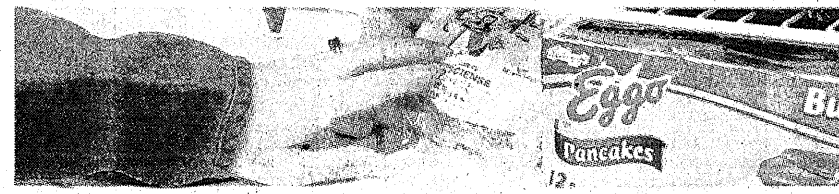


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SUNDAY
December 7, 2008

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Local dealers confident Big Three will get loans

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep owner Jim Schebil is confident — despite the rhetoric in Washington this past week — Congress will eventually give Detroit's Big Three automakers the \$34 billion in loans they say they need to survive.

However, the Plymouth Township car dealer isn't pleased with some of the grandstanding by members of Congress aimed at the top executives of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

"Unfortunately, we're dealing with

a Congress that doesn't understand our business, but they're trying to tell us what to do," Schebil said. "But it will get done."

Schebil remembers when Lee Iacocca went to Washington in 1979 for a \$1.5 billion loan to keep Chrysler afloat, a loan which was paid back seven years ahead of schedule with the U.S. Treasury \$350 million richer.

"They grilled him pretty good, too," said Schebil, who believes the current troubles aren't the fault of the auto industry. "The biggest thing that killed us was the gas crisis and the money crisis at the same time."

Lou LaRiche, whose Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township has been in business for 40 years, said after watching the congressional hearings he was surprised by the lack of knowledge on Capitol Hill.

"I was surprised they knew so very little about the automobile business, and if one or more go into bankruptcy it would be economic disaster," LaRiche said. "It would vibrate all across the United States and millions of people would be out of work. It's a tremendous domino effect."

LaRiche said he's concerned about the scrutiny given the auto industry, while billions of dollars given to

financial institutions has seen little management.

"There's no oversight over them, but the auto companies have to jump through hoops," LaRiche said.

Unlike GM and Chrysler, Ford Motor Co. is asking for a line of credit in case it needs the money.

"I think that after what happened with the loans given the financial institutions, they were under some pressure to put stipulations on the auto loans," said Ron Robertson, general manager of Blackwell Ford in Plymouth Township. "If one or both (GM or Chrysler) went into bankruptcy, it would hurt the suppliers and

make it hard for Ford to get parts.

"I wish they would do it and get it over with so we can move on," he added. "More than any other time, I'm happy to be a Ford dealer."

The United Auto Workers union is expected to give more contract concessions as its part to help the auto companies receive the federal loans.

"There are mixed feelings as our workers are worried about their jobs, whether or not they'll be there," said Mike Caygill, president of UAW Local 845 in Canton Township. "It's a hard time, but we'll get through it. We support our leadership in whatever decision they may make."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth Historical Museum's new 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit features a scene from the holiday favorite 'It's a Wonderful Life' and other holiday stories.

Celebrating the season

Museum's newest exhibit tells centuries of stories

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christmas stories from the past two centuries are featured in the Plymouth Historical Museum's newest exhibit, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

Scenes throughout the museum help tell stories like 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, The Polar Express, A Christmas Carol and It's a Wonderful Life.

"All of them have something significant and moralistic that happened on Christmas Eve," said Liz Kerstens, museum director, "depicted by vignettes with our interpretations of the stories."

And for those who aren't familiar

with the stories, Kerstens said her staff has made it easy to follow along. "With the labels we talk a bit about the story itself, where it came from and the plot, in case someone doesn't know," Kerstens said. "And then some fast facts about the movie or the story."

Kerstens said the entire exhibit was developed with items already owned by the museum, except for an 1837 book of poems compiled by Clement Moore, well-known for 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The Plymouth Historical Museum borrowed the book from Al Wilkerson, owner of the Sweet Afton Tea Room in downtown Plymouth.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2172



The ghost of Jacob Marley haunts the bank. Ebenezer Scrooge is outside the door, looking for a Christmas goose.

Judge denies bond to mother in baby's death

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Emily Portellos, the 28-year-old Plymouth Township woman accused of smothering her newborn daughter and then wrapping her in a plastic garbage bag, won't see any kind of freedom before she goes to trial.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Ryan Thursday denied bond for Portellos, who was arraigned on charges of first- and second-degree murder, felony murder and first-degree child abuse. She faces mandatory life in prison if convicted.

Lawyers will pick a jury Feb. 26, and the trial is scheduled to start March 9. Portellos will be lodged in Wayne County Jail until then.

As he did during Portellos' preliminary hearing in 35th District Court last month, defense attorney Henry Scharg argued Portellos wasn't a danger to anyone, has ties to the community and her mother is willing to put up bond money based on the value of her Plymouth Township home and a home she owns in New Port Richey, Fla.

But Lora Weingarden of the child abuse unit of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office argued the sheer magnitude of the sentence she's facing makes Portellos a flight risk.

"She knows she faces life in prison if she gets convicted," Weingarden said. "She's got the financial resources to flee the jurisdiction. She could get a passport and go to Greece. Even the judge said even if you turn in your passport, you can always say you lost it and get a new one."

Scharg did not return a call seeking comment.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A Wayne County Circuit Court judge denied bond Emily Portellos of Plymouth Township, who faces a possible life sentence if convicted of murder charges in the death of her newborn daughter.

Linton talked to Portellos about 90 minutes after the defendant had surgery to repair hemorrhaging related to the birth of the child. Scharg argued Portellos was still under the influence of anesthesia and shouldn't have been questioned. Linton testified at Portellos' preliminary hearing in 35th District Court she sought advice of the social worker at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where Portellos was treated, and also repeatedly asked Portellos whether she was willing to talk.

Judge Mike Gerou ruled the statement admissible, and Weingarden is confident Ryan will rule the same way.

"I think it's clearly going to be admissible," Weingarden said. "Detective (Marcy) Linton asked the social worker who asked (Portellos) surgeon, who said it would be OK to talk to her. (Linton) asked the defendant if she was willing to talk, the defendant never asked to stop talking and never asked for a lawyer."

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Coming Thursday in filter
Artist Howard Nordlund uses raw minerals in his paintings

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

Ornament sale

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church is offering beautiful Christmas Ornaments for sale. The ornaments are hand-crafted in Poland with a portrait of the OLGCMother and Child mosaic. The ornaments symbolize the true spirit of Christmas and make wonderful holiday gifts. For further information contact either Mark Coulter, (734) 453-5423, or Mary Vangieson, (734) 737-9942.

Free tap class

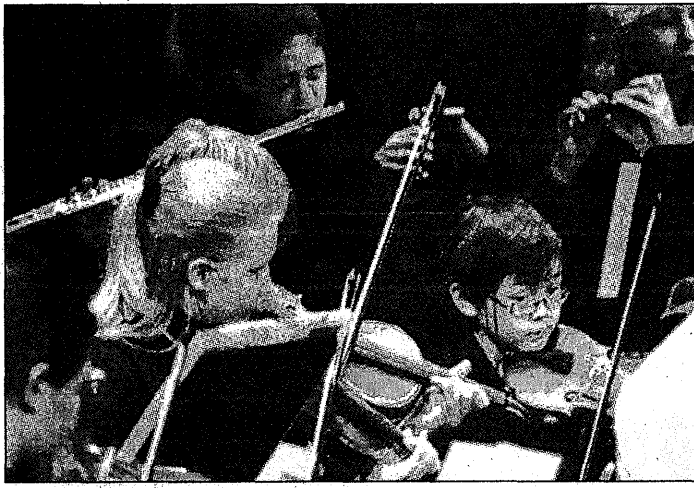
Metro Dance Company in Plymouth offers a free beginners adult tap class 3:30-4:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. The class will teach basic tap skills and students will learn a short piece of choreography. Contact the studio at (734) 207-8970 or info@MetroDanceCompany.com for more information.

Holiday Pottery Gallery

In response to customer requests, the Village Potters Guild is opening its studio gallery for special holiday hours for the first time ever. The gallery, which features Guild members' original artwork, will be open 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 20. It is located at 340 N. Main, Suite G-1 in Plymouth. For more information or to learn about classes, call (734) 207-8807 or see www.village-pottersguild.org.

Book signing

Award winning poet and photographer Cheryl A. Vatcher-Martin will be autographing copies of her books at Waldenbooks & More on Plymouth Road in Livonia 6-8p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. She'll be bringing copies of her books, *Woman Reclining*, a collection of epic, narrative and haiku poems; and her newly released nonfiction book, *Cheryl's Musings: A Day In The Life Of An Award Winning Poet & Photographer*.



Time for the kids to shine

The Celebration Youth Orchestra (CYO) will present its Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton. The CYO is the youth orchestra supported by the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, dedicated to challenging and inspiring students through high level ensemble training and the performance of standard and new repertoire. The young musicians will perform a variety of classical and contemporary music. Donations to the Plymouth Symphony's No Kid without a Concert Education Campaign help fund the CYO, as well as many other programs for students throughout southeastern Michigan. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased through Summit on the Park, (734) 394-5460, online at the Village Theater link on www.canton-mi.org, or the Village Theater box office one hour before performance. For more information contact the Plymouth Symphony office at (734) 451-2112 or by e-mail at Jane@plymouthsymphony.org.

Presently Martin's artwork is in a solo exhibit in Flat Rock Michigan at the Flat Rock Library. Eleven of her pieces are on display including two of her favorite pictures from Canton, one titled, "Canton's Cows," the other "Crimboli's Pond."

Martin is the owner of Pero Inc., a full service writing, consulting, publishing, editing and photographic business. She can be reached via e-mail at peroinc5@comcast.net. For further information, call her at (734) 397-1626.

Senior party fund-raisers

The PCEP Senior Party Committee is inviting diners to dine out for "a wonderful cause," supporting the senior party by dining out at one (or more) of the area restaurants which have agreed to donate 20 percent of the purchases made during a specific time and date. Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on the following dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Buffalo Wild Wings; Monday, Jan. 12 at Palermo's; Thursday, Feb. 12 at Caravel; Monday, April 6 at Palermo's; and Thursday, May 7, also at Palermo's. All restaurants are on Ford Road in Canton.

Detail information and a flyer is available at <http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm> (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase).

Visit the committee's blog at <http://pcep09seniorparty.blogspot.com/> or its Web page at <http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm>

College workshop series

The Plymouth District Library will host a series of workshops designed to assist high school and college stu-

dents and their parents.

■ "Test strategies for the ACT," Thursday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

■ "Essay writing workshop for the ACT essay," Thursday, Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m.

Registration is requested for these free programs. Contact the Library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

Museum exhibits

The Plymouth Historical Museum has reopened with its new special exhibit, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," featuring several popular Christmas stories from the past two centuries, including the poem of the same name purportedly by Clement C. Moore, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, and The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg. The special exhibit will be open through Jan. 4.

Santa is now visiting the Museum to meet good little girls and boys. Santa Claus will be at the Museum every Saturday until Christmas. and will be at the Museum 9-5 p.m. Dec. 6 during the Annual Craft Bazaar and Open House. This year's Craft Bazaar will have free admission, with more crafters and a craft raffle.

The Museum's permanent Lincoln Collection exhibit will remain closed until early December while the exhibit undergoes a facelift in anticipation of the upcoming special exhibit "In the Presence of Lincoln," honoring Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday in February 2009. That exhibit will run Jan. 21-Nov. 4.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$10 for families, and \$2 for students 6-17. Tours and groups can be accommodated by calling (734) 455-8940. For more information, visit www.plymouthhistory.org

Prison Family Support Group

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just any-

one? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free ongoing support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-Sarah Ann Cochran Chapter meet 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at Greendale, Alexander Blue House in Livonia.

The program will feature Christmas music and a sing-along with "MI Darlings."

For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling Luminaria kits for the holiday season.

Each \$5 kit consists of 10 white paper bags and 10 candles and can be purchased at Gabriel's, Sideways, Saxton's and the Plymouth Symphony office at 470 Forest Place, Suite 18, through Dec. 24.

For more information visit the symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org

Holiday classics

The Penn Theatre will show a variety of holiday classics during December.

The schedule includes: *White Christmas*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11; *Polar Express*, 7 and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 20-21.

The Penn Theatre is located on Penniman in downtown Plymouth. Box office opens a half-hour before each showing; tickets are \$3. For more information, call (734) 453-0870 or visit www.penntheatre.com

CORRECTION

The caption beneath the photo of Salvation Army volunteers putting together Thanksgiving meals for needy families should have identified Mike Woods and Rich Trame as the volunteers.

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KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

Observer rolls out 'Strictly Business' page

Small business is the economic engine of our local area. It's important to support local business — and in a down economy, it's even more crucial to be informed about the local business scene.

That's why the *Plymouth Observer* is starting a new page, called *Strictly Business*, which will run each Thursday, starting Dec. 11.

Strictly Business will include a roundup of local business events, promotions, anniversaries, openings, closings and other changes at our local businesses.

We will also feature a business profile in a "question and answer" format, with a nice photo. Also look for a roundup of local business newsmak-

ers and items from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

"It's a local business blitz every Thursday in your *Plymouth Observer*," said Editor Brad Kadrich. "We encourage our business owners to e-mail information to us, so we can include them on this page."

E-mail information about events, grand openings, staff changes with photos, and requests to receive a Q&A form to fill out for the business profile piece. All information should be e-mailed to Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

This page will also be posted on our Web site (www.hometownlife.com) where you can read daily news updates and information.

Compassionate Friends gather for candlelight vigil

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of the Compassionate Friends know the holidays are tough times for people who've lost loved ones, especially children.

In an effort to help with the grief, The Compassionate Friends, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, sponsor a candle-lighting ceremony in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Sunday, Dec. 14, in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

"The holidays are especially difficult for parents who have lost children," said committee member Gail Lafferty. "This candle-lighting ceremony honoring them helps their memory live on."

The ceremony will include the dedication of a tree decorated with ornaments with the children's names, a candle-



The Compassionate Friends sponsor a Christmas tree in Kellogg Park that features ornaments remembering children to be honored at the candlelight vigil, set for Dec. 14 in downtown Plymouth.

light vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry and songs.

The local ceremony includes the candle-lighting at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the worldwide candle-lighting. The idea is that, as candles burn down

in one time zone, they're lit in

another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

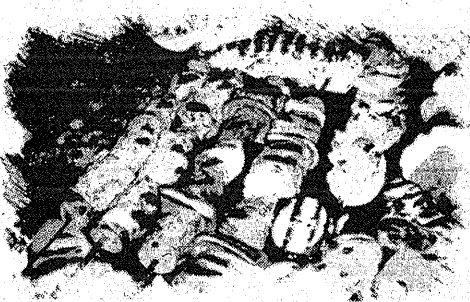
Recognized in communities around the world, International Children's Memorial Day is already officially sanctioned by the U.S. Congress.

"Hundreds of families will gather near a tree specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon," Lafferty said.

For more information or to register a child, call or e-mail candle-lighting committee members Gail Lafferty, tcfcandlight@yahoo.com or (734) 981-4528.

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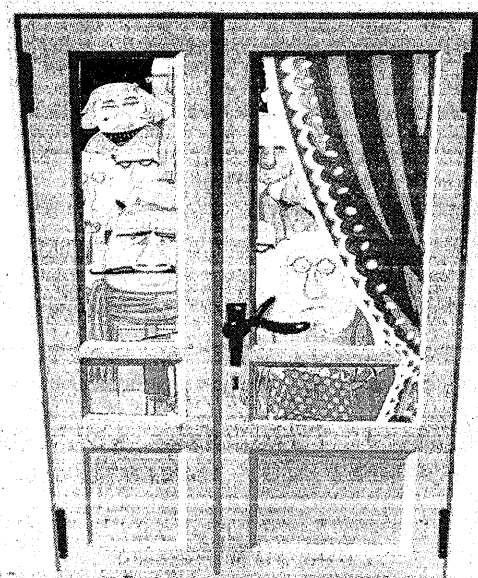
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District eyes principal changes

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A restructuring at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in the next school year will most likely find one principal — instead of three — overseeing the entire high school campus, as well as implementation of a plan designed to give more support to students to ensure their success at the Park.

A restructuring plan was made possible because of the pending retirements of principals Cassandra Smith (Canton High School) and Michael Bee (Plymouth High School) at the end of this school year. Salem High School Principal Jerry Ostoin retired because of health reasons last year. There are also a number of assistant principals scheduled to retire.

The district contracted with consultant Jeremy Hughes, the former state deputy superintendent for schools, to help devise the new structure after talking with teachers, staff and administrators.

Mike Bender, director of secondary education for Plymouth-Canton Schools, said the number of administrators at P-CEP will remain at 13, though their roles will change. If approved by the Board of Education, there will be one principal over all three high schools, one associate principal at each high school and three assistant principals at each school.

"Each of the administrators based at the buildings will work with a student caseload," Bender said. "They'll be able to focus on student achievement, track attendance and

behavior. The plan is to have greater contact with students and their parents, and for greater accessibility by parents to administrators."

Bender is hopeful restructuring will be cost-neutral, though the district will have to negotiate changes with the Plymouth-Canton administrators union before scheduled implementation July 1, 2009.

"I think it's exactly the right move for where education is today," said Judy Mardigian, school board president.

"Education has to be more student-centered, more personalized, and every student has to succeed by having every single administrator at the park be responsible for an individual student and improve student connectiveness."

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Judge's dad remembered as teacher, gentleman

When Charles Lowe settled in the local area after World War II, he hoped to be a teacher.

But Lowe, who had been an educator in pre-war Kentucky, was denied that chance, according to his son, "because he didn't talk right." So Lowe's wife, Bettye, talked him into becoming a lawyer.

But, while the vocation changed, the basic instinct never left the elder Lowe, who never stopped being a teacher.

"He never lost the teacher in him; to us, that's what he ultimately was," his son, 35th District Court Chief Judge Ron Lowe said. "He was always teaching us, always finding educational opportunities to teach us something new."

"We've all gotten letters where he'd send a newspaper clipping, sometimes not even including



Charles Lowe

a letter, but with articles of things he thought we should know. Very little of what we know did we not learn from him."

Charles Lowe Sr., a former Plymouth city attorney and a former mayor of Garden City, died Dec. 1 at 93.

Born in Inez, Ky., Mr. Lowe was also remembered by family and friends as a Southern gentleman and a real Kentucky Colonel. The son of a lumberman, he and his siblings were raised by their widowed mother.

Mr. Lowe served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was in the Army Reserves for 22 years before retiring

as a lieutenant colonel. Along with serving as Garden City mayor 1960-62, Mr. Lowe was Plymouth city attorney for 18 years, past master of Metropolitan Lodge No. 519 and a co-founder of the Kentuckians of Michigan.

His children, Rebecca (Glen) Ponte, Ronald (Jeanine) Lowe and Charles (Tonya) Lowe Jr., were at his bedside.

Mr. Lowe's wife of 64 years, Bettye, predeceased him on Jan 2, 2007. He is survived by generations of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many friends, associates, companions and admirers.

A memorial visitation will be held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27. Memorial donations can be made to Angela Hospice.

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Commission votes to give parks money to local communities

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Commission made good on its promise to restructure the county's parks millage so a portion can be redistributed back to local communities for their own recreation projects.

The commission voted 10-4 on Thursday to give back 25 percent that each municipality contributes in taxes to the fund, which they will be able to use for capital improvements for local parks and recreation facilities. The remaining 75 percent will still be allocated for improvements and operations to the county parks system, which includes Hines Park and Elizabeth Park in Trenton.

