 Makes sense (2 wds.)
- 38 "My gal" of song
- 40 Loosens
- 41 Magellan discovery
- 43 Triple Crown race
- 45 Antique auto
- 46 Charles Lamb
- 47 Diner sign
- 48 Edit out
- 50 Warrior princess
- 51 Put one's foot —
- 52 RBI or ERA
- 55 Thug's piece

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 2 | | | | |
| | | 2 | 5 | | 4 | 8 | | |
| | | | 9 | | | | | 7 |
| | | 1 | | | | | | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | | | | | 1 |
| | 8 | | | | | 9 | 6 | |
| | | | 4 | | | | 3 | |
| 8 | | 9 | | | | 4 | | |
| | 6 | | | | | | | |

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!

Level: Intermediate

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!

NOVELIST WORD SEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | S | R | D | E | E | M | V | S | O | I | N | Y | W | S | A | M | U | D | W |
| E | T | Y | L | A | J | F | I | N | R | S | O | A | J | A | M | E | S | J | R |
| L | E | S | O | D | U | S | N | S | T | L | T | Z | W | I | L | D | E | | |
| V | I | W | K | M | E | S | O | I | S | A | F | L | K | V | N | F | I | M | N |
| I | N | I | Y | L | M | N | T | L | N | E | I | T | S | I | R | H | C | P | O |
| L | R | F | P | H | L | K | O | E | M | C | V | N | R | O | V | E | S | V | S |
| L | V | T | Y | C | A | T | E | E | N | C | L | R | O | W | L | I | N | G | I |
| E | D | D | K | L | A | A | N | L | H | F | P | A | J | W | E | S | P | U | R |
| E | D | H | S | O | E | R | D | I | M | A | H | S | I | R | G | E | Y | N | R |
| E | V | F | V | R | N | B | R | E | A | C | F | K | K | R | C | D | A | W | O |
| F | O | F | E | W | R | P | U | O | F | W | V | T | Y | S | Y | D | W | F | M |
| A | N | I | Y | E | O | D | H | N | L | O | T | N | E | T | I | J | G | L | H |
| U | N | T | O | L | H | L | G | W | Y | L | E | T | A | C | T | G | N | O | R |
| L | E | Z | T | L | T | O | Z | D | B | A | N | S | K | U | E | R | I | O | W |
| K | G | G | S | R | W | E | L | T | S | A | N | E | K | E | S | F | M | W | J |
| N | U | E | O | W | A | G | T | N | V | F | N | J | T | R | R | D | M | U | E |
| E | T | R | D | I | H | A | K | R | D | S | G | N | O | E | A | M | E | V | C |
| R | O | A | T | B | H | I | E | S | C | Z | O | S | P | V | O | P | H | D | Y |
| I | J | L | T | C | N | C | P | A | L | R | U | P | S | A | N | D | S | J | O |
| N | M | D | U | G | D | A | N | E | B | N | O | D | N | O | L | B | D | S | J |

WORDS

- AUSTEN
- BRONTE
- BUNYAN
- CARROLL
- CERVANTES
- CHATT
- CHRISTIE
- DEFOE
- DICKENS
- DOSTOEVSKY
- DUMAS
- FAULKNER
- FITZGERALD
- GRISHAM
- HANTHORNE
- HEMINGWAY
- JAMES
- JOYCE
- KING
- LEWIS
- LONDON
- MELVILLE
- MORRISON
- ORWELL
- ROWLING
- SAND
- SINCLAIR
- SPARKS
- STEIN
- SWIFT
- TAN
- TOLSTOY
- TWAIN
- VONNEGUT
- WILDE
- WOOLF

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | S | A | N | D | W | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | I | L | I | T | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | E | I | N | V | I | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | O | O | K | Y | K | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| V | E | E | L | L | L | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | E | E | E | E | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | N | I | Y | E | O | D | H | N | L | O | T | N | E | T | I | J | G | L | H |
| U | N | T | O | L | H | L | G | W | Y | L | E | T | A | C | T | G | N | O | R |
| L | E | Z | T | L | T | O | Z | D | B | A | N | S | K | U | E | R | I | O | W |
| K | G | G | S | R | W | E | L | T | S | A | N | E | K | E | S | F | M | W | J |
| N | U | E | O | W | A | G | T | N | V | F | N | J | T | R | R | D | M | U | E |
| E | T | R | D | I | H | A | K | R | D | S | G | N | O | E | A | M | E | V | C |
| R | O | A | T | B | H | I | E | S | C | Z | O | S | P | V | O | P | H | D | Y |
| I | J | L | T | C | N | C | P | A | L | R | U | P | S | A | N | D | S | J | O |
| N | M | D | U | G | D | A | N | E | B | N | O | D | N | O | L | B | D | S | J |

Farmington Hills producer, Southfield singer team on Thanksgiving parade song

By Diana Wing
Correspondent

Cassandra Fitch was a sophomore studying dietetics at Michigan State University when she picked up a guitar, started to write songs based on her poetry, and found that she could sing — outside the shower. Over the last few years, Fitch's musical hobby turned into a new career with opportunities she had never dreamed of. The Lathrup Village native will kick off America's Thanksgiving Parade at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, with a live performance of the new song *Tell Me I'm Not Dreaming*. Dan Yessian, Farmington Hills music producer and writer, penned the upbeat tune that celebrates Detroit's revival.

"I'm very excited about it," said Fitch, who drew Yessian's attention last year with a video of her song *Free Fall*.