Commissioners Kevin McNamara, D-Canton, Laura Cox, R-Livonia, Philip Cavanagh, D-Redford Township, Ronaele Bowman, D-Westland, and Bernard Parker, D-Detroit, sponsored the new ordinance. The mea-

GETTING A LITTLE BACK

Community	2007 tax levy	Money to be allocated
Canton	\$1,000,440	\$250,110
Garden City	\$176,216	\$44,054
Livonia	\$1,253,897	\$313,474
Plymouth	\$117,302	\$29,325
Plymouth Twp.	\$500,093	\$125,023
Redford	\$348,582	\$87,145
Westland	\$567,896	\$141,974
Detroit	\$2,433,600	\$608,400

sure was opposed by four commissioners from Detroit, and Commissioner Jewel Ware of Detroit abstained.

McNamara said the new ordinance makes sense for several reasons. First and foremost, he believes it will help save local parks and recreation programming.

"Over the next two years, communities are going to go through extreme budget pressures. Usually when that happens, parks and rec programs are the first to get cut," he said. "This is our way to help out and save those programs."

McNamara said the measure will also help secure support from local communities when the millage is up for renewal in 2010, when it is set to expire.

"We are going to need their support. We need this millage. Without it, our parks will close," McNamara said.

Cox, whose district includes the Plymouths, Northvilles and Livonia, said the new ordinance will ensure the millage money is fairly.

"This brings more equity to the process, which is what our local communities have wanted," she said.

Wayne County voters initially passed the parks millage in 1996. The annual levy of .25 mills generates about \$12.7 million per year. The millage was renewed in 2000 and again 2005. It expires at the end of 2010.

Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano opposes the new ordinance. He will have 10 days from the time the ordinance is delivered to him to either sign it or veto it. The commission has a 10-vote veto proof majority.

However, Assistant

Executive Alan Helmkamp said Ficano is still weighing his options. He may still try to veto the ordinance or challenge it in court.

"We're still reviewing today's events," he said. "In our view it's illegal and it's bad policy."

If Ficano vetoes the measure, the commission would have 45 days to override it.

Phil LaJoy, Canton's new supervisor, welcomed the news, calling it "a step in the right direction." Under the new formula, Canton would

get approximately \$250,000 in 2009.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, who has also been critical of the millage, praised the commission for the new ordinance. He says Livonia residents have contributed approximately \$14 million over the last eight years, but received less than \$200,000 back for local recreation projects.

Kirksey said he would support a renewal of the millage if language is changed that would keep the 25 percent in the local communities.



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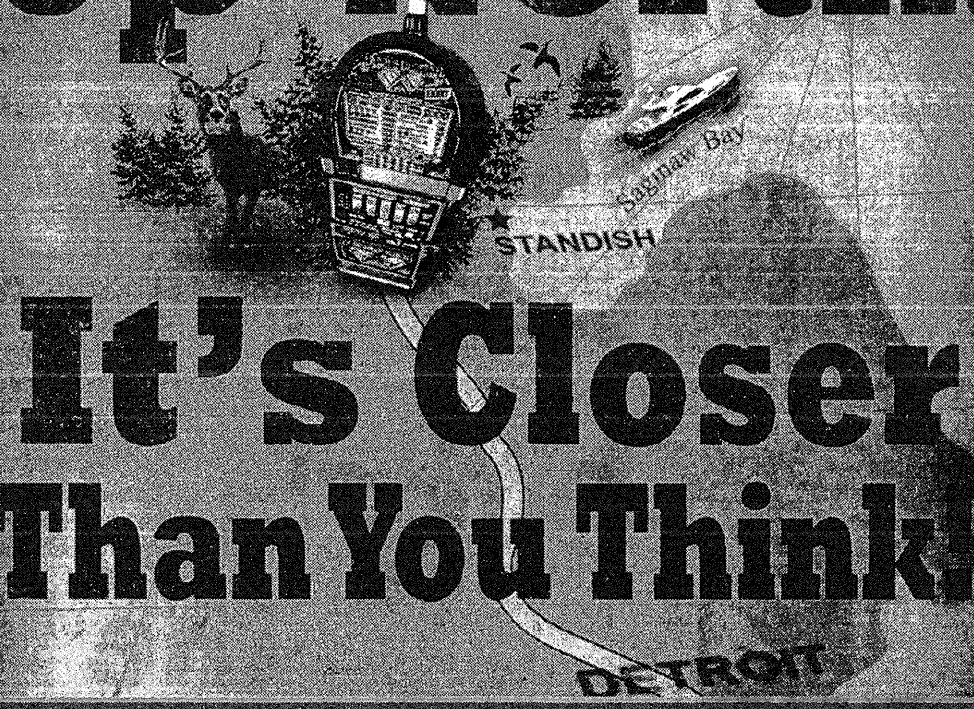
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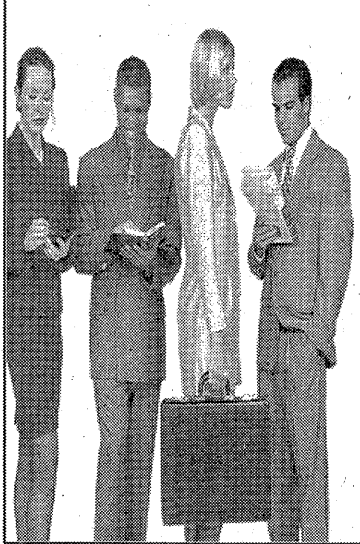
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'One-time' event turns into holiday tradition

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What was planned as a one-time venture to aid Hurricane Katrina survivors four years ago has turned into a holiday tradition for the Real Life Farm.

"We were just doing it for that year and then the next year, everyone kept asking 'Are you doing it again?' so we have kept it going," said Robin Fraser, of the annual Christmas on the Farm play.

The 15-minute outdoor production tells the story of the first Christmas and features more than a dozen actors

as well as several animals, including sheep, horses and a donkey. Show times are 7 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Dec. 14.

Proceeds from this year's production will benefit Operation Gratitude, a California-based non-profit organization that sends care packages to deployed U.S. troops.

"It only costs \$10 for one care package," Fraser said, adding that past recipients of the play's proceeds have been the Make A Wish Foundation and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "It's a lot of work but it's worth it."

In rehearsing for the three shows, Fraser joked that the wise men, the horses and the angels all fall into place but that there is one rebel in the cast.

"All but the donkey do well," she chuckled. "The donkey is a little stubborn."

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 3-10 and free for grandparents and children age 2 and younger.

The farm is located at 48700 Geddes in Canton. For more information, call Fraser at (734) 495-0833 or send an e-mail to zoe7907@yahoo.com.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robin Fraser and Heather Spillane, as well as the farm animals, will once again be involved in the Real Life Farm's 'Christmas on the Farm' production, which will raise money for Operation Gratitude, a nonprofit organization that sends care packages to deployed U.S. troops.

Mom seeks donations for troop care packages

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A township woman is requesting donations for her efforts to send 45 care packages to soldiers fighting in Iraq.

"When my son asked me to do this, I said 'Yes, of course' and I'm going to do whatever I can for them," said Madonna Tooley, mother of Army Lt. Kirk Tooley III of the Bravo Company, 172nd Battalion, Ghost Platoon.

Tooley is planning to send several items, including embroidered blankets, to her son's platoon.

"As soon as he asked, I went and bought 200 yards of fleece," she said. "A lot of people don't realize it does get cold in the evenings over there."

At 3 p.m. Friday, Tooley will host a "cut and tie" party at Resurrection Church, 48755 Warren Road, to finish the blankets.

"This is a wonderful cause," she said of sending the care packages, adding that Lt. Tooley, 23, first talked of joining the military when he was 15.

"He has this true patriotism that comes from his gut," Tooley said. "It's so genuine. He didn't even want a care package for himself, he wanted it for the 41 troops but I'm sending more for him and the



The mother of Army Lt. Kirk Tooley III of Bravo Company, 172nd Battalion, Ghost Platoon, on duty in Iraq, has adopted her son's platoon and is looking for donations to be included in 45 care packages she wants to send overseas.

sergeant and captain."

Among the items needed for the packages are snacks, such as, hard candy and jerky, toiletries, such as, wet wipes and lotion, and entertainment, such as, DVD's.

To make a donation, volunteer for Friday's event or get more information, contact Tooley at (734) 451-3559 or madonnat13@hotmail.com.

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Dealing with IRS now is better than waiting, worrying

Dear Rick: I have not filed a tax return since the mid-1990s. I have no excuse, it's just that one thing led to another and now it's been over 10 years. I recently got married and told my wife about this. She is frantic and says I should immediately contact the IRS. I talked to



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

a friend who said it would be best not to do anything. He said if the IRS hasn't caught you so far, the likelihood of being caught is very slim. My wife said I should ask for

your opinion.

You do need to work out a resolution with the Internal Revenue Service. That does not necessarily mean that you should immediately contact the IRS, but rather begin the process of working out a resolution.

Your friend's advice is irresponsible at best. By not filing your tax returns you may be subject to substantial fines and penalties and even potentially the loss of your freedom. The fact the IRS has not caught you to date does not necessarily mean they will not catch you.

If the IRS does catch you and finds that you are not in compliance with the law, you will have a much more difficult and painful experience as opposed to you voluntarily filing your past returns.

In the situation at hand, generally I would not recommend that someone go to the IRS themselves. Even though I have found the IRS to be much easier to deal with today than they were in the past, it still is a government entity and there continues to be an adversarial relationship between the IRS and taxpayers.

Consult a professional such as a tax attorney to help you resolve the issues with the IRS. Being represented by an attorney who deals with the IRS provides you with a professional who won't be intimidated, understands how they operate and whose job is to protect you and only you.

Over the years, I have seen many individuals who have not filed tax returns for many years. The one thing they have in common is that they are constantly looking over their shoulder fearing the IRS will discover their deception. This is no way to live.

When people eventually filed their tax returns, not only did they experience a huge sense of relief by coming clean with the IRS, they also found they did not owe nearly as much as they had originally feared. The one comment I hear from people who settle with the IRS is, "I should have done this sooner."

If you do make a mistake in preparing your returns, or even if you have never filed your returns, it is always better to voluntarily come clean with the IRS as opposed to waiting to be caught. The IRS is much more forgiving in waiving penalties and working out payment plans with taxpayer's who voluntarily step forward. Anyone who has issues with the Internal Revenue Service, should be proactive and work with a professional.

One reason people sometimes fail to file a tax return is they do not have the money to pay the taxes owed. Even in those situations it pays to file the return. The IRS has payment plans and does waive taxes in case of hardship.

We all hate paying taxes, however they are a fact of life. Trying to evade taxes either by commission or omission will not save you money and it will cost you in dollars and in aggravation.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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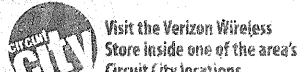
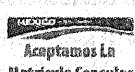
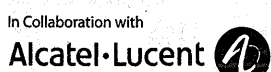
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Agency pairs employers, disabled workers

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A sour economy has made it even more difficult for a Westland-based nonprofit agency to find jobs and provide skill-building services for its developmentally disabled clients, who have a remarkable work ethic and who take immense pride in their endeavors.

Community Choices Supported Employment already works to provide jobs at restaurants, grocery stores, fitness centers, churches and other businesses in communities like Plymouth, Westland, Livonia, Canton, Redford and Wayne. But, the agency needs more employers to help its clients, who currently number 107.

"These individuals will not miss a day's work," said Community Choices jobs developer Jennifer Baker, a Westland resident. "They will give more than a hundred percent."

Employers like Bob Evans, Buddy's Pizza, Greenfield



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erica Gray, 25, makes a little money from the pin-on buttons that she takes great pride in making.

Village, Powerhouse Gym, Kroger and Redford's St. John's Lutheran Church, among others, already have become involved with Community Choices, but the need for more businesses has

become greater as job opportunities have dwindled.

Community Choices also helps clients at its Commerce Drive headquarters on Westland's northwest side by providing on-site, skill-build-

ing services during daytime business hours, in an effort to boost self-esteem and instill a sense of independence.

Erica Gray, 25, smiled as she sat in a motorized wheelchair and talked about the pin-on buttons she makes and sells for \$2 each wherever she can. Community Choices social worker Janet Threatt, a Canton resident, recently took some of Gray's buttons to a poverty summit in Detroit.

Gray uses special button-making equipment to make products to celebrate occasions like Christmas, Halloween, Election Day and new births. She estimated she has made thousands.

"They're basically beautiful," Gray said. "It just takes a hot second to make them, and they're fun to make."

Dorothy King, 41, makes First Aid kits and sells them at places like craft shows. The Livonia woman also hopes to start selling her products online, and she said she plans to try to get on Oprah

Winfrey's show.

Community Choices clients also enjoy outings for such activities as bowling, visiting museums, shopping, sporting events and volunteering their time for community organizations like The Salvation Army.

Founded in 1990, the agency relies on county, state and federal funding along with private employers. Some of Community Choices's clients live in group homes or with family members, while others are able to be independent or share a place with a roommate.

Job coaches help the clients prepare for jobs, find employment and arrange for transportation from home to work. They also accompany clients to the workplace until they get settled in to their new endeavors. Some clients work independently, and some in groups.

Community Choices gets its referrals from agencies like Community Living Services, which is also dedicated to helping the disabled.

With the holiday season

here, Threatt also hopes that local businesses will help Community Choices with Christmas gifts that clients might otherwise not receive. The agency also could use the expertise of someone who can help with online Web page designing.

Colleen Dahl, program director, said the agency's overriding goal is to enhance the quality of life for its clients by providing a wide array of services. The people served may range from 26 years old to retirement age, and some of them have been involved in the program for a decade.

Baker, the jobs developer, issued a plea for businesses who want reliable employees to give Community Choices clients a chance.

"They won't find a better employee," she said.

To help in any capacity, call Community Choices at (734) 467-1710, or contact Janet Threatt at (313) 333-4061.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

MADD shares message of staying safe on road

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Natalie Macchiorola remembers that her dad liked to watch *The Sopranos* and smoke cigars.

"He won't celebrate my 16th birthday or walk me down the aisle," a tearful Macchiorola said Friday during a Mothers Against Drunk Driving program. Her dad, killed July 7, 2004, by a drunken driver when she was only 11, won't spoil his grandchildren.

"Please don't put a family in pain this holiday season," the teen victim urged.

MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, is again sharing its "Don't drink and drive" message this holiday season.

"The holidays are when there are a lot more gatherings," said Ne'chole McClendon, program director for MADD Wayne County. "They are all catered around

BE SAFE

According to MADD, the holidays are among the deadliest times on the roads. Americans will be sharing the roads this holiday season with more than an estimated 2.8 million convicted drunken drivers with three or more convictions and of those, more than 600,000 have five or more convictions. According to Office of Highway Safety Planning, there were 345 alcohol-related fatalities in Michigan in 2007. Wayne County had 59 fatalities and 910 alcohol-related injuries in 2007. On average, someone is killed by a drunken driver every 40 minutes nationwide. In 2007, an estimated 12,998 people died in drunken driving-related crashes, a decline of 3.7 percent from the 13,491 drunken driving related fatalities of 2006. For more information and statistics, visit www.madd.org or www.madd.org/mi/wayne.

alcohol."

The annual MADD effort serves "as a reminder to the community, you are pledging not to drink and drive," she said.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Wayne County hosted the annual "Tie One On For Safety" campaign for southeastern Michigan in support of the two-year anniversary of

the Campaign To Eliminate Drunk Driving. It was held at lunchtime Friday, Dec. 5, at Westland Shopping Center.

Dr. Prince Miles, MADD Wayne County chaplain and victim who lost his son in a drunken driving crash, spoke, as did Natalie's mom, Brooke Allen, a traffic reporter. "I'm thinking of the police showing up on someone's door,"

said Allen, urging those at the MADD session not to risk their lives or those of others.

The holiday season's a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one to a drunken driver, noted McClendon.

"This year marks our second anniversary for the Campaign To Eliminate Drunk Driving."

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans spoke Friday, also representing his colleagues, Mike Bouchard of Oakland County and Mark Hackel of Macomb, who had department representatives there. Evans thanked MADD "for being so successful over the years in educating people about drunken driving."

Evans is pleased with the drop in injuries associated with drunken driving, but noted there were five fatalities

in his county last holiday season. "We still have too many," he said, noting his department and others will beef up patrols for the holidays.

"The end game for us is not to have accidents and fatalities," said Evans, adding it's important not to have "an errant behavior from a basically good person."

As part of the Friday event, organizers have "mocktails" selected, recognizing the entries. Tasting on Friday determined the winners. "It makes it an interactive, social event. We always want to have fun," McClendon said.

"We're just happy to be partnering again with Westland mall. They've been a really good partner. It is a really nice environment," she added. Organizers usually get 100

people or more. "Anyone in the mall can participate."

MADD Wayne County hosted a news conference to kick off a countywide drunken driving crackdown to keep roads safe at this historically dangerous period, through New Year's. MADD Wayne County is working with law enforcement to send the message: If you drive at or over the legal limit, you will be under arrest as the high visibility enforcement period will take place from Dec. 19, 2008, to Jan. 1, 2009. As a part of "Tie One On For Safety," MADD asks people to tie a MADD red ribbon or display a red ribbon decal on their vehicles in support of law enforcement and the Campaign To Eliminate Drunk Driving.

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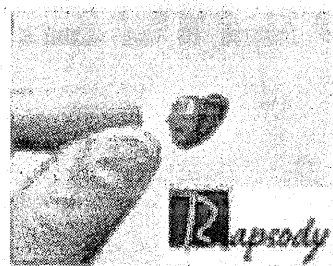


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SPORTS

B (CP)

Sunday, December 7, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor (734) 953-2108 ewright@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Who needs seniors? Chiefs upend Marian

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

GIRLS PREP HOOP

Canton's "Young Guns" proved Thursday night they can do a lot more than shoot straight.

The Chiefs' sophomore-led girls basketball team showed it can also defend like nobody's business and box out with the best of them in a 40-35 triumph over perennial state power Birmingham Marian on the shiny new Phase III gymnasium hardwood floor.

Sparked by clutch free throw shooting and stifling defense, Canton, whose roster is void of seniors, repelled a furious fourth-quarter

Marian rally to improve its record to 2-0.

The Mustangs, who scored 69 points in a season-opening win over Flint Northern, slipped to 1-1.

"I knew the girls were going to come in tonight and bring it and compete," Canton coach Brian Samulski said. "I didn't know what would happen on the scoreboard, but I knew they'd play as hard as they could."

"Defensively, we're very sound. When we share the ball, score around the rim and make our free throws like we did tonight, good

things are going to happen."

If the youthful Chiefs were going to get rattled, it would have happened with 1:50 left in the game when Michelle Lindsay's basket put Marian up 35-33 — the Mustangs' only fourth-quarter lead.

But instead of getting shaken, the Chiefs shook up the Mustangs by scoring the contest's final seven points — all on poise-coated free throws.

Sophomore Kari Schmitt swished a pair of freebies with 1:26 left to knot the game at 35-all.

Sophomore Melanie Pickert then stole the ball on the Mustangs' ensuing in-bounds

pass, was fouled, and sank one free throw to give Canton a lead it would never relinquish.

After Marian's Rachel Melcher misfired on a three-point shot — one that appeared to be tipped by Canton's Lindsey Winters — Schmitt calmly drained two more free throws to make it 38-35.

Pickert iced the win with a pair of free throws with 3.3 seconds to go — not long after the Chiefs' defense forced Marian to commit a double-dribble violation.

Samulski wasn't surprised his inexperienced team played toe-to-toe with one of the

Please see **HOOP, B2**

Sidelines

PCEP hockey reunion

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys hockey program's 10-year anniversary will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 20, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Plymouth VFW Hall, located at 1426 Mill St.

All current and former PCEP hockey players and their parents are invited to attend. To RSVP and/or order tickets, contact Joan Quigley at (248) 921-5175 or jquigley@gleason.com.

Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for players). Pizza and salad will be provided. Bring your own pop and dessert.

Slavens lauded

Former Plymouth cross country and track-and-field standout Patrick Slavens recently earned his second varsity letter in cross country at Albion College.

Slavens, the son of Mark and Dian Slavens of Canton, posted a time of 27:47 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championships.

Charity hockey

The 4th Annual Canton Fire Fighters vs. Canton Coaches charity hockey game will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

Proceeds from the game will benefit the Canton Firefighters Association's "No Child Without a Christmas" program.

The admission charge will be \$2 or an unwrapped gift.

The Canton Fire Department will have fire engines on display before the game and the Canton Youth Hockey mini-mites will scrimmage during the first intermission.

There will also be raffle gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle and chuck-a-puck available.



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTOS

Above, Canton alum Becci Houdek earned Second Team All-GLIAC honors after excelling as a goalkeeper for Ferris State this fall. She allowed an average of just 1.61 goals per contest. At right, Houdek is the starting point guard for Ferris State's women's basketball team. She registered 21 points and five assists against Ashland on Thursday.



High 5

Late power surge lifts Plymouth icers over West Bloomfield

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For two periods Friday night, West Bloomfield goalie Noah Zucker was sturdier than a brick wall against Plymouth's shot-a-minute hockey team.

But the wall came crumbling down during the final 15 minutes when the Wildcats struck for five goals in their 5-2 victory over the Lakers in a non-conference hockey game played at Compuware Arena.

The victory improved Plymouth's record to 4-2.

"We probably should have scored five goals in the second period, but their goalie was unreal," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender. "We started a little slow; I think we may have taken them a little bit for grant early on, but we finished with a flurry. Overall, the kids really played well tonight."

Junior goalie Zach Lizzo earned the victory between the pipes for the 'Cats, stopping nine shots.

Plymouth outshot West Bloomfield, 39-11.

Trailing 1-0 early in the third period, the Wildcats struck twice on a 5-on-3 power play. Pat Smiatacz struck first off an assist from Chris Merrill. Moments later, Zach Gambrell ripped a shot into the back of the net after securing a pass from Kyle Callahan.

The winners put the game on ice with three consecutive goals off the sticks of Taylor Currier (from Tyler Lazorka), Evan Swieczkowski (from Luke Mirandi and Smiatacz) and Alex Holcomb, who was assisted by Nick Sofios.

PLYMOUTH 8, A.A. HURON 0: On Nov. 28, the Wildcats mercied the River Rats thanks in large part to a hat trick from Ryan Renault and a two-goal, two-assist effort from Smiatacz.

Mirandi also had a big night, adding a goal and three helpers.

Lizzo earned the shutout between the pipes as he recorded 11 saves.

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Almost 'two' cool to be true

Canton grad Houdek in midst of doubly impressive athletic feat

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Becci Houdek is pulling a "Bo Jackson" at Ferris State University — and she's doing it with style.

Jackson was the headlines-grabbing athlete who played two professional sports — football and baseball — at the same time during the late-1980s.

Houdek is a sophomore at Ferris State who is more than half-way through an incredible feat that has her playing collegiate soccer and basketball in the same academic year.

The 2007 Canton High School graduate earned a basketball scholarship from Ferris after excelling for the Chiefs during a stellar four-year varsity career.

She also starred as a high-scoring forward for the Canton soccer team, however, she shelved the sport to focus on college hoop.

The shelving proved to be temporary. "Last spring, the soccer coach approached the basketball players to see if anyone would be interested in playing,"

Houdek said. "I told her, yeah, I'd be interested. Three or four other basketball players tried it, too, but I'm the only one that ended up playing."

First time for everything

To add a twist to Houdek's remarkable effort, she played goal-keeper for the Bulldogs — a position she never played growing up or at Canton.

"I always wanted to play goalie when I was young, so when the coach asked me if I'd like to try it, I said, 'I'm in,'" Houdek said. "My technique isn't great, so I have to rely on my athletic ability."

Houdek led the Bulldogs to a 9-8-1 record, which included a 3-2 victory over Saginaw Valley State University — a team Ferris had never beaten before.

She finished the season with four shut-outs and a solid 1.61 goals-against average — numbers that earned her a pleasant, post-season surprise.

"I was sitting with a bunch of my teammates during a break at the conference tournament," Houdek recalled. "They started calling off the names of the girls

who made the first and second teams for all-conference and I heard my name for second team. I looked around and said, 'What? You've got to be kidding me. I was not expecting it.'"

Painful debut

Houdek's first collegiate soccer season nearly ended shortly before it started.

With just over two minutes left in the season-opener against Southern Indiana, Houdek was involved in a nasty collision with an opposing player while diving to make a save. Seven of her teeth were damaged and she suffered a serious concussion.

"I lost six hours of memory," she said. "I don't remember a thing about the collision."

The good news: Ferris won 1-0 and Houdek — following a few trips to the dentist — returned to the practice field a few days later.

Courting stardom

Houdek is making a name for herself in her primary sport as well. As the starting

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New local coaches bring 'green' approach to grappling squads Salem matmen look strong

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it came time to fill a pair of wrestling coaching vacancies at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, Canton and Plymouth did what a lot of Americans are doing these days: They went green.

Eastern Michigan University green, that is. A pair of former Eagle wrestling teammates — Cory Mancuso and Quinn Guernsey — were chosen to lead the Chiefs and Wildcats, respectively, into the future.

Mancuso will succeed Casey Randolph, who accepted the head coaching position at Tecumseh High School last spring.

Guernsey, who was an assistant for Randolph last year at Canton, takes over for Jay Helm, who stepped down following a two-year stint.

"The first things we need to do are build up the number of wrestlers we get out and change the attitude," said Guernsey, who is taking the reins of a program that was plagued by low turnout and low win totals the past couple of years. "Hopefully, we can turn a lot of individual successes into team success."

"I like this team so far. I like the way they're working," Mancuso, a native of Brockway, Pa., takes over a program that has qualified for the Division I state wrestling finals two of the past three seasons.

"I have some big shoes to fill," Mancuso said, referring to his predecessor. "He left me a good program to build on."

"I think we have a chance to be very, very good this year." Following are brief previews

PREP WRESTLING PREVIEWS

of the three PCEP teams' upcoming seasons.

SALEM

Veteran coach Greg Woochuk welcomes back a solid nucleus of senior wrestlers.

"We lost the highest-placing kid in the district, Jeremy Epley (who placed third in the D1 individual state meet at 160 pounds), so somebody else is going to have to pick up the leadership role that he held," said Woochuk. "We already have a couple of guys who've accepted the responsibility, which is nice to see."

Woochuk said the newly formed Kensington Lakes Activities Association is already one of the most competitive leagues around.

"If you can place in this league," he assured, "you should be able to do some serious damage at the state meet."

The Rocks will be led by a couple of senior captains: 140-pounder Johannes Olind, who has already been accepted at West Point, and 145-pounder Robbie Schultz.

"Johannes is a hard-working, diligent wrestler — he's a coach's dream," said Woochuk. "He's the kind of kid who is always pushing himself to get better."

"Robbie is a very emphatic, hard-working kid who is always looking out for his teammates. He's proof that your leaders aren't always your superstars. He's highly thought of by his teammates."

The Rocks' lower weights will be filled by sophomore Nick Kim (103), senior Ben DeWitt (112-119), senior Ian Phillips

(112), junior Devin Stratton (112), junior Karl Allen (119), junior Kyle Middleditch (125) and senior John Bills (130).

The team's middle weights will be spear-headed by junior James Middleditch (135), Andrew Chimka (140), Olind, Schultz, and junior Chris Sweet (152) and Colin Gross (160).

Among the leading contenders for upper-weight roles include senior Sam Lepper; and juniors Mat Kelly, Jordan Moore, Joe Williams, Austin Root, Adam Turner and Blake Abbey.

CANTON

The Chiefs will be paced by a quartet of captains who will be looking to lead the program to its third trip to Battle Creek in four years. Seniors Carl Lucke (119) and Jeremy Filippelli (130); and juniors Donnie Watkins (135) and Brent Winekoff (145) all played instrumental roles in the Chiefs' incredible success last season.

"Carl is a very tough kid with a great work ethic," said Mancuso. "Jeremy helped make the transition so smooth for me. There were some kids talking about quitting once coach Randolph left, but he convinced them to change their minds and stay with the program."

"Donnie is a two-time state placer who's ranked No. 1 in the state right now. He's a very, very talented wrestler who has the potential to win a state championship."

"Brent is one of the top wrestlers at his weight in the state. He's ranked third, which is too low in my opinion."

Filippelli's younger brother, Daniel, will handle the Chiefs'

103-pound duties this season. Waleed Faraj, who enjoyed a spectacular season at 103 last year, moves to 112. Mitch Wolski is set at 125 while Ryan Terrel, Frank Sullivan and Fawzi Zeidan will battle for the right to fill the 140-pound slot.

Anthony Abro (152), Keith Zech (160), Tyler Boucier (215) and Doug Pickert (285) have earned starting berths. Pat Durocher and Austin Mach are candidates for 171 while Ben Poirier, Robert Lincoln and Josh Piper are vying start at 189.

PLYMOUTH

The Wildcats will be led by senior captains Derrick Davey (160) and Vince Rizzo (171), who are blessed with superior mat skills and leadership abilities.

"I could not ask for two better captains for my first year as a head coach," said Guernsey. "The leadership they've displayed has made my job and the transition a lot easier."

The Wildcats' lower weights will be filled by a quartet of underclassmen: freshman Said Youseff (103), sophomore Mario Swaiden (112), sophomore Nick Rizzo (119) and sophomore Jimmy Ahearn (125).

A pair of seniors — Matt Traites and Zach Seschenko — will wrestle at 135 and 140, respectively. The next three spots — 145, 152 and 160 — will be filled by juniors Brandon Crowther, Ryan Schultz and Rob Barackman.

Seniors Alex Winn and Brian Chandler are vying for the 189 spot while juniors Brett Keys and Wally Epler are slotted for 215 and 285, respectively.

SALEM 72 LAKELAND 10

145 pounds: Robbie Schultz (S) won by void; 152: Chris Sweet (S) won by void; 160: Jimmy Gross (S) won by void; 171: Matt Kelly (S) won by void; 189: Austin Root (S) pinned Joe Rajkovich in 38 seconds; 215: Sam Lepper (S) pinned Raja Salaiman in 4:43; 285: Scott Larson (L) pinned Jordan Moore in 39 seconds; 103: Nick Kim (S) pinned Kyle Babin in 14 seconds; 112: Devin Stratton (S) pinned Brandon Calma in 2:50; 119: Jeremy Sherman (L) def. Kyle Middleditch, 12-8; 125: Ben DeWitt (S) won by void; 130: John Bills (S) won by void; 135: James Middleditch (S) won by void; 140: Johannes Olind (S) pinned Jamey Chino in 41 seconds.

SALEM 41 BELLEVILLE 28

103 pounds: Nick Kim (S) won by void; 112: Devin Stratton (S) def. Brennan Papis, 5-3; 119: Kyle Middleditch (S) pinned Angel Enrique in 5:14; 125: Victor Enrique (B) pinned Ben DeWitt in 2:25; 130: Alex Bills (S) pinned Tyler Schender in 3:15; 135: Tommy Kozand (B) def. James Middleditch, 11-0; 140: Johannes Olind (S) won by technical fall over Carter Sherman; 145: Robbie Schultz (S) pinned Andrew Majewski in 1:15; 152: Chris Sweet (S) pinned Cameron McCoy in 2:54; 160: Alex Landa (B) def. Jimmy Gross, 10-5; 171: Alex Juchartz (B) pinned Matt Kelly in 2:48; 189: Austin Root (S) pinned Devin Kelemet in 58 seconds; 215: Sam Lepper (S) def. Kaare Cigan, 14-10; 285: Dustin Stratton (B) pinned Jordan Moore in 31 seconds.

CHIEFS ROLL

The Cory Mancuso coaching era at Canton couldn't have started any better Wednesday as the Chiefs won both their matches in a quad meet held in the Phase III gymnasium.

Salem's wrestling team made a serious statement at Wednesday's quad meet at Canton as the Rocks upended Belleville, 41-28, and Lakeland, 72-10, in a pair of dual meets.

"Our seniors really came through for us tonight," said Salem coach Greg Woochuk, who had high praise for Sam Lepper, a two-time winner on Wednesday.

Woochuk also commended the effort of 103-pound Nick Kim, who pinned highly regarded Lakeland light-weight Kyle Babin in 14 seconds.

"That was a good win for Nick against a quality opponent," Woochuk said. "Nick caught right away and the Lakeland wrestler could never recover."

The Chiefs rocked Lakeland, 63-18, before doubling up Belleville, 50-24.

"It was a fun, enthusiastic wrestling environment and a great way to start the season for our team," said Mancuso. "It gave us coaches a chance to see what we've got and what we need to improve on for the rest of the season."

Canton benefitted from seven Lakeland voids in the opening match.

"I was disappointed that the Lakeland coaching staff decided not to wrestle their team against us for whatever reason," Mancuso said. "In the seven matches we lost tonight, we got pinned every time, so that's something we're going to have to work on if we are going to be a top team this season."

Of all the Chiefs' victories Wednesday, Mancuso pointed to Donnie Watkins' victory over Belleville's Tommy Kosak as a highlight.

CANTON 63 LAKELAND 18

140 pounds: Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Jamie Chirio in 1:21; 145: Brent Winekoff (C) won by void; 152: Anthony Abro (C) won by void; 160: Austin Mach (C) won by void; 171: Keith Zech (C) pinned Joe Rajkovich in 1:17; 189: Pat Durocher (C) won by void; 215: Ben Poirier (C) pinned Raja Salaiman in 32 seconds; 285: Scott Larson (L) pinned Doug Pickert in 59 seconds; 103: Kyle Babin (L) pinned Danny Filippelli in 5:45; 112: Brandon Calma (L) pinned Tim Mijnsbergen in 3:51; 119: Waleed Faraj (C) def. Jeremy Sherman, 7-5; 125: Carl Lucke (C) won by void; 130: Mitch Wolski (C) won by void; 135: Jeremy Filippelli won by void.

CANTON 50 BELLEVILLE 24

145 pounds: Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Andrew Majewski in 1:20; 152: Anthony Abro (C) pinned Cameron McCoy in 13 seconds; 160: Alex Landa pinned Fawzi Zeidan in 4:18; 171: Keith Zech (C) won by major decision over Alex Juchartz, 11-3; 189: Pat Durocher (C) pinned Devin Kelemet in 32 seconds; 215: Kaare Cigan (B) pinned Ben Poirier in 1:09; 285: Dustin Slaton (L) pinned Doug Pickert in 1:21; 103: Keshaw Patel (C) won by void; 112: Brennan Papis pinned Danny Filippelli in 3:30; 119: Waleed Faraj (C) pinned Angel Enrique in 2:45; 125: Carl Lucke (C) pinned Victor Enrique in 1:27; 130: Jeremy Filippelli (C) won by major decision over Tyler Schneider, 14-2; 135: Donnie Watkins (C) def. Tommy Kozak, 3-2; 140: Ryan Terrell (C) def. Carter Sherman, 3-2.

than we were tonight," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "We played hard and turned in a decent performance, it just wasn't quite good enough to win."

Senior forward Chelsea Davis recorded a double-double for the Rocks, notching 15 points and 10 rebounds. Tracey Whalen and Rachel Norman both contributed 10 points for Salem. Sara Stone added seven points and Brett deBear chipped in with six.

The Rocks trailed by five at half-time and three with eight minutes to play.

F.H. MERCY 41, PLYMOUTH 30: In a non-conference game played Friday at Plymouth, the Marlins never trailed after building a 13-6 first-quarter advantage.

The Wildcats narrowed their deficit to as little as 32-28 mid-way through the fourth stanza before Mercy pulled away for their second straight victory. Plymouth slipped to 1-1.

"The girls didn't quit," said Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant. "But we have to make better decisions with the ball. Turnovers really hurt us tonight."

Shaakira Haywood paced the Wildcats with 12 points and nine rebounds. Stacey Klonowski contributed eight points and Danielle Desilets proved an energetic spark off the bench, Sturdivant said.

Mercy led 23-14 at the break. **PCA 54, BAPTIST PARK 52:** The Eagles opened their 2008-09 campaign with an impressive road victory. Plymouth Christian surged to a 14-3 first-quarter lead before expanding its advantage to 33-16 at the half.

"It was a typical first game — some good moments and some not-so-good moments," said PCA coach Carol Gerulis.

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Publish: November 30 & December 7, 2008 OE08634261-2x4

All-Observer swimmers set high standards, low times

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Lauren Seroka, Fr., Salem (200 freestyle): Seroka, a 4.0 student, established herself as the most successful freshman in the history of Salem girls swimming. She not only set varsity records in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle and as a member of the 400-freestyle relay quartet, but she earned All-State honors in the 200 free (third place) and the 500 free (second place). Seroka was the KLAAs conference champion in the 200 IM and she took second in the 100 butterfly.

"Lauren was always a big part of the team, every practice, competition or team function," said Salem coach Chuck Olson.

Ashley Gordon, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (200 IM): The junior enjoyed a highly productive Division 1 state meet placing eighth in the 200 IM in 2:10.75 (after going 2:09.14 in the prelims), along with a seventh in the 100 backstroke (1:00.18).

She was also runner-up in the 200 IM and third in the 100 backstroke at the Kensington Conference meet.

"Ashley was our team MVP for 2008," Stevenson coach Greg Phill said.

Kari Schmitt, Soph., Canton (50 freestyle): The 10th-grader enjoyed a stellar season for the Chiefs. She finished first in the 50 freestyle and fifth in the 100 freestyle at the KLAAs South Division championship. Schmitt qualified for the Division 1 state meet in the 100 free and was part of Canton's state-qualifying 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

"Kari's times have all dropped this year," said Canton coach Ed Weber. "She's a talented athlete with a lot of promise in swimming. I look forward to seeing what she can do next year."

Carla McNamara, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (diving): The junior finished 10th in the Division 1 state finals (381.05 points) after placing fourth in the regional and first in both the Kensington Conference (395.45) and KLAAs Central meets.

She also posted an 11-dive area best of 413.75.

"Carla is a very talented diver," Phill said.

Ashley Sells, Sr., Westland Glenn (100 butterfly): The four-time All-Area pick was 24th in Division 1 and posted a personal best of 1:01.41. She also won the KLAAs South Division title and was fourth in the KLAAs Kensington Conference.

As a junior she took fifth in Division 1 where she holds the school record in the 100 butterfly. Sells qualified for the D1 state meet in the 200 IM (27th overall) after posting a season-best 2:16.46 to qualify.

"We will miss Ashley," Glenn coach Randy Ferguson said. "She has blessed us with her talent and leadership here at Glenn. I wish her the best of luck in whatever she decides to do."

Shannon Kelly, Sr., Liv. Ladywood (100 freestyle): The senior captain placed in two events at the Division 3 state meet including a 12th in the 50 freestyle (25.25) and a 16th in the 100 freestyle (54.87).

She also placed sixth and eighth, respectively, in both events at the Catholic League meet breaking school records established in 1995.

Kelly also was a member of Ladywood's school record 200 medley (1:58.63), 200 freestyle (1:46.45) and 400 freestyle (57.38).

"Shannon took her swimming to a new level this year," Ladywood coach Jamie Perrine said. "Last year she did not make the top ten times list at the end of the season and this year she is at the top of it. She was determined to leave her mark at Ladywood and her hard work earned her just that with five school records. She's a great leader for the team in-and-out of the pool, and I'm proud to have been her coach."