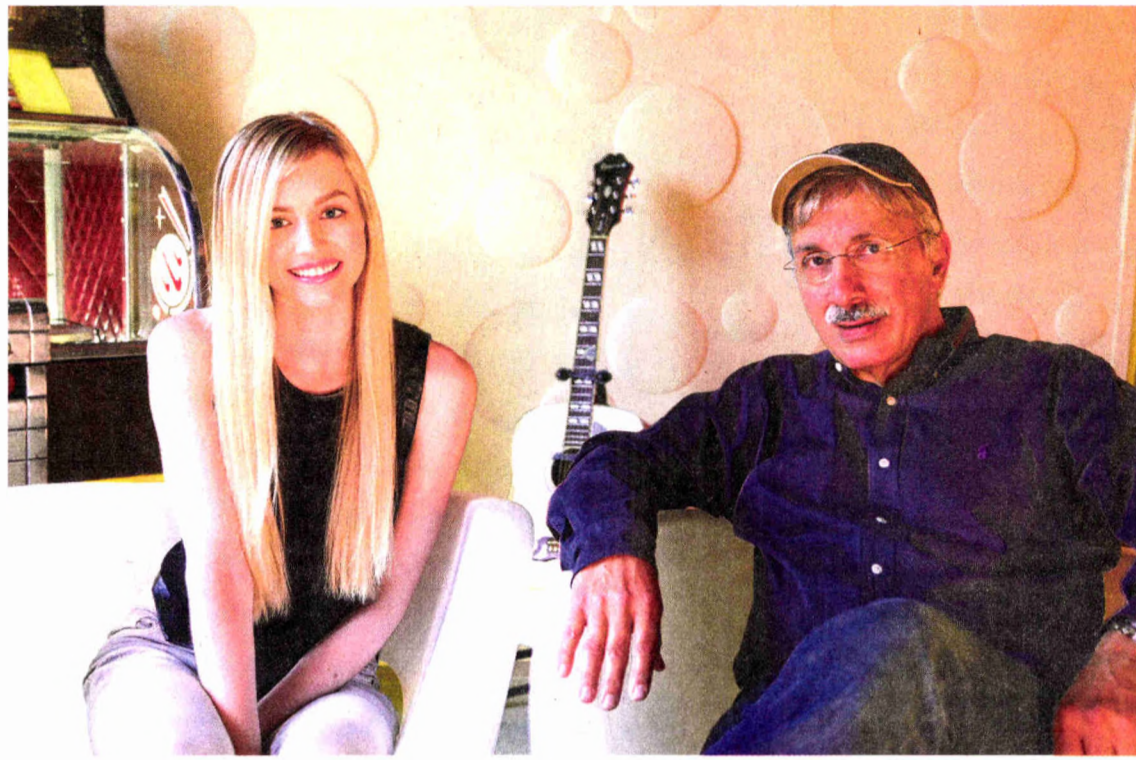
"A friend of mine, Brad Kinnan, produced a music video for me in downtown Lansing. It was my first music video while I was at school," she said. "I put it out on YouTube to see the reaction I'd get, and Dan ended up seeing it."

While Fitch speaks in a soft, sweet, rather quiet manner, Yessian was surprised by her "captivating, soul-filled" voice.

"I just didn't expect to hear that mature of a voice coming out of her ... she wasn't really singing professionally anywhere," he said. "I was delightfully surprised when I heard her sing."

For the last year, Fitch has been writing songs, recording and collaborating with Yessian under a new record label, Late to the Plate, which was formed to help launch her career.

Fire, her first official music



Cassandra Fitch will sing "Tell Me I'm Not Dreaming," a song written by Dan Yessian, at America's Thanksgiving Parade, Thursday, Nov. 27, in Detroit.

SUBMITTED

video, was released in September. The video was directed by photographer/producer Christos Moisides. Fitch wrote the song, which is all about the "blindness of love."

"That song is about how there can be extreme love and extreme hate, and sometimes people can be so wrapped in the good that they don't take in all the bad," Fitch explained. "I wanted to bring out that inner battle that someone has with themselves when they're in that relationship."

Yessian and Moisides were delighted with her acting skills, her ability to absorb the character she portrays.

Realizing a dream

The record label name, Late to the Plate, symbolizes the new career directions taken by Yessian and Fitch.

"My sons (Brian Yessian and Michael Yessian) have given me the ability to be able to get off the hot seat of running a company that produces music for commercials, productions and TV shows ... something that I've done for the last 40 years ... I'm finally able to realize a dream of producing and writing with and collaborating with a singer," Yessian said. "For Cassie, it's because late in her career at

college, when she thought her career would be as a dietitian, she made this U-turn for music."

Yessian pointed out the huge role that social media plays in the music business. Keeping current on all social media platforms is vital.

"While you are in this journey, you try to be ubiquitous so that you can find opportunity because it's still going to take some special break. I'm fairly well connected but even with that, there are the powers that be that you have to satisfy, or find that light where you can walk your way into something," Yessian said.

AMERICA'S THANKSGIVING PARADE

» See it in person
The 88th annual parade starts at 8:50 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, at Woodward Avenue and Kirby and marches south to Congress, in downtown Detroit. Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Olympic gold medalists, are the parade marshals.
» Watch it on television
WDIV Local 4 parade review is at 8 a.m., with parade coverage at 9 a.m.
» Listen to it on radio
WJR AM-760 broadcasts live from the parade route, beginning at 8 a.m.

The music business may be difficult to penetrate, but Yessian and Fitch are enjoying the journey.

"I am 70 years old and Cassie is 22. Her grandfather is younger than I am," Yessian said, laughing. "This is a very interesting proposition for me because I get to kind of live through the eyes of youth. To see her excitement, I find exciting too."

"Even though I was going into dietetics," Fitch said, "being creative and writing and being on this journey is what's really in my heart. For Dan to see the potential in me and work with me in this way means so much. This is the best time in my life so far. I love it."

Learn more about Cassandra Fitch and her music at www.Cassandra.com. For more about Yessian music, visit yessian.com.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

ART POTTERS MARKET

Time/Date: 2-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 7

Location: The Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen at Civic Center Drive, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Southfield

Details: Nearly 35,000 pottery items by 145 potters are available for purchase. Includes from pots, vases, platters, tiles and mugs to bird baths, jewelry, ceramic framed mirrors, sculpture, lamps, tile-topped tables and more. Admission is free. Preview sale runs 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, and costs \$10 at the door

Contact: 248-554-4470; thepotters-market.com

VAAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5-14; opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Location: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), 37653 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: One-of-a-kind holiday gifts created by area artisans include pottery, fiber, hand blown glass, jewelry and other accessories, wood items, clothing, ornaments, framed and unframed art and more. Items in every price range.

Contact: 734-838-1204; vaalart.org

DANCE

THE NUTCRACKER

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Salem High School auditorium, located in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, on Joy, west of North Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, with the Michigan Philharmonic, tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for children and \$3 for the Sugar Plum Parade, held after the show

Contact: plymouthcantonballet.org

FILM

FARMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington

Details: See *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas* for free with donation of a new book, toy, or canned or boxed foods for Farmington Area Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program. A surprise winter princess movie will screen at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Contact: farmingtonareagoodfellow.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: Weekends through December

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *It's a Wonderful Life*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7; *Miracle on 34th Street*, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14; *Christmas Vacation*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and 7



SUBMITTED

See "Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas" for Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Farmington Civic Theater. Admission is a new book, new toy or canned or boxed foods for the Farmington Area Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program.

p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; *The Polar Express*, 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21. All seats \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 6

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: *Christmas Vacation*, \$5; Santa visits the theater — bring your camera

Coming up: *White Christmas*, \$5; Santa visits

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit runs through Jan. 11, 2015. The exhibit features scenes from stories and movies, such as *Elf*, *Polar Express* and *A Christmas Carol*. The Museum's Main Street also is decorated for the holidays. Beginning Nov. 29, Santa visits every Sunday until Christmas and will be on hand for the annual craft bazaar and open house, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

HOLIDAY LIGHTS LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along four miles of Hines Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between Warren road and Ann Arbor Trail in

Westland

Details: Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car

Contact: 734-261-1990; parks.waynecounty.com

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Nov. 28-30 and Dec. 5-7, 11-14, 18-23 and 26-31

Location: The Detroit Zoo, located on the I-696 service drive at Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak

Details: More than five million lights illuminate buildings, trees and animal sculptures through a portion of the zoo. The event includes photos with Santa Paws, carousel rides, The Polar Express 4-D Experience, ice carving, arts and crafts. Admission for ages 2 and older is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate; parking is \$6 per car. Buy tickets online at www.detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights, at Detroit Zoo main admissions, or Kroger stores

Contact: 248-541-5717

MUSIC

BECKRIDGE CHORALE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville

Details: "Wonder of Christmas" concert; tickets \$15 and \$18

Contact: beckridgechorale.org

CANTON CONCERT BAND

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Dec. 13

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Christmas concert; tickets \$12

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org

CHERRY HILL SINGERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13

Location: Hillside Middle School, 775 N. Center in Novi

Details: "Home for Christmas" concert; tickets, \$12

Contact: beckridgechorale.org

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Harrison High School, 29995 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: A Festival of Music will include seasonal music by the concert band and some jazz standards by the FCB Big Band

Contact: fcbmusic.org

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 19-20

Location: Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: "35 Years of Holiday Cheer" will feature Christmas favorites from the past 35 years. Tickets in advance are \$12; at the door, \$15

Contact: farmingtonchorus.com

HOLIDAY SING

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 13

Location: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Matt Watroba leads a holiday sing-along; tickets are \$5

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org

LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" program; advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students, \$15 at the door

Contact: 734-542-9071; livoniacivicchorus.org

LIVONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Features *Nutcracker* excerpts with Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance; tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students

Contact: livoniasymphony.org

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11

Location: Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Holiday Pops with the Phil includes Christmas carols, sounds of Hanukkah and holiday pop favorites, such as Rock the Bells and music from *Home Alone*. Kristen Tait plays xylophone at the 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$25 for seniors, 62 and over, and \$10 for students with ID

Contact: michiganphil.org

REDFORD CIVIC SYMPHONY

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Admission is free; bake sale and afterglow follow the concert

Contact: redfordsymphony.org

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Time/Date: Noon Wednesday, Dec. 3

Location: VisTaTech Center, on the main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: The Paul Keller Ensemble performs Christmas music in this free concert

Coming up: The Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Improvisation Combo presents Winter Wonders concert, 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, in the Diponio Room of the VisTaTech Center; free

Contact: 734-462-4403; schoolcraft.edu/music

TWELFTH NIGHT SINGERS

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, Woodward at Albany, south of Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: The a cappella choral group performs in renaissance costume and will sing sacred and secular music for its Christmas concert, "A Season of Light and Peace." Free-will offering will be collected

Contact: 248-544-4631; twelfthnightsingers.com

SHOPPING AND MORE CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH

Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11

Location: Downtown Plymouth

Details: Shoppers will sing along with the Cherry Hill Singers, hear music by the Schoolcraft College Brass Ensemble, and Evenin' Gentlemen barbershop quartet, take \$5 horse and carriage rides and find store specials

Contact: plymouthmich.org

THEATER FOREVER AFTER PRODUCTIONS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 4-5 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: *A Christmas Carol the Musical*; tickets, \$22

Contact: 734-547-5156; foreverafter-productions.com

METRO DANCE AND MUSIC

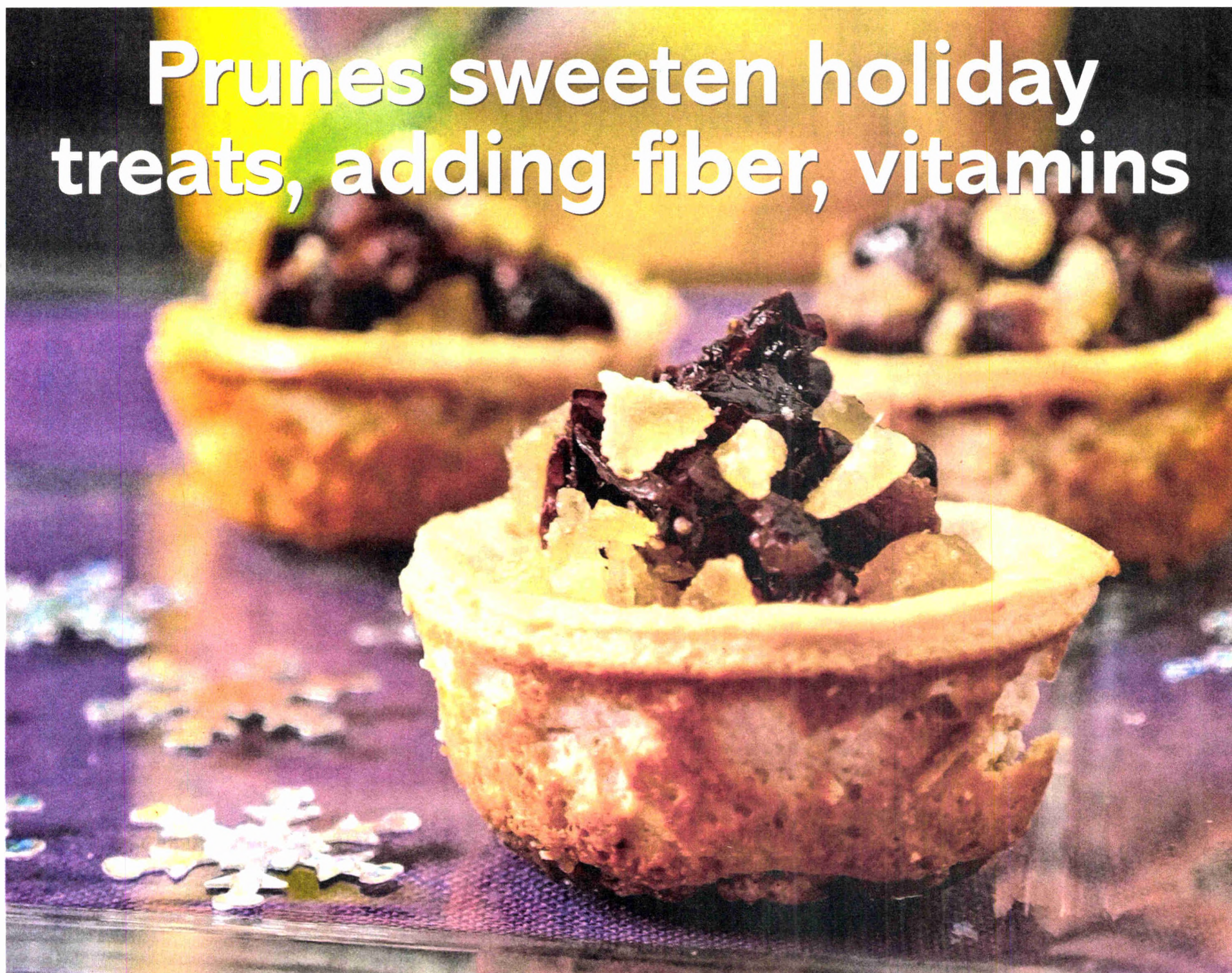
Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: *Christmas Around the World*, is a holiday musical that tells the story of Santa's elves working as "newsies" traveling the globe collecting stories of the different traditions and holiday customs while the North Pole readies for Santa's arrival. Caroling and a bake sale before the show. Tickets are \$12; buy a family four-pack for \$40