Savannah Hatt, Soph., Liv. Stevenson (500 freestyle): The 10th-grader took third in Division 1 (5:05.39) and also posted the area's second-best time in the 200 freestyle (1:56.13) with a run-

ALL-AREA GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

2008 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING TEAMS
200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Whitney Aumiller, Sr.; Lauren Seroka, Fr.; Emily Bair, Sr.; Emily Nelson, Soph.); 2. Livonia Stevenson (Sara Heale, Sr.; Ashley Gordon, Jr.; Ashley Reed, Fr.; Savannah Hatt, Soph.).
200 freestyle: 1. Lauren Seroka, Fr. Salem; 2. Whitney Aumiller, Sr. Salem.
200 individual medley: 1. Ashley Gordon, Jr., Stevenson; 2. Maggie Carlson, Jr., Canton.
50 freestyle: 1. Kari Schmitt, Soph., Canton; 2. Jordan Burgess, Sr., Westland John Glenn.
1-meter diving: 1. Carla McNamara, Jr., Stevenson; 2. Katie Koetting, Sr., Salem.
100 butterfly: 1. Ashley Sells, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Ashley Reed, Fr., Stevenson.
100 freestyle: 1. Shannon Kelly, Sr., Livonia Ladywood; 2. Laura Holtz, Jr., Stevenson.
500 freestyle: 1. Savannah Hatt, Soph., Stevenson; 2. Kaylee Dolinski, Soph., Stevenson.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Livonia Franklin (Kayla Douglas, Soph.; Natalie Cote, Soph.; Colleen Anthony, Soph.; Kaitlyn Kozyn, Fr.); 2. Stevenson (Kayla Perchall, Soph.; Laura Holtz, Jr.; Ashley Reed, Fr.; Kaylee Dolinski, Soph.).
100 backstroke: 1. Kayla Douglas, Soph., Franklin; 2. Emily Nelson, Soph., Salem.
100 breaststroke: 1. Ellen Palczynski, Sr., Plymouth; Casey Peterson, Jr., John Glenn.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Savannah Hatt, Soph.; Kaylee Dolinski, Soph.; Laura Holtz, Jr.; Ashley Gordon, Jr.); 2. Salem (Emily Bair, Sr.; Emily Nelson, Soph.; Whitney Aumiller, Sr.; Lauren Seroka, Fr.).
COACH OF THE YEAR
 Jamie Perrine, Ladywood

ner-up finish in the Kensington Conference meet.

"Savannah had an excellent year and has a bright future," Phill said. "Hard work is something she clings to. Finishing third in the state says a lot for the next two years."

Kayla Douglas, Soph., Liv. Franklin (100 backstroke): So much for the so-called sophomore jinx as the 10th-grader took fourth in Division 1 in the 100 backstroke (58.91) and added a 12th in the 100 butterfly (1:00.43).

Douglas was also runner-up in the 100 backstroke at the conference meet.

"Kayla really began to develop as a team leader in the water," Franklin coach Kevin Hafner said. "It was very exciting to see her break 1:00.0 for the first time in the backstroke at the state meet. She put a good effort into all of the practices this year and it really paid off for her at the end of the season. Kayla is becoming much more focused on her goals. This will help her to continue to be a strong competitor over the next two years."

Ellen Palczynski, Sr., Plymouth (100 breaststroke): The senior earned the distinction as the school's first All-State girls swimmer as she placed eighth at the Division 1 state meet in the 100-yard breaststroke. A four-year varsity performer, Palczynski became just the eighth Plymouth swimmer to earn All-State consideration.

"Elle has been an excellent swimmer and captain for us," said Plymouth coach Doug Schade. "She improved her time in most of her events every year she was on our team. She is one of the most gracious and kind young ladies I've had the opportunity to coach."

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS
Salem, 200 medley (Whitney Aumiller, Sr.; Lauren Seroka, Fr.; Emily Bair, Sr.); Emily Nelson, Soph.): This foursome placed 12th at the D1 state finals.

"This is a very talented group that enjoys practicing together," said Olson. "All four were selected to the KLAAs All-Conference team and all four could swim any stroke in the medley relay with similar results."

Franklin, 200 freestyle (Kayla Douglas, Soph.; Natalie Cote, Soph.; Colleen Anthony, Soph.; Kaitlyn Kozyn, Fr.): This quartet made school history by qualifying for the state meet and finishing 15th overall in a school record 1:42.06.

Made up of all underclassmen, the Patriots also took fourth in the Kensington Conference meet and first in the KLAAs South Division.

"They were the youngest relay at the meet and we knew we had a chance to score some points," Hafner said. "The girls went above and beyond expectations when they dropped three second from their entry time. The girls are committed to improving their place over the next couple of years. It has really generated a lot of positive momentum for the team and future teams here at Franklin."

Stevenson, 400 freestyle (Savannah Hatt, Soph.; Laura Holtz, Jr.; Kaylee Dolinski, Soph.; Ashley Gordon, Jr.): This quartet, all underclassmen, placed 14th in Division 1 with time of 3:42.84 after going 3:40.8 in the prelims. They also took first in the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet (3:41.11).

"They were pretty much together all year and they always did the job when needed," Phill said. "It looks good for the future."

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
Whitney Aumiller, Sr., Salem (200 freestyle): The senior was a four-year varsity swimmer, improving her times each year. She placed fourth in the 200 free at the KLAAs conference meet and 14th at the Division 1 state meet.

"Whitney has been very dedicated to doing everything to prepare herself year-round in her efforts to reach her personal goals," said Olson. "Whitney served as captain in 2008 and took the responsibility of leadership and setting team goals."

Maggie Carlson, Jr., Canton (200 IM): The junior was the Chiefs' top point-earner and a hard-working role model for the team's young contingent of swimmers. She placed first in the 200 freestyle and second in the 100 breaststroke at the KLAAs South division championships. Carlson qualified for the D1 state meet in five individual events.

"Maggie came into this season with many goals," said Canton coach Ed Weber. "Her hard work and dedication before the season and ruing the season has been the gateway for her success. I look forward to her accomplishments next year as a swimmer and a captain."

Jordan Burgess, Sr., Westland Glenn (50 freestyle): The fourth-year varsity member swam her best 50 freestyle time of the year against Ladywood (26.09) in a dual meet.

The senior captain also took runner-up honors in the KLAAs South Division meet and was sixth in the conference. She also is a member of the school-record 200 medley relay squad.

Burgess also qualified for the state meet in the 100 freestyle (68th overall) after posting a personal-best qualifying time of 56.86.

"Jordan has been a valuable swimmer the past four years for Glenn," Ferguson said. "She has represented the team at the state meet all four years, this year in the 200 medley relay and 100 freestyle."

Katie Koetting, Sr., Salem (diving): The senior, who is a 3.47 student, has been the Rocks' No. 1 diver for four years — and a very good one. She has been an All-Conference diver and Regional state qualifier all four years.

"Katie has earned All-American qualifier in diving this year," said Olson. "She was picked as captain this season because of her leadership and competitiveness."

Ashley Reed, Fr., Liv. Stevenson (100 butterfly): The ninth-grader qualified for the Division 1 state meet and finished 36th after finishing fifth in the Kensington Conference meet in 1:02.12.

"Ashley's learned to work hard and has had lifetime bests in all events," Phill said. "We look forward to three more years with her."

Laura Holtz, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (100 freestyle): The junior ranked third in the area in the 100 freestyle (56.06), while qualifying for the state meet (36th overall).

Holtz also took a fourth in the 100 freestyle at the conference meet.

"Laura does a great job for Stevenson in relay events," Phill said. "She swam in two state relay

and we'll welcome her back for her senior year."

Kaylee Dolinski, Soph., Liv. Stevenson (500 freestyle): The sophomore placed 15th in the Division 1 state meet after going 5:12.25 in the prelims.

Dolinski also took 16th in the 200 freestyle after going 1:58.09 in the prelims. She also added a third in the Kensington Conference meet.

"Kaylee is another sophomore that works very hard for a top 16 finish in the 200 and 500 freestyle," Phill said. "With two years left at Stevenson, we're excited for the future."

Emily Nelson, Soph., Salem (100 backstroke): The sophomore qualified for the Division 1 state meet in the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke. She helped the Rocks to a 12th-place showing in the medley relay and a 15th in the 400 freestyle relay.

"Emily is very team-oriented in that any event she needs to swim for the success of the team, she is fine with," said Olson.

Casey Peterson, Jr., Westland Glenn (100 breaststroke): The junior swam her best time at the state meet (1:12.24) to finish 25th in the Division 1 prelims. Peterson also took third in the KLAAs South Division and sixth in the conference.

The third-year varsity member also is a member of the school-record 200 medley relay.

"Casey has improved each year making the state meet this season for the first time in an individual event," Ferguson said. "She has also represented the team at the state meet all three years in the 200 medley relay and will lead our team next year as captain."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS
Stevenson, 200 medley (Sara Healy, Sr.; Ashley Gordon, Jr.; Ashley Reed, Fr.; Savannah Hatt, Jr.): This quartet wound up 18th in the Division 1 state meet with a with a season-best time of 1:54.43. They also placed third in the Kensington Conference (1:54.74).

"These four girls didn't get together until the end of the season and with three out of the four returning, the future looks bright," Phill said.

Stevenson, 200 freestyle (Kayla Perchall, Soph.; Laura Holtz, Jr.; Ashley Reed, Fr.; Kaylee Dolinski, Soph.): This foursome, all underclassmen, wound up 23rd overall in Division 1 with a time of 1:44.49.

"Although these girls didn't get a chance to swim together very often, they came together when it counted and swam very well at the state meet recording our best time of the year," Phill said. "The future looks bright."

Salem, 400 freestyle (Emily Bair, Sr.; Emily Nelson, Soph.; Whitney Aumiller, Sr.; Lauren Seroka, Fr.): The Rock-solid quartet set the school record in the very first meet they swam in this season. They continued to get better and peaked at the D1 state meet with a 15th-place showing.

"These four young ladies are what the term 'student-athlete' is all about," said Olson. "Every coach would be proud of all their accomplishments in the classroom and the competition pool."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jamie Perrine, Liv. Ladywood: The eighth-year coach, despite just 14 swimmers and one diver, guided the Blazers to eight school records and qualified for seventh different events at the Division 3 state meet (25th in the team standings).

"We had an amazing season in terms of fast swims and high diving scores," Perrine said. "The team really pulled together, and with their hard work and dedication, were able to have the best season since I started coaching."

"This team has set the example of what we expect in future Ladywood teams. I really enjoyed watching the senior class grow over the past four year and I'm proud of their athletic accomplishments this season. Although the seniors leaving are irreplaceable and will be greatly missed, I look forward to next year with the young talented girls I have returning."



Lauren Seroka Salem



Ashley Gordon Stevenson



Kari Schmitt Canton



Ashley Sells John Glenn



Shannon Kelly Ladywood



Savannah Hatt Stevenson



Kayla Douglas Franklin



Ellen Palczynski Plymouth



Whitney Aumiller Salem



Maggie Carlson Canton



Jordan Burgess John Glenn



Katie Koetting Salem



Ashley Reed Stevenson



Laura Holtz Stevenson



Kaylee Dolinski Stevenson



Emily Nelson Salem



Casey Peterson John Glenn



Sara Healy Stevenson



Natalie Cote Franklin



Colleen Anthony Franklin



Kayla Perchall Stevenson



Kaitlyn Kozyn Franklin



Emily Bair Salem



Jamie Perrine Ladywood

FINAL GIRLS SWIM LISTINGS

FINAL OBSERVER GIRLS SWIM BESTS

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Salem 1:54.00
 Livonia Stevenson 1:54.43
 Plymouth 1:56.47
 Westland John Glenn 1:56.85
 Livonia Ladywood 1:58.63

200 FREESTYLE

Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:54.67
 Savannah Hatt (Stevenson) 1:56.13
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 1:57.68
 Kaylee Dolinski (Stevenson) 1:58.09
 Natalie Cote (Franklin) 2:01.74
 Kaitlyn Kozyn (Franklin) 2:02.12
 Kayla Eyster (Canton) 2:02.74
 Michelle Chang (Plymouth) 2:03.52
 Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 2:03.81

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 2:09.14
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 2:10.97
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 2:12.87
 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 2:16.46
 Catherine Irwin (Canton) 2:17.59
 Sijia Hao (Plymouth) 2:16.68
 Emily Bair (Salem) 2:17.69
 Emily Nelson (Salem) 2:17.74
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 2:18.44
 Casey Peterson (John Glenn) 2:20.38

50 FREESTYLE

Shannon Kelly (Ladywood) 25.25
 Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 25.43
 Kari Schmitt (Canton) 25.98
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 26.09
 Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 26.09
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 26.14
 Kayla Eyster (Canton) 26.62
 Natalie Cote (Franklin) 26.68
 Colleen Anthony (Franklin) 26.78
 Emily Bair (Salem) 26.84

1-METER DIVING (11 DIVE TOTALS)

Carla McNamara (Stevenson) 413.75
 Katie Koetting (Salem) 388.00
 Allison Spitzley (Ladywood) 358.25
 Katrina St. Pierre (Churchill) 348.55
 Malory Hudak (Canton) 332.80
 Desiree Clenney (John Glenn) 330.25
 Jennie Humbach (John Glenn) 295.35
 Robyn Piowach (Canton) 292.55
 Kari Pierce (Canton) 283.95
 Kay Borst (Plymouth) 270.60

100 BUTTERFLY

Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 1:00.34
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:00.65
 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:01.41
 Ashley Reed (Stevenson) 1:02.12
 Emily Bair (Salem) 1:02.74
 Ellen Palczynski (Plymouth) 1:03.65
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 1:04.25

Catherine Irwin (Canton) 1:04.64

Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 1:05.71
 Maddy Pelon (Ladywood) 1:06.11

100 FREESTYLE

Lauren Seroka (Salem) 54.31
 Shannon Kelly (Ladywood) 54.87
 Laura Holtz (Stevenson) 56.06
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 56.36
 Kari Schmitt (Canton) 56.39
 Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 56.52
 Michelle Chang (Plymouth) 56.60
 Kayla Eyster (Canton) 56.70
 Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 56.86
 Samantha Reid (Churchill) 56.91

500 FREESTYLE

Lauren Seroka (Salem) 5:03.67
 Savannah Hatt (Stevenson) 5:05.39
 Kaylee Dolinski (Stevenson) 5:12.25
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 5:20.91
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 5:24.72
 Sijia Hao (Plymouth) 5:26.25
 Emily Nelson (Salem) 5:32.70
 Emily Bair (Salem) 5:32.80
 Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 5:34.65
 Natalie Cote (Franklin) 5:34.65

200 FREESTYLE RELAY

Livonia Franklin 1:42.06
 Livonia Stevenson 1:44.49
 Salem 1:44.91

Plymouth 1:45.31

Canton 1:45.79

100 BACKSTROKE

Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 58.91
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 1:00.06
 Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 1:00.18
 Emily Nelson (Salem) 1:01.86
 Sara Healy (Stevenson) 1:03.91
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:05.34
 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:05.47
 Stephanie Matsui (Plymouth) 1:05.61
 Charlotte Buckley (Stevenson) 1:05.81
 Ashley Reed (Stevenson) 1:05.87

100 BREASTSTROKE

Ellen Palczynski (Plymouth) 1:08.47
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 1:09.71
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:11.16
 Casey Peterson (John Glenn) 1:12.24
 Sara Krebs (Canton) 1:13.30
 Khiry Sparks (John Glenn) 1:13.49
 Kayla Perchall (Stevenson) 1:13.96
 Sara Spala (Salem) 1:14.11
 Kelly Bedro (Canton) 1:15.04
 Kalli Aliosi (John Glenn) 1:15.91

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 3:40.80
 Salem 3:43.03
 Canton 3:47.41
 Franklin 3:50.61
 Plymouth 3:54.74



THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 9
 Calvary Christian at PCA, 7 p.m.
 Canton Agape at Urban Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 12
 Lutheran South at Canton Agape, 7:30 p.m.
 D.H. Crestwood at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 13
 Lutheran Westland at PCA, 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 9
 Calvary Christian at PCA, 5:30 p.m.
 Canton Agape at Urban Lutheran, 6 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 12
 Lutheran South at Canton Agape, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Lutheran Westland at PCA, 2 p.m.
 Salem at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m.
BOYS PREP HOCKEY

Monday, Dec. 8
 Canton at South Lyon at Kensington Valley Ice House, 6 p.m.
 Wednesday, Dec. 10
 Plymouth at Dearborn at the DISC, 7:25 p.m.
 Thursday, Dec. 11
 Salem at Country Day, 5:30 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 12
 Livonia Stevenson at Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7:40 p.m.
GIRLS PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Dec. 9
 Grosse Pointe North at PCS at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 13
 PCS at Ladywood at

Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 6 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
 Wednesday, Dec. 10
 Canton at Southgate Anderson, 5 p.m.
 Plymouth at Pinckney, 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 13
 Canton at EMU Varsity Wrestling Tournament, 9 a.m.
 Salem "10" Invite, 9 a.m.
 Plymouth at Bedford Invitational, 10 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
 Thursday, Dec. 11
 Monroe at Plymouth at Canton pool, 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 13
 Canton, Salem at EMU Relays, 11 a.m.
PREP GYMNASTICS
 Saturday, Dec. 13
 Canton at Vassar, noon

Spartan skaters outlast Salem, 5-1

Livonia Stevenson coach David Mitchell called it "a good team win and a solid 45 minutes of hockey." Nobody could argue that point following the Spartans' 5-1 triumph Friday night over host Salem at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Stevenson is now 4-0-1 overall and 2-0-1 in the Kensington Conference's Central Division. John Vella scored twice and added one assist for Stevenson,

which led 1-0 after one period and 4-1 after two. R.J. Kierdorf and Matt Fox collected two assists each, while Cole Rochowiak, Trevor Baruzzini and Justin Shureb rounded out the Stevenson goal scorers. Kurt Driscoll scored the lone goal for the Rocks, who slipped to 2-2-2 overall and 1-2-1 in the KLAAC Central. Stevenson netminder Dan Sager stopped 16-of-17 Salem shots, while

the Rocks' Adam Powers made 33 saves. **SALEM 5, W.L. WESTERN 2:** On Tuesday, the Rocks upended the Warriors as five different players scored goals: Josh Jarvela, Wes Carr, Ryan Blakey, Mario Macari and Shawn Lyons. "It was a good game," said Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "We started out a little slow, but we picked it up the second half of the game."

HOUDEK

FROM PAGE B1
 point guard for the Bulldogs' hoop team, she has already chalked up games of 21 and 14 points while leading the team in assists. "Playing soccer helped me both physically and mentally

for basketball," she said. "I'm in better shape than I would have been if I didn't play. Plus, I learned to put things behind me faster. When I gave up a goal, I had to look ahead and not dwell on it. I don't worry as much about turnovers in basketball now as I did before."

Would Houdek ever try something even Bo Jackson never attempted: play three sports in one year? "No, playing two is crazy enough," she said, smiling. "Besides, I never was very good at softball."

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Penguins clipped by Cranes, 6-2

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team dropped a 6-2 decision to Cranbrook-Kingswood Tuesday in a Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League contest played at the Arctic Edge Arena in Canton.

Cranbrook led 3-0 after one period and 4-1 with 15 minutes to play. Kelsey Nikkila scored both goals for the Penguins. The first came at the 9:28 mark of the second period on an assist from Sarah Coleman.

The second came with 6:57 left in the game off a pass from Lauren Smith. Michelle Shaffer was in goal for PCS. Colleen Jacoby handled the goal-tending duties for the Cranes.

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Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Buying Michigan food makes sense, cents

The golden delicious apples looked, well, delicious that sunny October Saturday at Joe Randazzo's in Westland.

We'd stopped at the market at Newburgh and Warren to get some produce. I picked four apples and was headed to the register when my husband stopped me.

He noted we had Washington golden delicious apples, and equally appealing Michigan golden delicious apples were available for the same price. It took only a moment to make the switch and I felt better about supporting homegrown producers of food — even if we do have family in Washington state.

I'd gotten to thinking about Michigan foods a few days earlier, when I got my newsletter from the Plymouth-Canton Branch, American Association of University Women. Along with the timely election 2008 guide, editor Sue Sayers had included an e-mail

list from member Kay Paupore of Canton, a retired Garden City schools teacher.

The list and text encouraged us to shift \$10 per week of our grocery spending to products from Michigan companies. Many Michigan-owned grocery stores support other Michigan businesses on their shelves, the article noted. If every household started spending just that \$10 a week of its current grocery budget on locally-grown foods, more than \$37 million would be kept circulating in Michigan's economy.