Contact: metrodancecompany.com

Prunes sweeten holiday treats, adding fiber, vitamins



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Gingersnap Prune Cheesecake Bites

Cookies, cakes and pies are the typical treats associated with the holidays, but there are other ways to celebrate the sweetness of the season. Flavorful appetizers, beverages and snacks can also carry those richly sweet tastes you crave.

According to registered dietitian Dawn Jackson Blatner, healthy swaps can be easy and flavorful with just a little planning. Whether you're eating out or hosting your own holiday bash, there are ways to choose more healthful options for your celebrations.

To help you enjoy all the sweet dishes of the season, Blatner created the following recipes which feature one of her favorite ingredients — prunes. This versatile ingredient can sweeten up dessert, provide balance to a savory appetizer and add body to a slimmed-down version of hot chocolate, while providing fiber and other nutrients.

Keep portion control in mind and remember that giving into cravings in a small way can minimize the chance of over-indulging later. For a skinny take on a popular holiday dessert, top simple bite-size cheesecake with juicy prunes and tangy ginger. The use of Greek yogurt instead of cream cheese keeps calories down but protein up, and SunSweet's Plum Amaz!ns top it off for a sweet fruit flavor. In fact, using 1 1/4 cups 2 percent plain Greek yogurt instead of the same amount of regular cream cheese saves more than 700 calories while adding 12 grams of protein per recipe.

Finding the perfect holiday appetizer that is both delicious and healthy is not always easy. Substitute fruit in dishes where veggies are more expected, such as a decadent bruschetta. Dress up toasted

baguettes with balsamic-prune relish and goat cheese for a taste that is nothing but a sweet reward, and delight your fellow party goers with a tasty appetizer they can also feel good about.

Reducing fat

Remember that beverages can pack a big calorie punch, especially with specialty flavors and syrups added in. Ward off the chill in the air with a sweet, new and reduced fat version of hot chocolate. Adding prunes and prune juice is a surprising way to reduce fat and still enjoy the rich and creamy flavor of this classic drink. The prunes act as a fat mimic, providing body and thickness while complementing the chocolate taste.

Typical hot chocolate recipes using whole milk can have more than 5 grams of fat per serving, whereas this lightened up version has only 3 grams of fat per serving if made with 2 percent milk.

Looking for a DIY gift idea that is delicious and indulgent without the guilt? Swap out the typical cookie platter for a wholesome alternative in a jar. Tied with a pretty bow or raffia, a Mason jar filled with sweet and crunchy trail mix makes a perfect present from the heart. PlumSweets provide the goodness of real fruit with diced prunes dipped in rich dark chocolate. Combine them with heart-friendly nuts and whole grain cereal for a snack that tastes too good to be good for you.

Get started with these delicious recipes created by Dawn Jackson Blatner, and visit www.sunsweet.com for additional recipes.

GINGERSNAP PRUNE CHEESECAKE BITES

Servings: 12

- 1 1/4 cups 2 percent plain Greek yogurt
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons coconut sugar
- Cooking spray
- 12 small gingersnap cookies
- 1/2 cup Plum Amaz!ns
- 2 tablespoons minced candied ginger

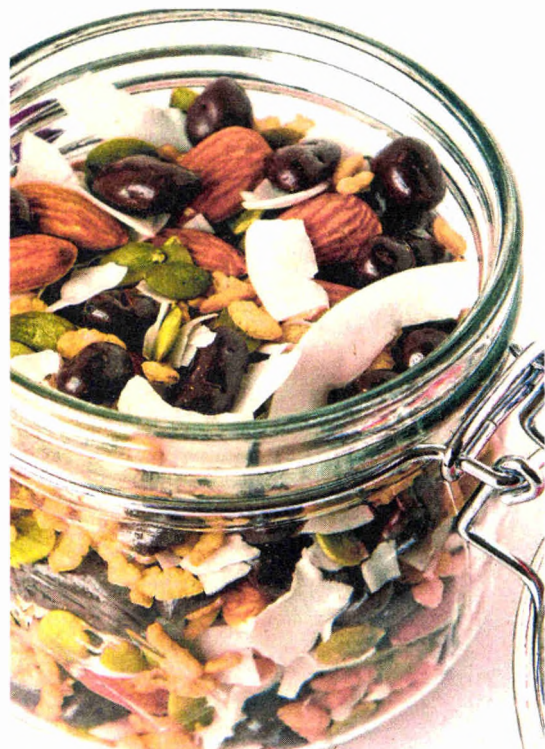
Preheat oven to 325°F. Combine yogurt, egg and coconut sugar in medium bowl and stir by hand until smooth. Mist mini-muffin tin with cooking spray. Place gingersnap cookie at base of each mini-muffin mold. Note: If cookie is too large, use fine cheese grater or knife and trim to fit. Fill each muffin tin to top with yogurt mixture. Bake for 35 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for 10 minutes. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes to set. Stir together Plum Amaz!ns and ginger. Top each mini-cheesecake with Plum Amaz!ns mixture.