The list included the ever-popular Bill Knapp's cake and other baked goods from Livonia's Awrey, which we've always supported, as my father-in-law, Stan Rembacki, worked there for more than 40 years. Of course, Kellogg cereals out of Battle Creek are a staple atop our refrigerator, and Absopure water out of Plymouth Township is even closer to home.

I e-mailed the contact in the newsletter article, Mary-Jelisse Bonello, and soon heard back from the Pinckney resident who started this initiative after reading an article in *Hour* magazine.

"I'm not associated with anyone, I'm just me," Bonello said of her effort that started a year ago. "That seemed like a no-brainer to me."

Bonello did her homework and sent the e-mail results to friends. "It's been going around ever since," said Bonello, whose e-mail is maryjelisse@gmail.com.

She'd contacted a woman involved with Michigan agritourism, Jeanne Lipe, and Bonello ended up contacting Michigan food businesses individually.

MICHIGAN ONLY

"I was really surprised at how big the response was," she said. Her goal was "to make sure the money ended up in Michigan." Thus, she didn't include Gerber baby foods, which was bought out by Nestle.

"You had to make some rules, and those are our rules," Bonello said. "Everybody can do it," even if they're not buying the gourmet foods. "It takes a little bit of thought."

She cites jobs, payroll taxes and other economic benefits Michigan sees from local grocery shopping. "This is a little bit of 'Ask not what your state can do for you,'" she said with a chuckle.

She cited the "triple dip" of buying Michigan products from Michigan's Spartan stores, where the product is made in Michigan, the grocery store is independently owned by a Michigan family, and the Spartan stores headquarters is located in Grand Rapids. Other independent Michigan retailers like Hiller's, Busch's (with Spartan ties), Holiday Market, Westborn or Randazzo's have a similar "double dip" value.

"There's a bunch of them in Ann Arbor," said Bonello, who works for True Value Hardware stores. "So I guess I have a natural bias for independents."

She's changed the way she shops for her family, and has received a lot of e-mail back on her initiative. There've been tips for feedback and thank yous.

Bonello may update her list, but has her job and family to attend to as well. "It was good and I really enjoyed it," she said of the response. She's lived in Michigan all her life, and didn't know Keebler was Michigan-based.

"I was doing it for myself," said Bonello, who heard from one man who did a New Year's Eve dinner with all Michigan products.

"You can't do it all," she concluded, but local shopping helps. "You're supporting the local people that own that store."

I felt energized after my talk with Bonello. My husband does the grocery shopping in our family, and he's good at it. It got me to thinking, though, how much of a difference we could make in our economically-troubled state if we'd make an effort to support these businesses.

Julie Brown is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.

Think Michigan first



Freezer and meat products from Michigan companies featured on Lisa Diggs' Web site.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia resident Lisa Diggs displays a selection of products from Michigan companies that are included on her Web site.

Livonia woman's Web site brings holidays home

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Market, Joe's Produce, and Plum.

BUYING LOCAL

It easily looks like Diggs could host a party with the bags of Better Made chips, Michigan potatoes and apples, and sausage filling the dining room table. The Al Dente Pasta came from the locally-based Westborn Market, La Jalisciense corn tortillas from Mexican Town. Tamales Express in Redford makes not only tamales, but enchiladas and salsa.

"I buy Michigan first if at all possible even if I pay a little bit more," said Diggs. "But in some instances it may not cost as much. Faygo compared to national sodas is usually less. The same is true of Michigan wines including sparkling wines and you can buy Michigan wines just about anywhere. It's not as difficult as people think. When they're grocery shopping with two kids to make it easier, print out the list and take it with you."

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

Diggs offers dozens of ideas for not only preparing holiday meals, but gift giving at her Web site, www.buymichigannow.com. She loves the decorative Bullfrog Candles from Charlevoix but thinks women would equally appreciate outerwear from Wolverine in Rockford or Carhartt in Dearborn. She's just as excited about giving family passes to The Henry Ford or Detroit Zoo or putting together a gift basket with items from Harmony Hollow Bell Works in Ann Arbor, ornaments from Two Bees in Northville and Pewabic Pottery in Detroit, and truffles from The Chocolate Garden in Coloma.

"For children there are Uncle Goose wooden blocks handcrafted in about 13

Please see **MICHIGAN, C4**



Products from Michigan featured on Diggs' Web site.

Lisa Diggs opens the well-stocked freezer to show she's doing her part to boost the Michigan economy while preparing for the holidays. She especially can't wait to make the Hudsonville chocolate chip cookies. Diggs not only enjoys the aroma of baked goods wafting through her Livonia home, but the knowledge she's making it easier for consumers to buy all kinds of Michigan products by offering a list of companies on her Web site during one of the busiest shopping times of the year.

Diggs has created an additional grocery guide just in time for the seasonal onslaught of family and friends. Diggs spent hours reading labels in food stores before assembling the list of cheese, dips, cracker, snack and ice cream companies, but her research wasn't all drudgery. She visited a half dozen of the state's 60 wineries.

"The biggest single thing we need to think about is where something's coming from before we buy it," said Diggs. "Think Michigan first. If it didn't come from Michigan did it come from a Michigan store? What part of my dollar can be contributing to the Michigan economy?"

The Michigan Department of Agriculture estimates that if every Michigan family bought \$10 of Michigan fruits and vegetables a week it would keep \$37 million here at home. Diggs can only imagine the impact if consumers purchased a variety of foods produced in the mitten state, Diggs isn't encouraging shoppers to spend more, but shift their dollars to home-grown and produced items bought at Michigan stores like Meijer, Hiller's, Joe Randazzo's, Holiday

Shoppers honor loved ones during holiday season

It always means the holidays are near when Angela Hospice's Tree of Life graces the halls of Laurel Park Place in Livonia. The annual fund-raiser supports programs for hospice patients and the community while offering a way to remember those dear to us at a special time of year.

"I've been involved with the Tree of Life for many years," said Rebecca Hyman, bereavement and social work manager for Angela Hospice, "and I've seen how meaningful the experience is for people who participate."

Angela Hospice's Tree of Life display features six large lighted trees. Visitors are invited to place an ornament featuring their loved one's name on any of the trees when they make a donation to the Tree of Life effort. The Tree of Life display, located next to Von Maur, opened in late November with a ceremony which included a performance by the Angela Hospice choir.

"Whether it has become a tradition they participate in year after year or whether it's the first time someone visits the Tree of Life, it really touches people to honor their loved ones in this way," said Hyman.

Tree of Life is an important fund-raiser for Angela Hospice, and the staff has been preparing for weeks as donors mailed in requests for angel ornaments.

"We were really surprised and pleased to see how many ornament requests we received through the mail this year," said Barb Paul, development coordinator. "At the Tree of Life opening, we already had over 1,500 angels on the trees."

Now in its 20th year, Tree of Life began as a small fund-raiser held in the house from which Angela Hospice operated in 1988. Just as the Tree of Life has continued to grow, Angela

Please see **TREE, C3**



LISA NORTON

Lynne Fuhrman of Redford attended the Tree of Life opening ceremony in honor of her mother Eleanor Kokoulen, as did her father John Kokoulen, a Dearborn Heights resident.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Make a centerpiece
7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10 and Thursday, Dec. 11 at all seven English Gardens stores. \$24.99 fee. The stores' floral designers will help you create a centerpiece to decorate your holiday table. Sign up online at www.englishgardens.com or in the store.

- Dearborn Heights location - 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive; (313) 278-4433
- Ann Arbor location - 155 N. Maple; (734) 332-7900
- West Bloomfield location - 6370 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple; (248) 851-7506

Storytelling
Children, ages 2-10, can hear classic and contemporary holiday stories from 1-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at all stories English Gardens stores. The program is free.

Ecosystem Restoration Workday
Join Matthaei Botanical Garden and Nichols Arboretum staff in working to remove invasive plant species from the arboretum to promote native plant growth, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 13. The experience mixes a little bit of hard work with education about the arboretum and restoration ecology work here and in the local area. Dress to work outside. Snacks and tools will be provided, but participants may bring their own loppers or pruners. Call (734) 647-8528 for more info about the work site and to sign up. Matthaei Botanical Gardens is located at 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. www.mbgna.umich.edu.

Winter Stonefly Search
Join a team to search the Rouge tributaries for the sensitive winter stonefly, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 24, 2009. Search starts from the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center. Sign up available now through monitoring@therouge.org. Or call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-1621. For a flier, visit www.therouge.org.

E-mail calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com or mail them to her 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009

Experts have packed everything from soup to nutty gifts

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Not sure how to pack that fresh bowl of homemade chicken soup you plan to send loved ones for Hanukkah?

Wondering how you'll get that antique WWI plane propeller into a box and off to grandpa before Christmas?

And what about the preserved sheep's head you promised to out-of-town relatives?

Sue Sefton has shipped lots of soup without spilling a drop and Eric Ladwig has never met an item he couldn't pack securely.

"We tell people to freeze it and put it in a Styrene cooler with ice packs and then bring it in at 5 p.m.," Sefton described her soup-packing method. "We do a lot of frozen holiday food for people with kids out of state."

"I've never had any feedback that someone had an issue with a plant or food that we shipped. There's a baker who does these layer cakes and we've shipped those all over the country."

Sefton, whose UPS store is located at Orchard Lake Road and Maple, in West Bloomfield, is wrapping, boxing and shipping her way through her 22nd holiday season.

Ladwig, who owns a UPS store at Newburgh and Five Mile in Livonia, has packaged and shipped everything from airplane parts to a full-sized motorcycle over the past 13 years.

UNUSUAL GIFTS

"I have done some interest-

The UPS Store™
Suggestions for a well-packed box...

- Bubble cushioning & packing "peanuts." At least two inches on all sides.
- Packing tape on all seams. No masking, cellophane or duct tape.
- Sender's & recipient's addresses on the inside and outside.
- New box designed to withstand shipping stresses. No wrapping or string on exterior.

ing stuff," said Ladwig, whose father owns a UPS store in Northville. "I did a WWI propeller last Christmas for one of our eBay guys. It was 6 feet but only about 6 inches in diameter. We had two boxes we put together."

"I had one guy who tried to ship his brother's remains, but only the U.S. Postal system can do that. I've done a stuffed, taxidermied sheep's head. We bubble wrapped it and double boxed it. It had horns, so we had to put big tubes on them and then we bubble wrapped them. It was for an eBay guy. Someone had bought it from him for Christmas."

There was the time Ladwig built a crate to ship a motorcycle to California.

"That was back in 1999. It cost about \$1,500 (packing and shipping). Today it would be around \$3,000."

Customers may not ship anything as elaborate this year during the current economic recession, but both Sefton and Ladwig are bracing for their busiest week of the year, starting Monday Dec. 15.

Sefton shipped about 3,000 packages during December 2007. That's double her usual monthly volume.

"We may have people this year, who instead of sending two boxes (of gifts), just send one box," Sefton said.

NO FLIGHT FEES

Both she and Ladwig say that even if fewer people ship gifts this season, more are sending vacation luggage through UPS to avoid additional airfare fees and to make sure their personal belongings arrive at their destination before they do.

"They'll ship it out so they

don't have to mess with checking it in," Ladwig noted. "It's great for us. We can do a prepaid shipping label for them to send luggage back."

"I think we'll have a good (holiday) season."

Ladwig said about 60 percent of his customers ask him to wrap as well as ship their items. It's about 50-50 at Sefton's store.

"I'd hope it would be 100 percent," Sefton said, adding that she gives over-the-phone packing advice to customers who insist on doing it themselves.

Here's some of what both she and Ladwig advise customers who pack their own holiday items for shipping:

- Don't use brown paper or string to wrap boxes.
- "Brown paper tears on a conveyer belt," Sefton said.
- Don't use crumpled paper

or real popcorn to cushion items. Use packing peanuts. "Brown paper doesn't absorb shock," Ladwig explained.

■ Don't use an old box. "We say, 'Can this box be dropped off a two-story building and withstand a drop of that magnitude?'" Sefton said. She pointed out that used boxes may not be as strong as new ones.

■ Don't ship perfume or cologne, which are considered hazardous materials.

■ Take batteries out of toys before shipping.

■ If you decide to let a professional pack your items after all, make sure you know which wrapped gifts are breakable, so they can be packaged separately.

■ Avoid shipping on Mondays. It's the busiest day of the week for packing and sending items.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools hereby gives public notice that a hearing is being held on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan in the second floor boardroom on the issue of whether to adopt a resolution that will schedule the school district's regular election at the November 2009 general election. If the resolution is not adopted, the school district's regular election will continue to be held in May of 2009. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools also gives public notice that the Board of Education may choose to vote and take action on the resolution immediately following the public hearing.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its REGULAR December meeting Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tape of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-0750
X217

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. CANTON, MI 48188

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction December 9, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.

The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

Year	Make	Model	Body	VIN #
1998	Olds		4 Dr	1G3WS52K1WF323995
1995	GMC	Jimmy	S/W	1GKDT13W2S2503863
2006	Dodge	Charger	4 Dr	2B3KA43R56H394348
2004	Mazda	RX 8	2 Dr	JM1FE173240102875
1996	Nissan	Altima	4 Dr	1N4BU31D7TC171188
1998	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA5143WBC20206
2004	Pontiac	Grand Prix	4 Dr	2G2WP522941305271
1999	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA6143XBB23850
1996	Mercury	Marquis	4 Dr	2MELM7462TX605906
1992	Ford	Mustang	2 Dr	1FACP41M9NF156095
1995	Plymouth		4 Dr	1P3AA4639SF508686
1998	Pontiac	Grand Am	2 Dr	1G2NE52T9WC770611
1993	Honda	Civic	2 Dr	1HGEJ1261PL053844

NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2008

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2008 and payable through February 28, 2009 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED from Wednesday, December 24, 2008 through Thursday, January 1, 2009 for the Christmas Holidays.

The Treasurer's office will be **OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS on Monday, December 29th, and Tuesday, December 30th.**

Teresa Cischke, CPFA
City Treasurer

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- ☉ PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)
12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:55
- ☉ FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)
11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:50
- ☉ AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
11:35, 3:00, 6:25, 9:50
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 6:20, 7:00, 9:00, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:40
- ☉ BOLT (PG) 11:30, 1:45, 4:00
☉ BOLT DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG)
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:35
- ☉ MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)
11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

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LISA NORTON

Angela Hospice volunteers Lil Korsog of Dearborn Heights; Barbara Keppen, Livonia, and Stella Smith, Plymouth assisted visitors at the opening of the Angela Hospice Tree of Life. More than 1,500 angel ornaments have already been placed on the trees.

TREE
FROM PAGE C1

Hospice has been expanding and providing hospice services to more and more patients each year. This past spring, Angela

Hospice announced plans to expand its Care Center facility on Newburgh, enabling more patients to receive inpatient services at Angela Hospice's "home-away-from-home."
"We've been hoping to expand our facility for many years in response to the com-

elling community need," said Bob Alexander, business development manager for Angela Hospice. "An event like Tree of Life, which demonstrates such a heartfelt connection between Angela Hospice and the community we serve, is a powerful testimony to that important and

timeless relationship we share with the people around us."
The Tree of Life remains on display through Dec. 24. To make a donation, visit the trees display area during mall hours, or call (734) 464-7810. Visit www.angelahospice.org for more information about the work of Angela Hospice.

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OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE HAND

Osteoarthritis of the hand is the most common form of arthritis. The features of osteoarthritis are sufficiently distinctive to identify it by examination alone.

The finding of enlargement of the distal or first joint of the finger is a hallmark of osteoarthritis. In most instances this enlargement is not painful, or the period of discomfort is short lived. Similar firm enlargement can occur at the middle finger joint or at the knuckles. All of these sites have in common the development of a small amount of bone around the joint.

Heredity or past injury determines the pattern of hand arthritis.

What bothers people with hand osteoarthritis is not the pain, which usually is limited to a few weeks. Nor is there disability associated with the condition, though at times osteoarthritis can shift the first finger joint into an awkward position. What bothers individuals with hand osteoarthritis is the appearance of the fingers.

Nothing is possible to make the hands look better. No medication will cause the bone about the joint to re-absorb, no injection into the finger joint will shrink the enlarged area, and no hand surgery is capable of removing the ridge of bone.

In osteoarthritis of the hand, the fingers may not appear pretty but they work well.

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REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or e-mail ichomin@hometownlife.com.

Brighton High School Class of 1989
Planning a 20th reunion and searching for classmates. Sign up at "yahoo groups-brighton high school class of 1989" for more information.

Class of 1959
50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. For information, visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1969
Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959
Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Garden City High School Class of 1960
Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989
20th reunion Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor (6 p.m. to midnight). Ticket \$65 before March 1, 2009, \$75 from March 2 to June 1, 2009. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar,

dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchsi1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Grosse Pointe North Class of 1991
Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Lincoln Park High School
Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Livonia Franklin Class of 1969
A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com.

Milford High School Class of 1978
Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

Dinner dance tonight

The Moon Dusters Dance Club presents its popular annual Holiday Dinner Dance 6-10:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft near Inkster road, Livonia. Doors open at 5 p.m. with a family-style dinner at 6 p.m. Alcohol beverages available at affordable prices. Ballroom dance music will be provided by the Tommy James Band from 7:15-10:45 p.m. Formal attire is requested but Sunday best will do.

Tickets are \$29.50 and available by calling Joe Castrodale at (248) 968-5197. Some of the proceeds are donated to charities. Everybody is welcome: singles, couples and married. The nonprofit club holds its regular dance to live music 8:30-11:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington roads. Lessons are available before the dance (7-8 p.m.) for \$6. Cost for both the lessons and dance are \$10.

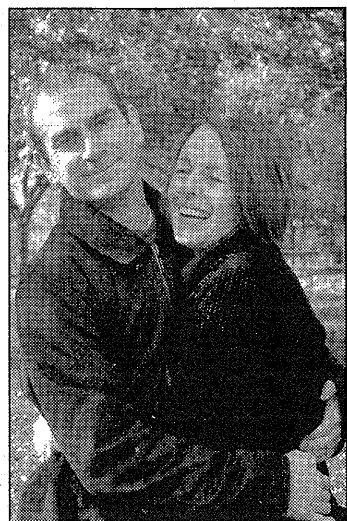
ENGAGEMENTS

Swartout-Simon

Brien and Carol Swartout of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Scott Simon of Bloomington, Ill. He is the son of Lionel and Elaine Simon of Hamilton, N.J.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia and a 1996 graduate of Michigan State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in English. She earned her master's degree in English at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and is a doctoral candidate at Illinois State University, where she is studying educational administration and foundations. She works as an associate professor of English at Heartland Community College in Normal, Ill.

The groom is a 1992 graduate of South Brunswick High



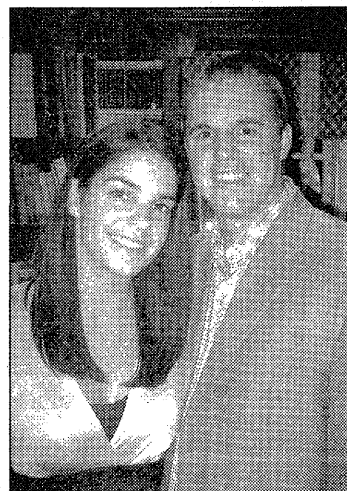
School in New Jersey and a 1998 graduate of Kutztown University. He works as a technical analyst at State Farm Insurance Company in Bloomington, Ill. The couple plans a June 2009 wedding in Bloomington, Ill.

Sittig-Hannah

Robert and Marilyn Sittig of Sewickley, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter, Meredith, to Brian Hannah of Chicago, Ill. He is the son of Andrew and Ann Hannah of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of Quaker Valley High School and a 2004 graduate of Northwestern University. She currently works as a consultant for Accenture.