PLUM MASON JAR TRAILMIX

Servings: 5 cups (20 1/4-cup servings)

- 1 cup almonds
- 1 cup pepitas (green pumpkin seeds)
- 1 cup large unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1 cup favorite whole grain cereal (such as puffed brown rice)
- 1 cup SunSweet PlumSweets (use PlumSweets dark chocolate or Greek yogurt)

Combine all ingredients in bowl. Spoon mixture into Mason jars.



BALSAMIC PRUNE & GOAT CHEESE BRUSCHETTA

Servings: 12

- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 12 prunes, quartered
- 12 slices (1/4-inch each) sourdough baguette, toasted
- 3 ounces soft goat cheese
- 1 cup arugula (about 36 leaves)
- 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts

Simmer vinegar and onion about 8 minutes, until onion is tender. Add in prunes until warm, about 3 minutes. Top each baguette slice with 1/4 ounce goat cheese, 3 arugula leaves, 1 tablespoon prune mixture and 1/2 teaspoon walnuts.

PRUNE-SPICE HOT CHOCOLATE

Servings: Three 1/2-cup servings

- 2 cups reduced fat dairy or plant-based milk
- 4 prunes
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup prune juice
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch cayenne
- Pinch sea salt

Add all ingredients to blender and puree until smooth. Heat mixture until almost boiling in pan on stovetop or in mugs using microwave.

Special events celebrate the holiday season



CANTON BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

When: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton
Details: Tickets on sale at the Summit Front Desk (no online sales) and conclude Dec. 1. Get your picture taken with Santa, make a craft and enjoy a Christmas story. Tickets are 3 and under: \$4 resident and \$5 nonresident; ages 4-12: \$15 resident and \$18 nonresident; and 13 and up: \$19 resident and \$23 nonresident. Children will also receive a holiday souvenir, crayons, and a place mat to color. Table seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

CANTON TREE LIGHTING

When: 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3 (official tree lighting at 6:30 p.m.)
Where: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton
Details: Kick off the holiday season with the annual Township Tree Lighting Event. The official tree will be lit and special festivities will take place both indoors and outdoors. Join in for seasonal entertainment, crafts, activities, refreshments and visits with Santa! No registration necessary. \$5 per family.

FAMILY HOLIDAY FEST AND MILL LIGHTING

When: 3:30-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
Where: Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland
Details: Join us for an old-fashioned celebration of the season at historic Nankin Mills. From 3:30-5:15 p.m., families can participate in unique holiday games and make several seasonal crafts. The second part of the program features a community sing-along, mill lighting and special visit from St. Nick. Cost is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult for crafts and games. Add \$1 for out of county residents. Pre-registration required. For more information, call 734-261-1990.

FARMINGTON HOLLY DAYS

When: Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Downtown Farmington
Details: Get that warm, nostalgic feeling of old as you stroll through downtown Farmington listening to carolers, sampling freshly baked cookies while sipping hot chocolate. Bring family and friends to see the free Holiday Movies at the historic Farmington Civic Theater. Join the tree-lighting celebration at the Gov. Warner Mansion. There will be a visit from Santa and activities for all the kids to enjoy. Entertainment, food and lots

of holiday spirit will be aglow. The Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce will host Holly Days in 2014. The Farmington Winter Market will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 6 at the American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River Ave. in downtown Farmington.

FARMINGTON HILLS BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

When: 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14
Where: The Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.
Details: Cost is \$13 for residents, \$18 for nonresidents. Register by Dec. 7 or until sold out. Special breakfast with Santa with time to share your Christmas list. Each child receives a gift and picture with Santa.

FARMINGTON HILLS HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXPO

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14
Where: The Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Vendors, crafts and food and refreshments. Admission is free.

FARMINGTON HILLS KWANZA CELEBRATION

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Second floor auditorium of Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: No registration, all ages welcome. Hear stories, see dancers, learn about Kwanzaa, enjoy food samples. Hosted by the African American Family Network.

FARMINGTON HILLS STORIES AND COOKIES WITH SANTA

When: 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5
Where: The Longacre House, 24705

Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Cost is \$8 for residents and \$13 for nonresidents. Milk and cookies by the fire while Santa reads a holiday story, afterwards each child gets an individual visit with Santa. Register by Nov. 28 or until sold out.

FARMINGTON HILLS TREE LIGHTING

When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2
Where: By the fountain area outside city hall, 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.
Details: Trees will be illuminated along with a 20-foot candle. The festivities will include songs performed by members of the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre, directed by Mel Sheatzley with the Actors Avenue. After the ceremony, refreshments will be served inside Fire Headquarters, and Santa will visit.

GARDEN CITY SANTALAND PARADE

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29
Where: The parade will begin at Garden City High School, travel south on Middlebelt Road, turn east on Ford Road and conclude on Central Street.
Details: One of Garden City's oldest traditions, the 54th annual parade will feature marching bands, floats and balloons, as well as a visit from Santa during post-parade events. The theme of this year's parade is "Christmas Through the Decades." KT Maviglia, Miss Michigan 2014, will be one of the 54th Santaland Parade Grand Marshals. Many past Miss Michigans have served as Grand Marshals. More information can be found on the parade's website at www.santaland-parade.com.



Walk through Kellogg Park and see the Christmas trees and visit with Santa every weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. File Photo.

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HIGHLAND TREE LIGHTING, FESTIVAL OF TREES

When: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8

Where: Veterans Park at the corner of Livingston and John streets in downtown Highland.

Details: Spring Mills Elementary honor students will lead attendees in carols and will help summon Santa and Mrs. Claus. Families can get their pictures taken with Santa at the Highland Station House across the street. Cider and cookies will be offered. In addition to the township tree lighting, the Highland Downtown Development Authority is having a Festival of Trees to celebrate the new streetscape and light it up for the holidays. Once all trees are decorated by Dec. 1, the public will vote and a "People's Choice" winner will be crowned.

LIVONIA LUNCH WITH SANTA

When: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Where: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, southeast corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads

Details: Children are invited to have lunch with Santa. Cost to attend is \$5 per person and includes a lunch of pizza, drink and chips; crafts, games and a special visit from Santa. Attendees will also take home a souvenir picture of them with Santa. Advance registration is required. Call the Livonia Parks and Recreation office at 734-466-2410.

LIVONIA TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2

Where: Livonia City Hall and Civic Center Library, Five Mile and Farmington roads

Details: The public is invited to sing holiday carols with the Livonia Civic Chorus, visit Santa, make holiday crafts, watch a magic show and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Refreshments will be served at the Civic Center Library. There is no charge to attend. Co-sponsored with Livonia Rotary Club, Livonia Libraries, Livonia Civic Chorus, Livonia Parks and Recreation and Busch's Fresh Food Market in Livonia.

MILFORD CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

When: 5:45-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Where: Main Street in downtown Milford.

Details: Get in the spirit of the season. Enjoy the hospitality of the downtown merchants, the strolling entertainment and the special promotions and refreshments. Santa arrives at 5:45 p.m. and will stay at the Village Center Mall next to Center Street Park until 9 p.m. 248-684-1975.

MILFORD CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

Where: Main Street through downtown Milford

Details: The Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Christmas Parade. This will feature a special appearance in the parade by Santa Claus himself.

NORTHVILLE EVENTS

Small Business Saturday – Nov. 29, presented by the Northville DDA, 248-349-0345

Contra Dancing – 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. All ages. Mill Race Village, 248-348-1845 or millracenorthville.org. Admission charge varies. At the New School Church. Wear comfortable clothing. Only clean, indoor, smooth-soled shoes permitted on dance floor.

NORTHVILLE NITE FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

When: 4-7 p.m. Dec. 31

Where: Northville Recreation Center at Hillside Middle School, 700 W. Baseline

Details: This family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration will feature crafts, huge inflatable games, entertainment and more. There will be a New Year's Eve countdown at 7 p.m. Contact Northville Parks and Recreation for tickets at 248-349-0203. A spaghetti dinner will be served.

NORTHVILLE TINSEL & TREASURES HOLIDAY MARKET

When: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Where: Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Details: More than 75 juried artists and fine craftspeople from the Midwest will showcase their unique pieces of work. From glass design, gourmet foods, jewelry, original fashions, home décor, authors and much more. Everyone is bound to leave with their hands full of great finds. For more information, visit www.hcshows.com.

NOVI LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

When: 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5 (tree lighting at 6:15 p.m.)

Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile.

Details: Santa visits, train rides, marshmallow roasting, live reindeer, free refreshments, craft show and magic shows at Novi Public Library at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. More information at cityofnovi.org

NOVI ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

When: Noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 (55 and older)

Where: Meadowbrook Activity Center. 248-347-0414

Details: Fun-filled Holiday Luncheon. Pre-registration is required and is available now at the Older Adult Services office, 45175 10 Mile, and the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. Keep the wonder of the holiday season in your heart as Novi brings you tidings of joy. Entertainment will be featured. Resident \$7, nonresident \$8.50.

NOVI SKATE WITH SANTA

When: 3-4:50 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

Details: Skate with Santa, raffles and games. For all ages. Cost \$4 for residents, \$5 for nonresidents. Skate rental is \$3.

Where: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive. Visit www.noviicearena.com.

NOVI TWELVE OAKS MALL EVENTS

When: Various times

Where: Twelve Oaks mall, 27500 Novi Road, Novi

Details: Ice Palace Featuring Disney's Frozen, through Dec. 24; World of Wicked, through Dec. 14; live radio broadcast with Jay Towers of WNIC-FM (100.3), 6-10 a.m. Nov. 28; Santa Paws (pet photographs), 9-10:45 a.m. Dec. 7 in Center Court. Space is limited and reservations are a must for pet photos. Call 248-348-9438 to reserve a spot. Dogs and cats must be on leashes or in carriers and up to date on shots.

PLYMOUTH SANTA ARRIVAL

When: 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28

Where: Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Children's holiday entertainment featuring Joel Tacey on the band shell in Kellogg Park from 5:30-6 p.m. Santa arrives by fire truck, greets kids and receives the key to the city of Plymouth at 6 p.m. Lighting of the holiday tree in Kellogg Park along with a PCEP Choir performance.

Details: Santa arrives, lights the official Plymouth Christmas tree and then goes to his house on the outskirts of Kellogg Park and meets children. He does that every weekend between Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas Eve. The Plymouth Historical Museum will host an open house from 6-8 p.m. which includes Santa's workshop in the lower level with crafts for kids. They will be featuring their "Twas the Night Before Christmas" exhibit. The Walk of Trees with festively decorated trees in Kellogg Park runs Nov. 28 through Jan. 1.

MORE PLYMOUTH FUN

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10

Where: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main

Details: Simply Dickens Christmas Show with traditional carols and attire from the 18th and 19th centuries. Comedic skits. Call 734-455-8940. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

When: 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, in downtown Plymouth

Details: Sidewalks Dressed in Holiday Style. Horse and carriage rides for a small fee. Schoolcraft College barbershop quartet will perform. Evenin' Gentlemen Brass Ensemble, with shopping specials starting 5 p.m., dining specials starting 7:30 p.m. Community sing-along at 8:45 p.m. in front of Boule Artisan Bakery.

When: 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in downtown Plymouth

Details: Twas Ladies Night Before Christmas. First 500 women receive a free jingle bell bracelet. Merchants will offer specials.

REDFORD BLIZZARD BRUNCH WITH SANTA

When: 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Where: The Redford Community Center,

12121 Hemingway, Redford.

Details: Tickets are \$6 for an adult, \$7 for a child. Cost includes "snowy" games, "cool" crafts and a light brunch. An adult must accompany each child and all attendees must have a ticket. Tickets are limited and available on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Purchase them from the Leisure Services Office, 12121 Hemingway (and Capitol), inside the Redford Community Center.

REDFORD OLDE FASHIONED HOLIDAY

When: 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Where: Township Hall Complex, 15145 Beech Daily Road, Redford

Details: The township will once again be transformed into a winter wonderland. There will be carriage rides, a special children's area, caroling and pictures with Santa. Be sure to dress warmly.

HOLIDAY MAGIC MARKETPLACE!

When: 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Where: Royal Oak Farmers Market, Civic Center, Royal Oak

Details: The Royal Oak Farmers Market will host a Holiday Marketplace before, during and after the City Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 4-8 p.m. Over 60 local crafters and artisans featuring antiques, collectibles, crafts, and many downtown merchant booths.