Her fiancé is a 1999 graduate of Catholic Central High School and a 2003 graduate of Northwestern University. He is a medical writer for Goble & Associates.



The couple plans a May 2009 wedding at Allegheny Country Club in Sewickley Heights, Pa.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section

GOOOOEEEEEEAAA444AMMMMM!!!

Filter In your paper every Thursday!
PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Part of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Have your picture taken with Santa

The St. Vincent DePaul thrift store in Westland wants children everywhere to enjoy this holiday season so Michael Saine and his staff are offering free photos and a chance to visit with Santa from 3:30 p.m. on at 6613 Wayne Road.

Everyone is welcome. Santa needs no appointments. Just come and enjoy the season. Cookies and punch will be served.

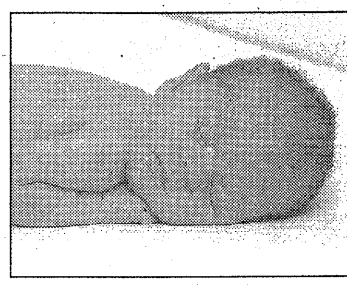
Saine said part of the reason the store is making the photos available is because many families, due to the cost, have given up this tradition in these troubling economic times.

BIRTHS



Kathryn Anne Ryan

Scott and Sara Ryan of Canton welcome their daughter, Kathryn Anne Ryan, born Nov. 12, 2008, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She joins big sister Addison, 2. Her grandparents are Jim and Renee Casillas of Plymouth and Jerry and Carol Ryan of Las Vegas, Nev.



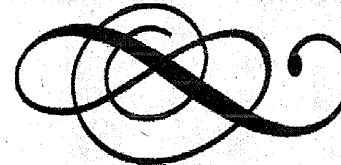
Duncan Alexander Buijink

Peter and Rebecca Buijink of Plymouth announce the birth of their son, Duncan Alexander Buijink, born Oct. 15, 2008 at Park Providence Hospital in Novi. He joins sister Emily, age 6. His grandparents are Nanci Hall of Bowling Green, Ky.; Tom Hall of Santa Barbara, Calif., and Marie Buijink, who resides in The Netherlands.

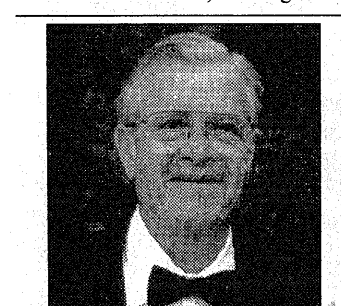
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JANE D. FERRISS
Age 77, December 3, 2008. Beloved mother of Michael (Andrea) and Dave (Kristine); dear sister of Joan Sackett; and cherished grandmother of Elizabeth, Arthur, Michael, Laura, Joseph and Katherine. Memorial tributes suggested to Mariners' Church of Detroit 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit, 48226. Arrangements entrusted to the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Downtown Farmington. (248) 474-5200. heaney-sundquist.com

SHERRY LYNNE HARRIS
Age 46. Of Livonia, MI. December 4, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington.



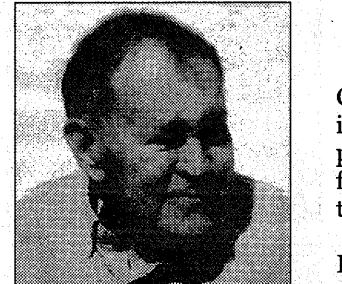
THEODORE "TED" LOCKEY
Age 83. Of South Lyon, MI. December 2, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.



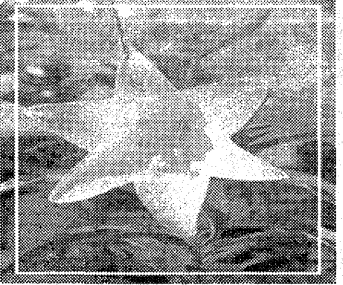
THOMAS A. PLUM
Age 74, of Royal Oak. December 3, 2008. Loving husband of Marlene. Dear father of Thomas and Christopher. Grandfather of Ava and Claire. Father-in-law of Stacy. Administrator for Traveler's Insurance. Graduate of Cranbrook and University of Michigan. Avid tennis player, sailor and storyteller. Memorial Service Monday 11:00 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Royal Oak, 1314 Northwood Blvd., Royal Oak, MI (248) 288-4220. Memorials may be made to South Oakland Shelter.



CAROL SCHELL
Of Westland, formerly of Redford Twp. and Dearborn Heights. Passed away November 27, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth, of 56 years. Children Denise (John) Maynard, Ken (Cheryl) and Jeanine (John) Patla. Grandchildren Jessica, Matthew, Jerod (Laine), Amanda, and Lauren. Sister of Gordon (Glenda) Richards. Services were held on December 1st with burial at Glen Eden Cemetery.



WILLIAM VAN BUREN
Age 81, December 3, 2008. Beloved husband of the late Marilyn. Loving father of Carol Hawley, Debra James, Glenn and the late Brian Van Buren. Dear grandfather of Janice and great-grandfather of Thomas. Brother of Vera Mularz. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 1545 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday from 3 until 9 pm with Funera Service at 6 pm.



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June 27, 1962 - Dec. 8, 2007

Your bright mind and big heart live on...in our minds and hearts. We miss you. We remember you. We love you always. Your Family and Friends.

OBITUARY POLICY
The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
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or Charlotte Wilson 586-826-7082
or toll free 800-579-7355
ask for Jennifer or Charlotte
OE08579123

Goodwill collecting toys for local clients' families

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit has kicked off its "12 Days of Christmas" campaign, designed to help needy families buy holiday gifts for their children.

The organization asks Metro Detroiters to donate new, unwrapped toys to its "Santa Shop," where they will be sold at discounted prices to individuals who receive employment training and assistance from Goodwill.

Anyone who donates a toy will receive a coupon good for \$1 off a beverage purchase at any of the 19 Caribou Coffee locations in Southeast Michigan.

"Due to various employment barriers, many of these parents are unable to provide their families with everything they want this holiday season," stated Lorna G. Utley, president and CEO, Goodwill Industries

of Greater Detroit. "While our programs help them become trained, trusted and ready to work, gift donations allow these hardworking individuals to focus on getting their lives on track, knowing their children will have a happy holiday season."

The campaign continues to Wednesday, Dec. 16. These local Caribou Coffee stores are accepting donated toys:

- Ann Arbor: 1423 Stadium Boulevard
 - Livonia: 17378 Haggerty
 - Novi: 47490 Grand River Avenue
 - Plymouth: 44601 Five Mile
- In 2007, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit successfully placed nearly 1,500 residents in new jobs in the tri-county area. For more information about Goodwill Industries and its Christmas campaign, visit www.goodwilldetroit.org

MICHIGAN
FROM PAGE C1

different languages and Braille in Grand Rapids. Kids, parents and grandparents can sit down and do it together," said Diggs. "Mathmosis was developed by a teacher. The CD uses music and games to build math skills."

For men Diggs suggests a subscription to Car & Driver, Swedish Pimple Fishing Lures from Gladstone, or an American Coney Island package of 12 Dearborn Sausage hot dogs, buns, sweet onion, chili sauce, instructions, and two hats.

Inside Detroit designs custom tours for those interested in history, architecture, world-class cuisine, or bar hopping. Jeff Daniels' CD benefits The Purple Rose theater in Chelsea.

"It's an effective tool for the holiday season," said Diggs. "They might find something else by that company if they don't want the item listed."

Companies can take advantage of the campaign as well by listing their information for free or adding a link for \$100 a year. Diggs believes everyone can make a difference by taking the pledge to buy Michigan. She used a local company to build the Web site that features photographs taken by her father, Larry Diggs, a Livonia lensman.

"I'm working full time on the Web site on top of my full time consulting business because I believe in this," said Diggs, founder of The Catalyst Company which nationally helps organizations attain and sustain success.

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Donate a toy to brighten a sick child's holidays

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF) has formed a partnership with Morley Candy to collect holiday toys at several of their area retail stores for distribution to Michigan children and teens affected by leukemia.

The 56-year-old, Michigan-based foundation (www.leukemiamichigan.org) is collecting toys for their holiday toy program and will ship personalized toy packages during the holidays to child patients and their siblings and to the children of adult patients affected by leukemia, lymphoma and related blood cancers.

Anyone bringing a toy to one of the Morley retail locations will receive a 10-percent discount on a purchase, excluding gift card or gift certificate purchases. This year, it is expected that nearly 5,000 toys will be needed for about 1,200 toy packages that will be shipped to families and to provide hospitals with toys for those battling cancer throughout the state. Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan relies heavily on toy drives and donations to support the program.

According to Kristen West, CLF Patient Services Director, "Families affected by cancer face many

strains on their time, finances and emotions. To combat some of these stresses and make the holidays brighter for these families, CLF provides gift packages each year. This is a great opportunity for families, businesses, schools and community groups to consider if you are planning on an activity to give back this holiday season and the new partnership with Morley candy makes it easier than ever."

New, unwrapped toys suitable for infant through age 12 are needed as well as gift cards for teen patients. The CLF website, www.leukemiamichigan.org has specific informa-

tion on the types of toys that are suitable. Some examples include electronic hand-held games, dolls, arts and crafts kits, books, action figures, board games, and sports equipment.

To drop off toys or donate to this program, bring a new, un-wrapped toy to any of the Morley or Sander's store locations including Rochester (436 S. Main Street), Livonia (Laurel Park Place Mall on 37702 Six Mile Road), and Birmingham (745 E. Maple Road). Toys or gift cards may also be dropped off at the CLF office at 29777 Telegraph, Suite 1651, in Southfield prior to

Dec. 24. The holiday toy collection and special discount offer at Morley's will end on Dec. 24.

Questions about the holiday toy program may be directed to the patient services department at (248) 353-8222.

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is a statewide organization that provides information, financial assistance, and emotional support to adults and children affected by leukemia, lymphoma, and related blood disorders. Since 1952, Children's Leukemia Foundation has served more than 11,000 families in Michigan.

Be Santa to a local senior citizen

Many seniors served through the Wayne County Senior Alliance Holiday Meals program this Christmas will get gifts, too, thanks to Home Instead Senior Care.

Every year, the company sponsors "Be a Santa to a Senior," a national non-profit program that provides gifts and companionship to socially isolated and lonely seniors. In Wayne County, the local office takes the program a step further by partnering with Senior Alliance to provide extra assistance and awareness as well as an extra touch of holiday cheer by helping to sell holiday meal cards for homebound seniors.

The cards from the Senior Alliance are being sold from

the Home Instead Senior Care in Livonia office until Christmas.

"When you buy a meal card from us, our Home Instead office will match that donation with a gift to be delivered along with the meal to seniors on Christmas Day," said Glenna Yaroch, owner of Home Instead Senior Care in Livonia. "We hope that the local community will support our efforts as a way of giving back to the seniors in our area who have given us so much."

This is the fourth year that Yaroch and her staff have partnered with the Senior Alliance, which will serve approximately 750 seniors this Christmas season. For the 2008 holiday season,

Yaroch has chosen large print word search books for the seniors receiving meals.

"Home Instead Senior Care has come up with a very thoughtful way to approach Holiday Meals this winter," said Linda DeVore, Senior Alliance Program Manager. "We appreciate their generous support and know how much seniors will appreciate receiving a gift along with their meals."

"Selling Christmas cards helps the organization purchase meals throughout the year," said DeVore. "The Senior Alliance hopes to sell 3,000 cards so each senior receives multiple cards on Christmas Day."

The meal cards cost \$5. To

purchase a card through the "Be a Santa to a Senior" program and ensure that seniors will receive a matched gift, call Home Instead Senior Care at (734) 525-5300. For information on the holiday meals program, call Senior Alliance at (734) 727-2017.

In 2008, "Be a Santa to a Senior" volunteers will surpass one million gifts delivered to needy seniors since the inception of the program in 2004. "Be a Santa to a Senior" program has become the largest gift-giving project of its kind for older adults. Home Instead Senior Care is the world's largest provider of comprehensive companionship and home care services for seniors.)

Armenian Genocide Committee accepting essays

Students with winning essays about the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 and its relationship to other genocides of the 20th century, will be awarded \$100-\$500 in the second annual competition, funded by the Hagopian Family Foundation.

The contest is sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Committee and is open to middle and high school students.

Edgar Hagopian, chair of the Armenian Genocide Committee and patriarch

of the Hagopian Family Foundation, stated that the project "is a critical and vital key to perpetuating the history of the Armenian people in the minds of students as well as having them learn that a comprehensive study of the Armenian Genocide will aid and educate legislators and leaders to avert future tragedies."

"It is the youth of our nation that will look back to help not only this country move forward, but hopefully, one day the world," Hagopian said.

Suggested essay themes are:

- Events that precipitated the Armenian Genocide, as well as others.
- Government and individual responses to the Armenian Genocide and other 20th Century genocides.
- Should the U.S. government formally recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Deadline for submissions is Feb. 13, 2009. Members of the Metro Detroit Armenian Community will judge the entries. Winners will be announced on March 27,

2009. High school students will win \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$100 for third place. Middle school students will be awarded \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. Each teacher of a student submitting a winning essay will be given a \$100 appreciation award.

For complete guidelines visit www.armeniangenocideessay.com.

For more information, call Hagopian at (248) 646-7847.

Santa, dinner events help pet shelters

Petsmart in Rochester Hills will donate \$5 to the Michigan Humane Society from every \$9.95 photo package it sells now through Dec. 21.

The package includes a digital photo of your pet with Santa Claus and a holiday frame.

Stop by the store for a photo session from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., today, Sunday, Dec. 7, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14 and 20-21.

The store is located at 2724 South Adams. (248) 844-5101

MORE SANTA SNAPS

The Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan also offers pet photos with Santa, noon-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20.

The cost is \$5 and includes one photo and a decorative frame.

The no-kill rescue organization maintains a shelter at 27796 John R, south of 12 Mile, in Madison Heights.

After meeting Santa, check out the adjacent PetBeastro,



PET PROJECTS

a premium pet food store specializing in frozen raw cuisine. The store also stocks collars, collar charms, pet beds, leashes and toys. Call Pet Beastro at (248) 548-3448 or visit www.thepetbeastro.com.

Call the Animal Welfare Society at (248) 548-1150 or visit animalwelfare.org.

FILL YOUR BOWL

Buy tickets now for the Almost Home Animal Rescue League fund-raiser on Monday, Dec. 15, at BD's

Mongolian BBQ of Novi, 5 Main, Suite 200, Novi.

Adult dinner costs \$25 and a youth dinner is \$15. The menu will include one entree bowl, soup, salad, pop, tax and tip. Add \$2 for unlimited food.

Seatings will be at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The rescue league operates a no-kill shelter in Southfield. See its adoptable animals at www.almosthomeanimalrescue.org.

SEND YOUR RECIPE

Will you treat your cat or dog to a homemade holiday meal this month? Send us your favorite food recipe for Fido or Fluffy and we'll publish it in this column next week.

E-mail to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail to 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Indicate "Pet Projects" in the e-mail address line or on the envelope.

Compiled by Sharon Dargay

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SPOTLIGHT ON:

YOUR DENTAL HEALTH

Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

THE QUICK FIX FOR CHIPPED TEETH

The cosmetic restoration technique known as bonding is an answer to the prayers of patients who want a quick, effective, and relatively low-cost fix for chipped, stained, cracked, or eroded teeth. This bonding procedure involves the application of a composite resin material that, in effect, patches damaged tooth areas. The plastic resin is matched to natural tooth color, and the procedure usually requires only a single visit. The dentist first prepares the tooth for treatment by roughing and shaping the surface. Next, the tooth is prepared with solutions that ensure strong adhesion between the tooth and bonding material. The resin is then cured with a high-intensity light. Finally, the bonded area is smoothed and polished to provide a natural contour.

It's simple, really. When you look good, you feel good. If your smile is not becoming to you, you should be coming to us for dentistry tailored specifically to your needs. Aren't you curious how today's cosmetic dentistry procedures like bonding can virtually change your life? We'd be glad to tell you about the many ways we can help make your smile a dazzling one. Just call us at 734-453-9413. Our family dental practice at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth, is geared to your complete oral health and to long term patient satisfaction.

P.S. Because the plastic resin used in dental bonding actually becomes part of the tooth's structure, the tooth emerges from the procedure stronger than before.

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Toxic toys

Testing reveals trouble in toyland

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
 O&E STAFF WRITER

The recall of 45 million toys in 2007 reinforced the way Mike Shriberg shops for his two young children. Two years before the Consumer Product Safety Commission became involved Shriberg was testing everything from rubber ducks to teething rings for the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor. The nonprofit released its annual guide to toxic chemicals in toys Dec. 3 (www.healthytoys.org). On Saturday, Dec. 13, Shriberg visits the Ann Arbor District Library, Mallets Creek Branch with a hand-held X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer to test toys for free. Chemicals such as bromine have been shown to permanently affect the developing brain and reproductive system, and possibly cause cancer.

"One class of toy that stands out is children's metal jewelry. It remains the most contaminated category two years in a row and is five times more likely than other products to contain lead greater than recall levels," said Shriberg, Ecology Center policy director. "Lead causes brain damage. Pediatricians will tell you there's no safe level of lead. We recommend consumers avoid low cost children's jewelry of undescribed metals. Several Hannah Montana brands (Disney) with high levels of lead were found as well."

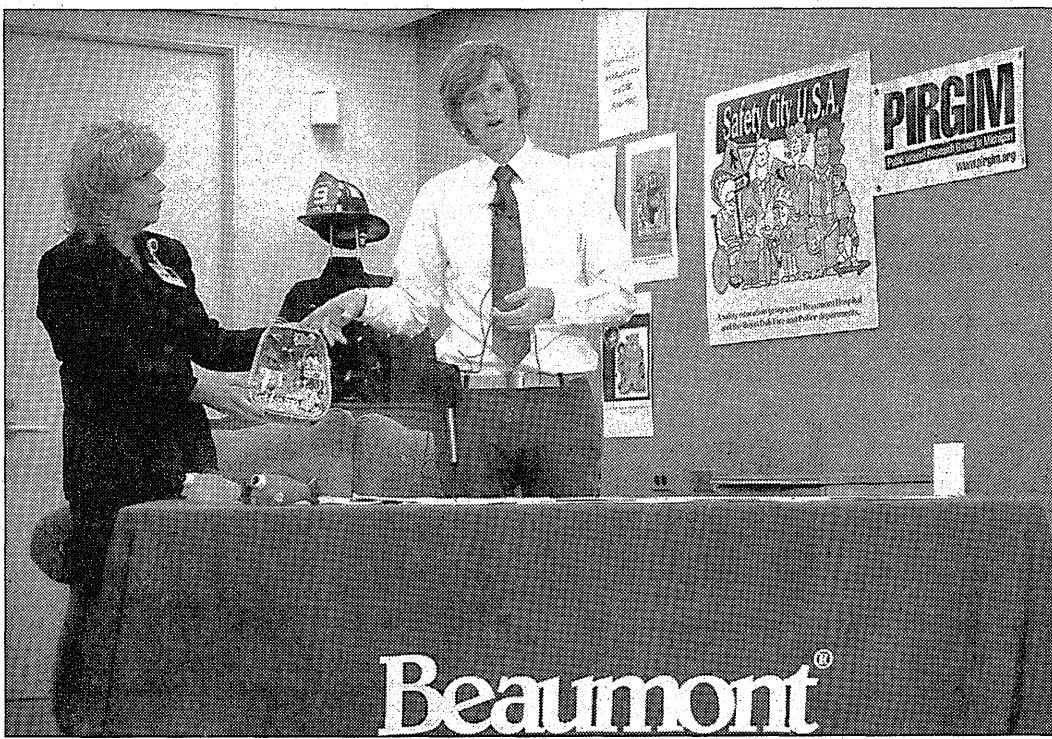
Holly Bair won't be buying her 6-year-old niece a Pony Land Scented Pony

Pet for Christmas because it made the Trouble in Toyland report for phthalate levels 95 times the amount allowed by the pending February 2009 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. Bair is just as concerned about toys which present choking hazards. Toys are still the number one reason children end up in the Emergency Room at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Bair was an emergency room nurse for eight years before becoming Beaumont's Trauma Care coordinator and director of Safety City U.S.A., a facility for teaching prevention programs. She and Nate Housley, field organizer for PIRGIM, held a press conference there recently to announce the 23rd annual report from the public interest group (www.toysafety.net).