SOUTH LYON COOL YULE

When: Saturday, Dec. 6, all day across the community

Details: On the first Saturday in December, groups across South Lyon come together to offer free/low-cost family friendly activities across the community and to support local charities. From the Christmas in the Country Craft Show to the Cool Yule Lighted Parade and tree lighting ceremony, this event is sure to offer something for everyone! Enjoy everything from the Christmas in the Country craft show (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at South Lyon High School, Candy Cane Hunt (10 a.m.) in McHattie Park, live reindeer, Christmas cabaret concert, lighted holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony. Visit southlyonmi.org and southlyonchamber.com for more details.

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST

Through Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday through Sunday, closed Dec. 25.

Where: Hines Park; enter off Merriman Road, between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Road, Westland.

Details: Visit the Midwest's longest drive-through holiday light display for four miles of colorful lights with a fee of \$5 per car.

WAYNE LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: 6-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5

Where: Line up will be on Second Street and Sims. The parade will end at the State Wayne Park Theater with a visit from Santa.

Details: For the second time the Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade will be a lighted parade. Organizers are encouraging everyone to capitalize on the nighttime aspect of the parade by lighting up their entries.

WESTLAND SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12

Where: Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford Road, Westland

Details: For more information and tickets, call 734-722-7628.



Santa waves to all the visitors in downtown Milford during the annual Christmas Parade.

Holiday Lighting 101

(Family Features) While decorating the tree, house, or garland, a whole section of lights can go dark – along with holiday spirits. Light outages can be frustrating and time-consuming to repair during the busy holiday season.

The LightKeeper "Pros" have developed tips to keep holiday lights and spirits bright, and keep everyone safe, too.

Measure: To estimate the number of lights needed for your tree, plan on an average of 100 lights per every foot of tree height.

LED vs. incandescent: LED lights are more expensive than incandescent, but last longer. Due to their low voltage, more sets of LEDs can be strung together end-to-end than traditional sets. Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory such

as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

Inspect: Before stringing lights check for broken bulbs and sockets, frayed cords, burnt out lights and loose connections. Replace and repair any damaged light sets. For sets with bulb outages, use the LightKeeper Pro for incandescent lights or the LED Keeper for LEDs to find and fix the problem in seconds.

Connect: Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for the safe number of LED strands to connect. Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord.

Indoor vs. outdoor: Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Outside lights are exposed to water, so should be rated for outdoor use. Wrap connections with electrical tape when two or more light strands are being used. Outdoor lights should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault-interrupters (GFCIs).

Live and artificial trees: To string lights on an evergreen, begin at the top of the tree and wind strands through its center, widening with the tree's

shape. For deciduous trees, work your way up. Wrap lights around the base of its trunk, moving upward in a spiral formation. If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the UL label.

Replace and repair lights: To get the most out of your light sets, do occasional visual checks for any bulbs that are no longer working. Replace those bulbs as soon as possible. If a light set stops working or a section goes dark, use the LightKeeper Pro (for incandescent lights) or LED Keeper (for LEDs) to find and solve the issue in seconds.

For questions about holiday light repairs, call the holiday lighting pros at Ultra-Lit year-round, and 7 days a week between Thanksgiving and Christmas at 888-858-2548 or visit www.UltraLit.com.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images



Eggs and essentials for sweet eats

Classic HOLIDAY DESSERTS

(Family Features) The holidays are a special time of year to celebrate and connect with family and friends. From a cookie swap at work to a formal holiday dinner at home, with the right kind of recipes and a little planning, any holiday gathering can be a sweet success.

But, before you tie your apron strings and grab your rolling pin, avoid the last minute trips to the store by stocking up on baking staples like flour, butter, sugar and especially eggs.

As a versatile and affordable ingredient, eggs can be used in everything and offer limitless baking possibilities — from pies to cookies to eggnog. Plus, at 15 cents apiece, they can be an affordable way to feed a crowd for the holidays.

For holiday recipes, baking hacks and more, visit IncredibleEgg.org and Incredible Eggs on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

Mini Pumpkin Pies

Prep time: 35 minutes

Chill time: Several hours or overnight

Cook time: 35–37 minutes

Yield: 6 mini pies

Crust:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup vegetable shortening, cold
- 2 egg yolks
- 6–8 tablespoons ice water, divided
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Filling:

- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup half and half

To make unbaked crusts, mix flour and salt in large bowl. Cut in shortening with pastry blender until pieces are size of small peas. Mix egg yolks, 6 tablespoons ice water and lemon juice in small bowl. Add to flour mixture, 1 tablespoon at a time, stirring lightly and tossing with fork until moistened and dough just holds together. Add remaining ice water, if needed. Gather dough and shape into six 1-inch-thick disks. Refrigerate, wrapped in plastic wrap, 1 hour or overnight.

Roll out each dough disk on lightly floured surface, rolling from center to edge, to form 6-inch circle. Fold into quarters; ease and unfold into 4-inch pie plate. Press pastry gently against bottom and sides of pie plate, easing out any air. Trim edge leaving 1/2-inch overhang. Fold overhang under; flute edge. Refrigerate, covered, at least 30 minutes.

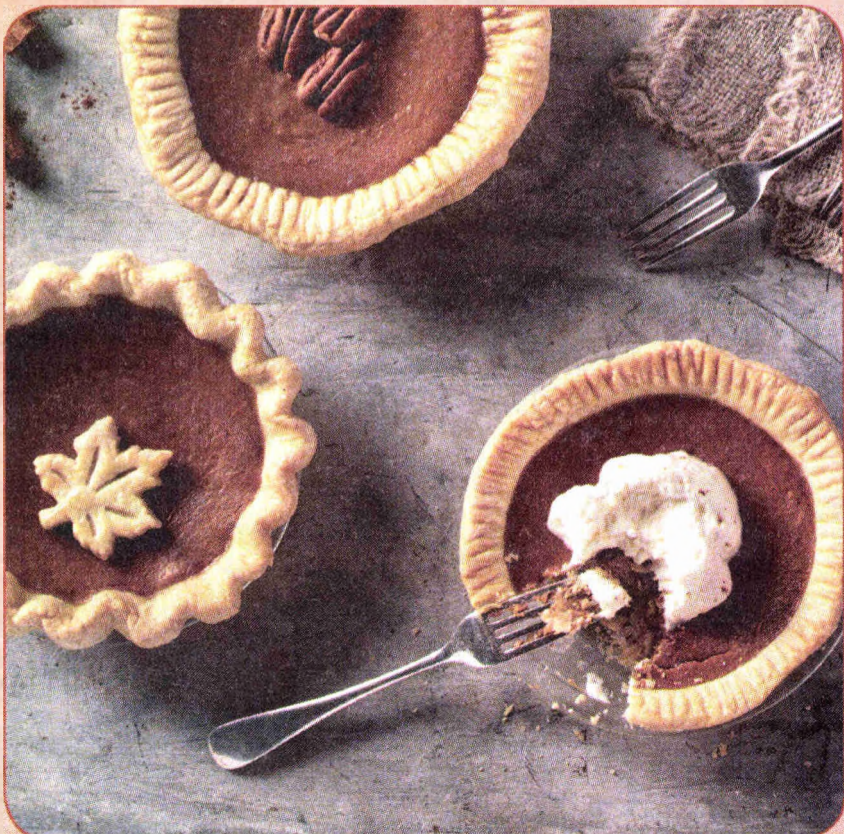
Heat oven to 400°F.