"Choking is the leading toy related death for children across the U.S. either on parts of toys, balloons, balls, those things small enough to fit into a toilet paper tube for children under age 3," said Bair. "But there are toy related injuries as well. The magnets that come in toys if kids swallow one magnet it may move through without injury. If they swallow more it could create bowel obstructions."

Bair recommends parents pay attention to age appropriate warning labels and inspect toys regularly for sharp edges or loose parts.

"They need to do their research, be a good consumer, read the report, take the report with them (when they



Holly Bair, Beaumont Hospital's Trauma Care coordinator, and Nate Housley, field organizer for PIRGIM, recently held a press conference to announce the 23rd annual Trouble in Toyland report from the the public interest group.

TOY TESTING

What: Free testing for toxic chemicals in toys
When: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13
Where: Ann Arbor District Library, Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 East Eisenhower Pkwy. (Meeting Room A/B), Ann Arbor
Details: No pre-registration required. For information, call (734) 761-3186, ext. 125

shop)," said Bair.

Housley hopes parents heed Bair's advice.

"They can find dangerous toys on any store shelf. Not all toys are tested before they go on store shelves," said Housley. "If a toy is made out of soft plastic, it shouldn't be allowed to be chewed on or swallowed. Toys with soft plastic may have phthalates in them. Even after Feb. 10, the CPSC issued a legal opinion that said they will allow toy manufacturers to continue

selling toys with phthalates until they run out of stock."

Housley agrees with Shriberg that there's no way to tell if a toy on a store shelf is safe. Country of origin is no clue either. Between 80 to 90 percent of toys come from China so the majority of problems come from Chinese toys, but the Ecology Center hasn't found a consistent correlation between where a toy is manufactured and safety.

"Chinese products don't fare any worse. It's not a China problem but a regulatory problem with our system. Because it's made in the U.S. doesn't mean it's safe," said Shriberg. "The good news is we found 21 percent did not contain toxic chemicals. It shows toy manufacturers can make toys without chemicals of concern."

While Shriberg is looking forward to the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act going into effect Feb. 10, 2009, the reforms don't go far enough. The Ecology Center

together with organizations like the Michigan Nurses Association formed the Healthy Michigan, Healthy Kids coalition to work with state lawmakers to draft the Safe Children's Product bill package to protect children from toxic toys and other children's products. "We hope it will be introduced in January and to get it done so it's in place by the holiday season 2009," said Shriberg. "It would eliminate, lead, mercury and arsenic in toys, and chemicals of concern like bromine, bisphenol-A and phthalates would likely make the list. Parents would be able to make a decision of whether to buy toys through a government Web site requiring disclosure of chemicals. And it would provide incentives for companies to develop safer alternatives and to locate and grow in the state."

For a list of recalled toys, visit www.cpsc.gov.

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Qigong workshop
 With Daisy Lee Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Winter Health for all, and 1-4 p.m. (women only), sponsored by Michigan Tai Chi Association, 38121 Ann Arbor Rd. at Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 591-3530 for information and form.

Overeaters Anonymous
 Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Jingle Bells run/walk
 For The Arthritis Foundation Sunday, Dec. 7, at Northville Downs Race Track, and Saturday, Dec. 13, at Covington School in Bloomfield Village. Both festive events offer competitively timed 5K routes, 4-mile children's Snowman Shuffles and post-race chili parties. Call 1-800-968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Understanding diabetes
 St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11, in the hospital's Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan Road, Livonia. Please use the Main Entrance on Five Mile Road. Dec. 10, is Diabetes and the Holidays: Strategies to Maintain Control, with registered dietitian Katie Dooley presenting strategies to help maintain control of your blood sugar and weight during the holiday season as well as ideas for healthy resolutions for the new year. Dooley returns Jan. 14, for Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control. On Feb. 11, registered dietitian Judy Swancutt presents Diabetes and Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs: What's Right for You. All are welcome. A new topic is presented on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.



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SECRETS TO WINNING COUNTEROFFERS



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L. Culp

It was 2001. The dot-com crash had put Patrick Lannon in job-hunting mode twice. He and his wife, expecting their son, left Portland, Ore., for Knoxville, Tenn. The offer Lannon landed after extensive internal interviews surprised him. He countered, asking "if it would be worth it to pay me 20 percent more if it would positively impact the business." He then recommended that it take effect 90 days after he started or they'd part company.

That counteroffer wasn't an isolated incident. Sharing the wealth, Lannon has been involved in six counteroffers, three for other people, increasing the total value of the offers by \$130,000. Today he telecommutes as a workforce business analyst at the city's Kronos Inc., a company with about 3,400 employees in 60 countries. Lannon sells HR-related software and hardware to retailers in North America.

The economy makes many people fear job hunting, let alone bargaining. Dan Dugan, HR manager over 1,500 employees at Denver's Service Corporation International Inc., a \$2 billion funeral and cemetery provider in Canada and the United States, recalls that he wanted to negotiate for his first job, an internship. He told the employer and received what he wanted, plus an unexpected \$3,000 signing bonus. More recently, he coached a

friend to identify the "missing ingredient," the one that would make the offer "perfect" -- tuition reimbursement. The friend won a \$20,000 salary bump, provision for his Executive M.B.A. program expense and modified telecommuting.

Victor Brown, vice president of Business Development at the Birmingham, Ala., regional Chamber of Commerce, remembers telling an employer in his native Atlanta that he wasn't "comfortable" with an offer, that he'd go home and discuss it with his wife. "She sweetened me right there on the spot \$2,500," he reports. Years later, a recruiter called him. That led to an offer from another company of \$58,000 plus \$8,000 in bonuses. When he demurred, the company said it couldn't offer much more.

"But I was confident I wasn't going to leave my home, where I'd lived my whole life," he adds. "They'd tried to tell me the cost of living in Birmingham was lower than Atlanta, but I'd done some research. I told them that housing prices in Birmingham were a bit higher." They settled at the top of the scale:

- \$75,000 salary;
- 20 percent relocation package, which grew to almost \$20,000;
- \$12,000 signing bonus; and,
- with 12 months of good performance, 500 shares of stock.

TECHNIQUES

People successful at counteroffers recommend a range of techniques. Lannon stresses familiarity with the psychology behind a counteroffer. "An employer who made an offer," he remarks, "clearly wants you... Establish your value to the

organization to make the decision easy." He comments that a 90-day period makes the employer "fully invested" and much more likely to meet your demand than take on the added expense of recruiting and hiring someone else. Meanwhile, work toward accomplishing the goals you set with the company for that period.

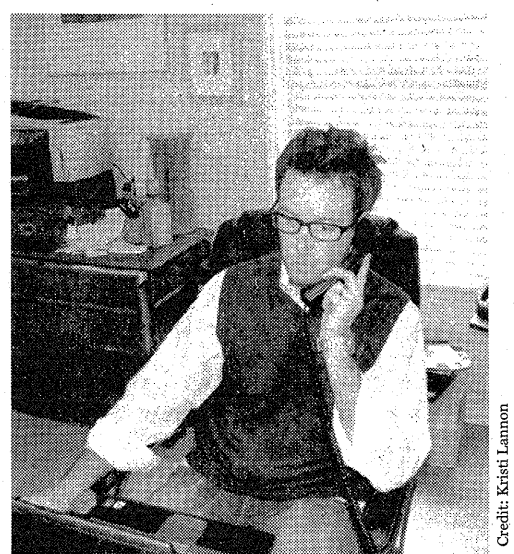
Dugan, the HR manager, advocates a certain "mindset, a shift from selling yourself to negotiations. Once you have an offer, your relationship with the hiring company has changed. Know your market value and be psychologically comfortable with your requests. You need to be able to walk away."

Brown advocates "interviewing for positions like the interviewer -- to determine whether you're a good fit, whether you have the attitude and commitment. Understand the position you're looking for and your interests. In any negotiation you just can't be anxious or to desperate."

Bobbie Stone of executive search firm Bobbie Stone International L.L.C., in Princeton, N.J., advises candidates to "make sure you have a salary in place (in your current company) and find out whether a bonus there (is) guaranteed." Not everyone has that luxury.

Still, Lannon observes, "I think a lot of people seeking a position feel lucky getting it and don't spend much time thinking why they get the offer. It's not's looks. Think why and get back. Use it as leverage."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. E-mail your questions to culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)



Patrick Lannon, here in his home office, is a workforce business analyst at Kronos Inc., in Knoxville, Tenn. His negotiating skill includes helping people succeed at making a counteroffer.

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Die-Namic Inc. is now hiring for all machining positions at our Belleville location. Positions include:

- Polishing & Finishing
- CNC Lathe, CNC Mill, Wire & Conventional EDM
- Surface, ID & OD Grinding
- Centerless Grinding
- CNC Programmer

A minimum of 5 years experience is required for all positions and must do own set-ups and control adjustments. We offer competitive wages and a full benefit package. Apply in person between 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. at: Die-Namic Inc. 7565 Haggerty Rd. Belleville, MI 48111 or fax resume to: 734-710-3223 or email to: sthomson@die-namic.com EOE - M/F/D/V

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR

Tech. society in Farmington Hills seeks energetic, highly-organized and detail oriented person with the ability to perform multiple tasks with minimum supervision. Some general office duties: answering phones; email and correspondence; process registrations, publication fulfillment, and database maintenance. Must have excellent oral/written communication skills, and at least 3 yrs. pertinent exp. Database exp. +. Proficient in Word/Windows/Excel. Some nationwide travel. Salary and resume to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org FAX: 248.848.3771 - Director, HR - MS, P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-9094

Personal Assistant
Securities licensed. Full time to work with president in Plymouth. Experienced and qualified only. Motivated & organized. Excellent people and office skills. Resume to: Joel@curtisfinancial.com

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Part-Time. Skilled. Dependable. Personable. Canton: 734-981-2880

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Exp., friendly, motivated person needed to join our periodontal/implant team. Part-Time. Farmington Hills, Call Karen (248) 851-1034

DENTAL ASSISTANT Experienced
Busy Livonia group practice seeks exp. d. expanded duty Dental Assistant. We're looking for someone with a flexible schedule for 1-3 shifts per week, on average. You must have great clinical skills, be detail oriented and very friendly, Ortho a plus, but not necessary. Cover letter and resume to: marcie.killian@preferredentalgroup.com

DENTAL ASSISTANT, PT
Exp'd. Flexible. Must be able to work evenings & some Sat's. Call: (313) 563-3300

DENTAL INSURANCE BILLER
For an OB/GYN office. FT or Part Time. Must have exp. 20-25 hours per week, some Saturdays. Fax resume: 313-565-3057

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

Dental Receptionist
For general practice. Full or part time. Experience required. Call 248-347-4250

Denture Technician
Experienced, to set teeth and finish process. Livonia. FT or PT. Good pay. Call 248-777-4651

Hygienist
English & Spanish speaking. P/T. Must be positive. Fax resume: (248) 474-0052

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

CLINICAL SUPERVISOR & RN's for HOME CARE
Pinnacle Senior Care, a Medicare certified home health agency with 7 offices in Michigan, is seeking a full time Clinical Supervisor for it's Lansing office and PRN/Contingent RN's to cover the Brighton & Lansing areas. Previous home care exp. a must. This position offers excellent per visit rates. For consideration call Mary @ 586-254-6788 or email: mary@visionstaffinginc.com

DIRECTOR OF NURSING
Retirement home for Sisters of Mercy, Farmington Hills. Graduate of accredited BSN school of Nursing & possess a valid MI RN license. Min. 3-5 yrs. exp. in geriatric nursing & nursing mgmt. Excellent Benefits. Email resume: khayes@mcauleycenter.org

FRONT DESK
Full-Time
for Novi cardiology practice. Fax resume: 248-552-9510

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Full-Time with phlebotomy exp. preferred. Also need **PT BILLER** Exp. necessary. Fax resume to: 248-644-2864 or call Ginger: 248-644-3711

MEDICAL OFFICE CAREERS
Great salaries & benefits! 2+ yrs exp req'd. Receptionists & CMA w/ phlebotomy or x-rays exp.-Farmington Hills *Ophthalmic Tech-Deerborn *Billers - W Bloomfield andrea@harperjobs.com Fax: 248-932-1214 Andrea: 248-932-1204 Harper Associates www.harperjobs.com

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Part-Time
Exp. preferred. Novi. Fax resume: (248) 324-0009

Practice Manager-RN
Large medical practice in Southfield is seeking a Registered Nurse-Practice Manager. The ideal candidate will have 3 yrs in management of professional & clinical staff, excellent organizational & planning skills. Experience working closely with physicians. You will be responsible for the overall development of the practice. Must have exp with budgeting, compliance, reimbursement & hiring. This position offers excellent wages & full benefits. Call Mary @ 586-254-6788 or fax 586-254-0648. Email: mary@visionstaffinginc.com

RNs, LPNs, PT & MSW
Needed for home visits. PT & FT w/benefits. or fax resume: 248-968-9714 or fax resume: 248-968-9715

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

Retail
Jewelry Sales SEASONAL UP TO \$20/HR
734-625-3200 Fax 625-1443 jobs@jewelryexchange.com

Help Wanted-Domestic 5240

Retired widower seeking mature dependable live-in for companionship, light house-keeping, must speak English, non-smoker. 248-921-7244

Position Wanted 5340

CARE GIVER
I have lots of experience & qualified for everything! Looking for full-time. 810-797-4285 / 810-964-3287

Childcare Needed 5380

ADORABLE girls need exp'd.
full-time live in or out Xp'd in Birmingham. Call Amy: 248-546-4596

CHILD CARE
Part time help wanted for 3 yr old twins, Northville Twp. College student in child development preferred. Must have background check, references, reliable, be pleasant, positive personality, transportation, non-smoking, light household duties. Call 248-701-2235

NANNY: seeking mature retired female for newborn. In-home located in Livonia. Must pass drug/background check. Qualified parties please call: 734-730-6540

Divorce Services 5610

DIVORCE \$75.00 -
www.CSRdisability.com
CS&R 734-425-1074

Business Opportunities 5740

Looking for A Way Out of the Rat Race? Average People Using a Simple System. Learn How. 800-753-7632

5000-5980

Employment Instruction Services

Help Wanted-General 5000

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pickups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F. 734-728-4572

Help Wanted-General 5000

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DELIVERY/WAREHOUSE, PT
Chauffeur's license a must. Apply in person. 15101 Clear, Plymouth.

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT
Assist persons we serve in residential settings. Feel good about your work. \$7.65 total plus good benefits. Livonia: 734-469-4523 734-469-4519, 248-474-0283

Help Wanted-General 5000

Audio company seeking motivated individuals to train & work with professional home theater equipment. Paid training. Company vehicle \$800-\$1000/wk. Valid DL. No winners! Call 734-207-0317

AUTO DEALER Warranty Administrator
Suburban multi line GM Dealer is looking for an experienced Warranty Administrator. Prior experience with the R & R computer system is necessary. This position will also include other dealership office responsibilities. Full or part time possible. Please fax your resume to: 734-453-0037 Attention: Sue

Garage Door Repair Technician
\$40-60k, will train the right guy. Must have clean driving record. Email resumes to: premierdoorservice@gmail.com

Holiday Help \$17.25 base-appt.
PT/FT, flex schedules great for students/others. Call Today (248) 426-4405

HVAC Service Technician
Residential, light commercial. 5 yrs minimum exp. Fax resume to: 248-443-2792

INTERNET MARKETER
3 yrs. Pay Per Click exp. Fax resume to Lover's Lane: (734) 414-0020

SNOW REMOVAL
Current drivers license required. Plymouth area. (734) 564-1273

START NOW!!!
Earn \$550 per wk. working in our Promotions Department. Full training. Must have great attitude. Southfield. Ask for Randy: 248-354-7908

TUTOR TIME
Seeks exp'd. LEAD TEACHER for our 2-4 yr olds in Canton school. Requirements: CDA or 12 EOE credits. Competitive wages, benefits. Call Melanie: 734-981-8463 fax: 734-981-7163 Email: 6238@tutortime.com EOE

Telemarketing/ Research Coordinator
Telemarketing position responsible for business development & marketing research activities. Excellent verbal/written skills a must. P/T, approx. 20 hrs/wk. (flexible). Fax resume to: 248-818-1813 Email: gk@structuretec.com Or Mail to: Structure Tec 34119 W. 12 Mile Rd. Ste 270 Farmington Hills MI 48331

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FINANCE PART-TIME
Tech society in Farmington Hills seeks highly-organized and detail-oriented person to perform a wide variety of admin and finance duties: correspondence, coordination of government filings, cash and investment oversight, insurance applications, accounts payable, etc. Must be adept at multi-tasking, proficient in MS Office/Word/Excel/PowerPoint Great Plains exp a +. 20 hrs/wk beginning end of Jan 2009. Salary and resume to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org FAX: 248.848.3771 Director, HR - ACGT, P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-9094

BOOKKEEPER, Full-Time
Must know Quickbooks, flexible hrs, non-smoking office, Excel/Word, bank reconciliations. Email resume to: gastaff@gmail.com

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

Histotechnologist
Mohs surgeon seeks Histotech with frozen section experience to process fresh tissue with Mohs frozen section techniques in his expanding, private practice. Background in histology, cryostat preparation and maintenance, and histo-chemical staining is essential. Full or part-time, excellent pay and benefits. Ann Arbor area. Fax resume today: 734-996-8767 or a2derm@aol.com

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
For an OB/GYN office. FT or PT. Exp. preferred. Saturday's a must. Inquires taken after 5pm only at: (248) 496-5762

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

DELIVERY/SALES \$775-\$1050
3 needed to start now. Casual Dress, Co. Vehicle, Cash Daily. Sales Req. Call between 10am-2pm. (248) 471-5200

Divorce Services 5610

DIVORCE \$75.00 -
www.CSRdisability.com
CS&R 734-425-1074

Business Opportunities 5740

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\$8.20 wages & benefits. Must be trained/valid license. 313-255-6295

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BOOKKEEPER, Full-Time
Must know Quickbooks, flexible hrs, non-smoking office, Excel/Word, bank reconciliations. Email resume to: gastaff@gmail.com

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DIVORCE \$75.00 -
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International manufacturing organization has a unique opportunity for a dynamic and driven Accounting/Finance Professional. This person will work with key leadership members to evaluate business operations (cost & budget) and make process improvement recommendations. Qualified candidates will possess:

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Reliable Delivery has immediate openings for independent contractors with vans. Must have good people skills and knowledge of the Metro Detroit/Tri-County area. Only those with reliable transportation need apply. Apply in person @ 6774 Brandt St., Romulus weekdays between 9 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Estimator/Project Supervisor
for 24 HR Reconstruction company. Ambitious & hard-working. Communication and computer skills a must. Fax resume to 248-477-1777

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FINANCE PART-TIME
Tech society in Farmington Hills seeks highly-organized and detail-oriented person to perform a wide variety of admin and finance duties: correspondence, coordination of government filings, cash and investment oversight, insurance applications, accounts payable, etc. Must be adept at multi-tasking, proficient in MS Office/Word/Excel/PowerPoint Great Plains exp a +. 20 hrs/wk beginning end of Jan 2009. Salary and resume to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org FAX: 248.848.3771 Director, HR - ACGT, P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-9094

BOOKKEEPER, Full-Time
Must know Quickbooks, flexible hrs, non-smoking office, Excel/Word, bank reconciliations. Email resume to: gastaff@gmail.com

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Automotive

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Chevy Impala: 6-Seater Unmatched In Its Class

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
Avanti News Features

The Impala nameplate dates all of the way back to 1958, when it was the ritziest Chevrolet in the company's full-size car lineup.