Whisk eggs, pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger and cloves in medium bowl. Beat in half and half. Pour approximately 2/3 cup into each mini piecrust.

Carefully place pies on rack in oven. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce oven to 350°F; continue baking 20–22 minutes or until knife inserted midway between center and edge of pie comes out clean.

Cool completely on wire rack. Refrigerate, loosely covered, until firm, several hours or overnight.

Garnish with toasted pecans and whipped cream.



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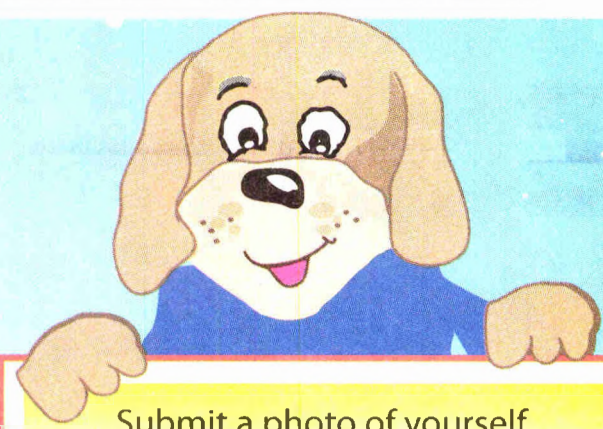
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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

Jumping into the Holiday Season

Scoop wants to see how you jump start your holiday season.

You could win a \$25 gift certificate to Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park in Canton.



Submit a photo of yourself "Jumping for Joy" and you could win. The more creative the better! Include the phone number, age, community of residence, and name of each person in the photo. Winner's parents may need to completed a wavier and registration online at skyzone.com before admittance into the park.



Thanksgiving: Giggles & Riddles

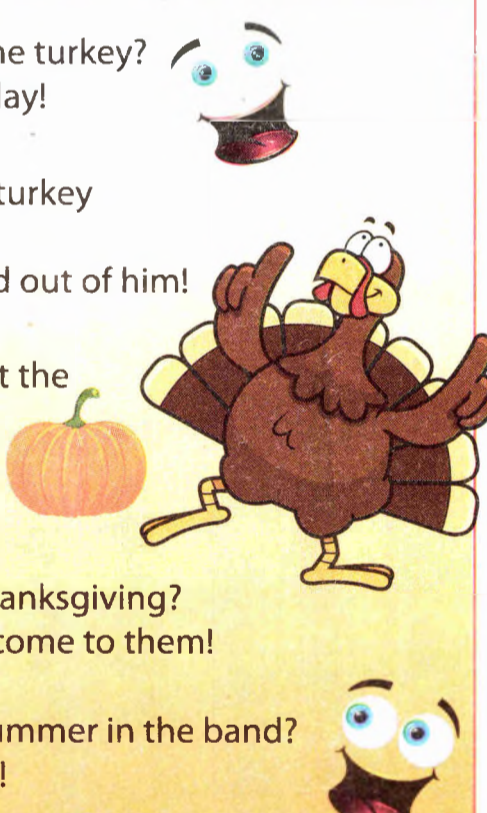
Q: Why did the police arrest the turkey?
A: They suspected it of fowl play!

Q: What happened when the turkey got into a fight?
A: He got the stuffing knocked out of him!

Q: What's the sleepest thing at the Thanksgiving table?
A: The NAPkin!

Q: Why do most people go to grandmother's house on Thanksgiving?
A: Because the house cannot come to them!

Q: Why was the turkey the drummer in the band?
A: Because he had drumsticks!



Facts & Fun

Did You Know?
BLACK FRIDAY IS NOT THE BUSIEST SHOPPING DAY OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THAT DISTINCTION BELONGS TO THE SATURDAY PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS DAY.

GET THE PICTURE?
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?
ANSWER: FOOD BASKET

Fun with Anagram

Rearrange the letters of the phrase to find the hidden word

saving knight



Answer: Thanksgiving

Courtesy of Metro Creative



Jayla Walker Redford Twp. 11/4
William Taylor IV Inkster 11/5
Terry Woods Oak Park 11/11

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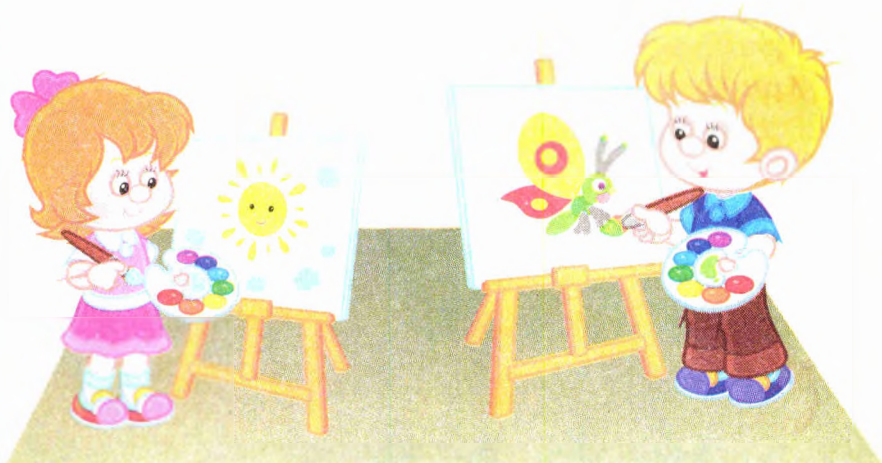
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Email: cbjordan@michigan.com

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

Share your talent!

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



Deadline for submissions:

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 29725 Hudson Drive, Novi, MI 48377

All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric by close of the business day on November 28 or email your information to: cbjordan@michigan.com. Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.