The 2008 Impala, as always, is targeted at buyers who want a sedan with good size, a reasonable price and a decent amount of usable storage room.

Changes for 2008 are relatively minor. Satellite radio is now standard on all models, while the lower-level LS and LT models received a standard six-way power driver seat. Stability control is now standard on 2 LT, LTZ and SS trim levels, and the 3.9-liter V6 is now E85 ethanol-gasoline compatible.

A throwback, the Impala is one of the few cars available with a bench front seat. The optional 40/20/40 front seat isn't a traditional bench, but the center armrest of the middle section can be folded up to create a bench.

With this setup, you can sit three across the front and three in the back, making the Impala a true six-passenger sedan. This is a dying breed nowadays.

The Impala comes in four trim levels: LS, LT, LTZ and SS. The \$21,255 LS model includes 16-inch wheels, a front bench seat, air-conditioning, full power accessories, a tilt steering wheel, a power driver seat, a single-CD audio system with an MP3 jack, and keyless entry.

Moving up to the LT model adds dual-zone climate control and remote vehicle start.

The LTZ includes 18-inch alloys, performance suspension, heated leather bucket seats, a Bose audio system and an auto-dimming rearview mirror.

The SS comes with monochromatic exterior paint, a performance-tuned suspension, 18-inch wheels and a rear spoiler.

Options for the Impala LS consist of a Luxury Edition Package that includes front bucket seats with leather, a flip-and-fold-flat rear seat, steering-wheel-mounted audio controls, OnStar, a rear spoiler and anti-lock brakes with traction control.

The LT has two sub packages called 1 LT and 2 LT that include features such as leather seating, a six-CD changer, satellite radio, heated front seats and 17-inch alloy wheels. The LTZ's only options are a CD changer and a sunroof, while the SS can be ordered with heated seats, a power front-passenger seat, Homelink



The Chevy Impala is a dying breed. Thanks to the optional 40/20/40 front seat, it's one of the few cars in its class that can comfortably seat six.

transmitter and an auto-dimming rearview mirror.

There are three different engines for the Impala, depending on what trim you order. The LS comes with a 3.5-liter V6 engine that produces 211 horsepower and is E85 compatible.

Available on the LT and standard on the LTZ is a 3.9-liter V6 that is good for 233 horsepower, which is now built with Active Fuel Management technology. This system deactivates half the cylinders while cruising to save fuel.

The SS has a 5.3-liter V8 making 303 horsepower. All models have the same four-speed automatic transmission and are front-wheel drive.

Fuel mileage on the 3.5 liter V6 is 18 miles per gallon in the city and 29 mpg on the highway, on regular gas.

As for safety, anti-lock brakes and traction control are standard on the LTZ and SS, and optional on other models. Full-length side curtain airbags, OnStar and a tire-pressure monitor are standard on all Impalas, and stability control is now standard on 2 LT, LTZ and SS trim levels.

In crash tests conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Impala earned a perfect five star rating for driver and front-passenger protection in frontal impacts. In side-impact testing, an Impala equipped with the side airbags scored five stars for front passengers and four stars for those seated in the rear.

You'll notice interior comfort immediately when you enter the Impala. Its instrument panel has a soft feel with a simple design. The gauges themselves are sophisticated, yet easy to use. Buttons for the radio are wide and flat, while a large central knob operates with little effort.

The control knob system is found in new Buick models as well as the Cadillac DTS, all of which feature a similar center console.

The Impala offers many solutions to your cargo storage needs. They include its forward-flipping rear seat cushions that reveal a storage tub underneath that can contain spills or carry smaller items. The tub also serves as a covered storage area beneath the seat with cushions down.

There's also a decent-sized pass-through from the trunk that can be accessed by flipping the seat bottoms forward and the seat backs flat. The Impala's trunk holds its own. It is larger than many other mid-size cars' trunks at 18.6 cubic feet.

To keep you going in the right direction, all Impalas include the new Generation 7.0 OnStar as standard equipment. This system offers Turn-by-Turn navigation with the optional Directions and Connections service. Turn-by-Turn navigation directs the driver by using the digital readout lines in the radio head. Directions are downloaded by the OnStar advisor to the vehicle and can be played back or paused anywhere along the route path.

And to keep you going and going, like the Energizer Bunny, all Impalas come with a three-year or 36,000 mile limited warranty with a five-year, 100,000-mile powertrain warranty.

The Impala should be a good fit for people who need an affordable car with a roomy interior.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors Corp. for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group @2008, Fracassa Communications.

2008 Chevrolet Impala
Vehicle class: Large sedan.
Power: V6 and V8 engines.
Mileage: 18 city / 29 highway.
Where built: Oshawa, Ontario.
Price: \$21,255.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

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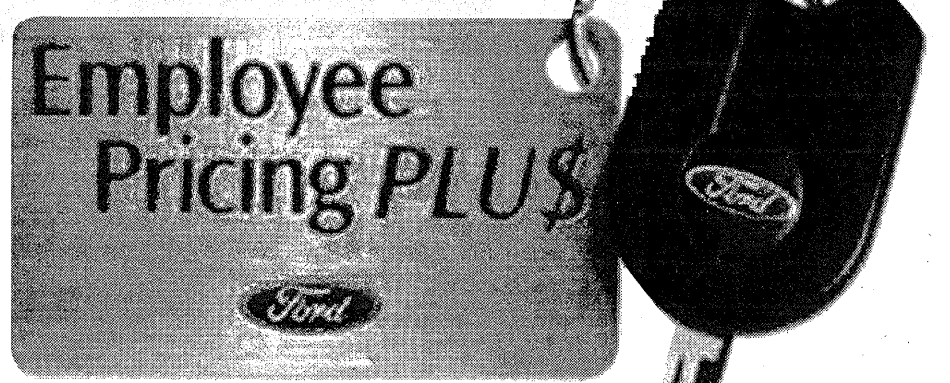
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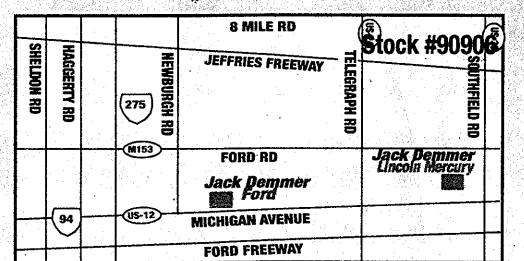
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New Homes

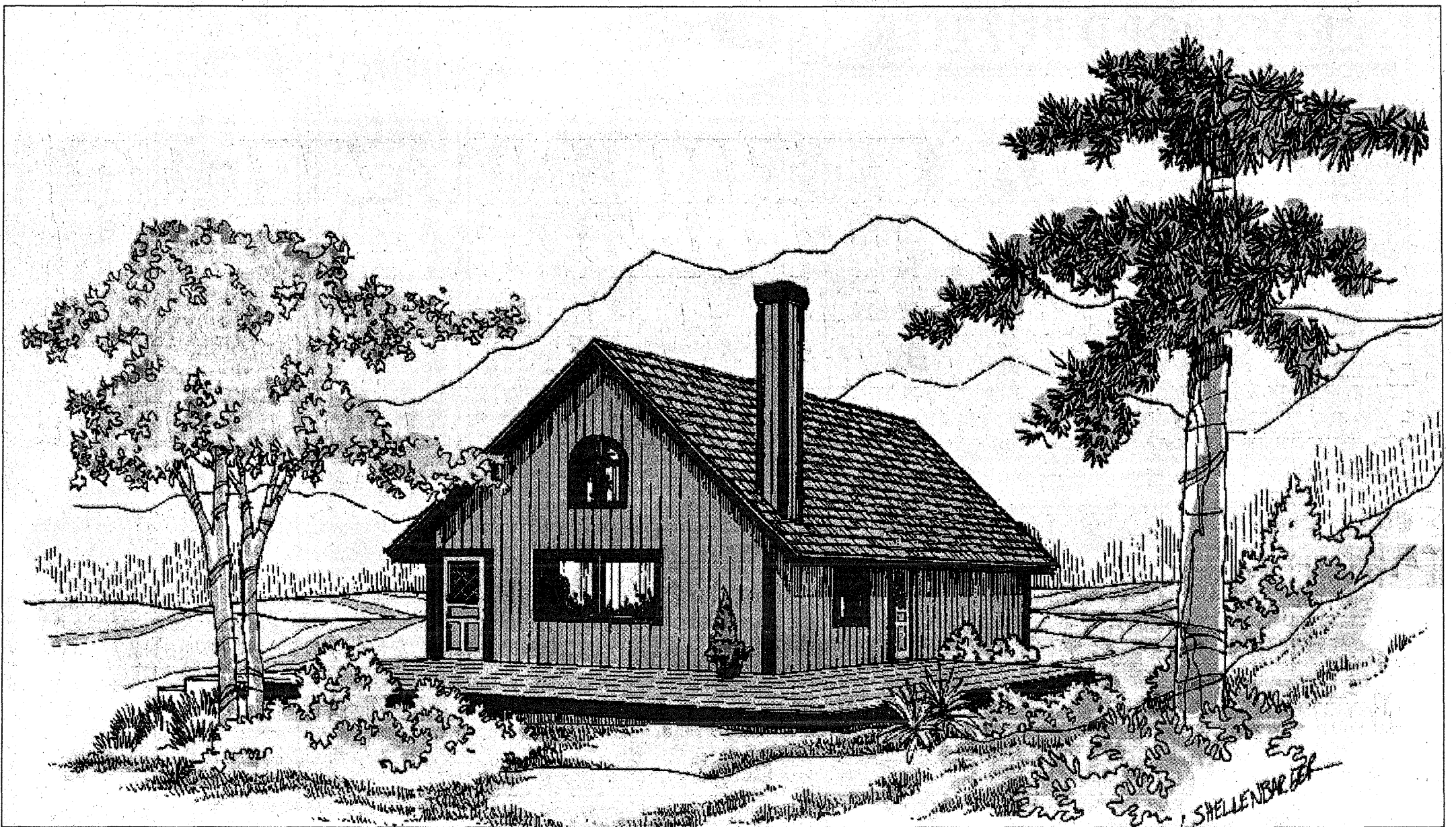


Sunday, December 7, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com



Farmhouse can help young family get off to good start

A compact, but fun-filled home away from home, or a wonderful little starter home, the Farmhouse (406-44) has 988 square feet on the main level and a 215-square-foot loft area for storage and sleeping (if approved by building official).

The Farmhouse is an ideal retreat at the beach, mountains or even on a small city lot. The home features two good-sized bedrooms, a bath, and a stacked washer/dryer unit in space provided just off the kitchen. The living/dining area has a vaulted ceiling, which is not only attractive but also creates a spacious and airy atmosphere.

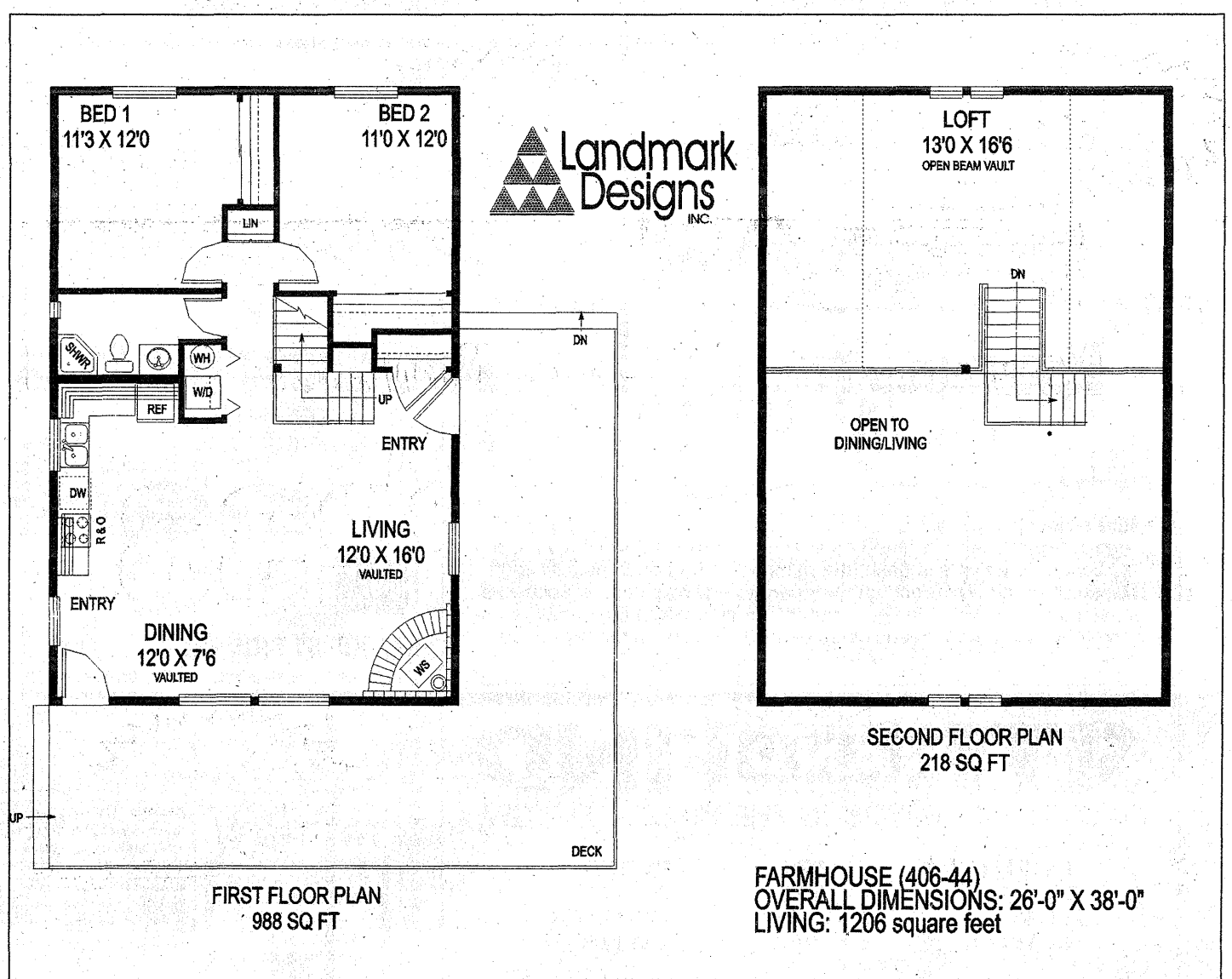
The Farmhouse is a beautiful little home that is packed with features to make living more enjoyable. If a small home or a vacation home is your desire, then the Farmhouse is the place to start.

A steep slope roof with a decorative gable window accents the exterior. The gable window enhances the interior as well by allowing the sunshine to penetrate, providing warmth and light. The exterior is illustrated with vertical board and batt. If a horizontal siding is used, particularly on the lower level, a

more formal design would result. Yet another distinctly attractive appearance could be created with brick. A large deck sweeps across the front and partially down one side, creating a wonderful place for summertime lazing and dining as well as space for venting creative energies with potted flowers and herbs.

The Farmhouse is a beautiful little home that is packed with features to make living more enjoyable. If a small home or a vacation home is your desire, then the Farmhouse is the place to start.

For a study plan of the FARMHOUSE (406-44), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldpians.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



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There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331.

For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Investors

Learn about "The Art of House Foreclosure Short Sales" from Steve Dillon. Sponsored by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU

Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742.

BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate "Business Management for Building Professionals" course on Monday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB), Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR), Certified Aging-In-Place (CAPS), Master Certified Sales Professional (MCSP) and Certified Green Professional

(CGP) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS of Builders Professional Services Group, will teach management skills that give industry leaders a solid foundation in the best business practices for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling smaller businesses. Case studies and sample forms will be used to provide practical and applicable tools for management success.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its National Association of Home Builders' Professional Remodelers Council (NAHBR) will sponsor Certified Aging-in-

Place (CAPS) seminars:

"CAPS I: Marketing and Communication Strategies for Aging and Accessibility" on Wednesday, Dec. 10; "CAPS II: Design/Build Solutions for Aging and Accessibility" on Thursday, Dec. 11. The seminars will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Don Pratt, CAPS, CGB, CGR of Wake-Pratt Construction will teach strategies and techniques for marketing, designing and building aesthetically enriching, barrier-free living environments.

Registration fees are \$155 per course for NAHBR members, \$200 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$250 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register

online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) is sponsoring a Certified Graduate seminar "Risk Management & Insurance for Building Professionals" on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein of Madison Heights-based Builders Professional Services Group, Inc. will provide comprehensive risk management strategies to reduce construction risks and other exposures for residential and commercial builders, developers and remodelers. From overarching principles to practical solutions on obtaining the most competitive insurance quotes, this course provides the tools to manage risk. This course is not intended to take the place of legal

counsel.

Registration fees are \$155 for National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Professional Remodeler Council members, \$175 for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$200 guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

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Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 787-7325 or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

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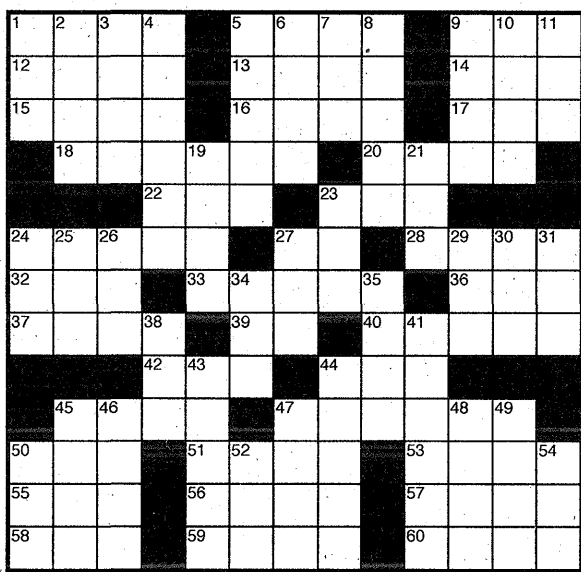
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- 6 Tennyson heroine
- 7 Possibilities
- 8 Like a chimney
- 9 Dart about

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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SUDOKU

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

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: Beginner

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!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| BATTER | FATTER | PATTER |
| BLADDER | FLATTER | PLATTER |
| CHATTER | HATTER | SPLATTER |
| CLATTER | LADDER | TATTER |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

X I F L A T T E R I
S A H S R J A P E O
F G M P E R T N T B
F E C L T E T V T B
A P L A T T E R A L
T A A T A T R Y H A
T T D T B A R T C D
E T D E E H W Q S D
R E E R J O P T D E
W R R C L A T T E R

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

X	I	F	L	A	T	T	E	R	I
S	A	H	S	R	J	A	P	E	O
F	G	M	P	E	R	T	N	T	B
F	E	C	L	T	E	T	V	T	B
A	P	L	A	T	T	E	R	A	L
T	A	A	T	A	T	R	Y	H	A
T	T	D	T	B	A	R	T	C	D
E	T	D	E	E	H	W	Q	S	D
R	E	E	R	J	O	P	T	D	E
W	R	R	C	L	A	T	T	E	R

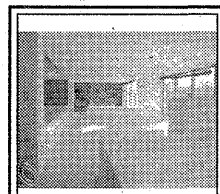
SUDOKU

SEEK AND FIND



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Open Houses 3030

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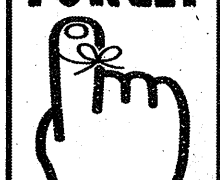


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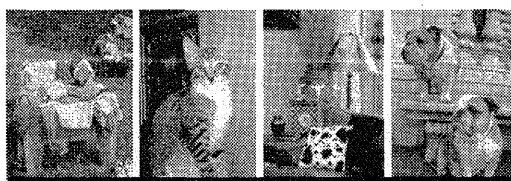
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