

'O little town of Bethlehem'

Inside today's newspaper

In these difficult times, we're still your local news source

Opinion, A9



Keeping Santa looking good for his big day

Hometownlife, C1



SUNDAY December 21, 2008

75 cents

PLYMOUTH H)hserver

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Mother Nature provides the 'white' for Christmas

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Plymouth postal worker Russ Scott almost had his mail delivery truck stuck in the snow while delivering a package - at his first stop along Main Street - during Friday's snowstorm.

Certainly Scott had to be reciting the mailman's creed -"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" - in pushing forward to deliver the remainder of his route.

"It's not written anywhere, but we try to do that," Scott said with a chuckle. "Otherwise it just piles up. It's just like Newman (the postal worker on Seinfeld) says 'the mail never stops."

The snow was a welcome sight for Lauren Hurley, her two boys and their golden retriever, Ellie, who took great pleasure retrieving an old tennis ball in the drifts at their Burroughs home.

"I love the snow," said Hurley, who was almost done shoveling her driveway. "It's Christmassy and it's fun for them to play in. I don't mind the shoveling. Maybe in March we'll feel differently about it."

For Aidan, 9, it was fun to be out of school for the day.

"We can make snow forts," Aidan said.

His brother, 7-year-old Ian, was just as excited. "I like it because you can make tunnels through the snow

and you can jump in snow piles," he said. Snow plow driver Allen Martin of Echo Lawn Service in Canton Township said it would take him into the darkness to get all his businesses completely plowed.

"At least twice, maybe more. It's going to be a long night," Martin said. "The timing of the storm was really bad." One might conclude the large amount of snow would

keep potential customers from downtown Plymouth, which could be detrimental to merchants only days before Christmas. However, Tom Piotrowski, owner of Delta Diamond on Ann Arbor Trail, was happy to see the snow

"Most of the time we do better when we have heavy snow," said Piotrowski. "People will get into the festive move in town. They'll look at the decorated trees or get a coffee. They like the atmosphere in town with snow.

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Ann Kurtis of Livonia runs her usual five miles in the Plymouth Township area of Hines Park, in spite of the snow. "It's better than a treadmill." said Kurtis, who is married to famed local runner Doug Kurtis.

Donations Still coming

BY TONY BRUSCATO

Despite the tough economic times in Michigan, those who still have the means to help the less fortunate appear to be doing

The Plymouth Salvation Army Corps reports that with only a few days left before Christmas, the Red Kettle campaign is running some \$39,000 — about 47 percent ahead of last year.

Major Jim Irvine said they are hopeful of attaining the \$235,000 goal.

"Whenever the economy is down, donations go up," Irvine said. "People see the kettles, and they have a sister or a brother or a relative who is struggling, and they can put a face and a name to the need.

"Every time they walk by a kettle, they drop something in," he said. "It might only be a dollar, it might only be some spare change, but it becomes a repetitive thing; whenever they pass a kettle, they put some-

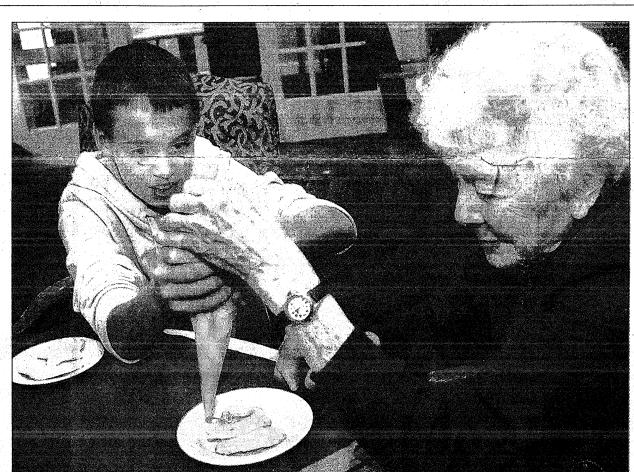
Penny Irwin, president of the Plymouth Goodfellows, said donations "came in pretty

"We were surprised at the generosity of people," said Irwin, who pointed out the Goodfellows assisted 91 families and 224 children. "We had a lot of people who called and adopted families. Some would also give gifts, which was also helpful. We didn't have to cut back this year, and that was good."

At the Plymouth Community United Way, this year's \$1.1 million campaign has been extended into the first quarter of 2009.

"Largely because of the economy and our major companies — Johnson Controls, Detroit Edison, Visteon and General Motors — have moved their United Way campaigns into January," said Marie Morrow, PCUW president. "There are concerns because a lot of companies are restructuring and downsizing, and that has a lot of impact. However, we found many others have increased the size of their campaign donations."

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Our Lady of Good Counsel eighth grader Jimmy Bowling of Plymouth helps Madeline Satwicz, resident at Independence Villiage in Plymouth, with squeezing out the frosting to decorate her Christmas cookie. The students have visited the village twice now, Students also helped raise money for a 4-year-old Taylor girl afflicted with progeria.

Spreading some cheer

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Good Counsel have been busy spreading holiday cheer.

Tuesday they visited with residents at Independence Village in Plymouth Township decorating cookies, singing holiday songs and giving gifts.

And, presented with a chance to help raise money for a 4-year-old Taylor girl with a rare disease, they didn't hesitate.

Students designed Christmas cards they sold at area stores, raising more than \$1,000 for Lindsay Ratcliffe who has progeria, a genetic defect that accelerates aging, which has affected

only 46 children worldwide.

"Everybody was really excited about helping," said Veronica Zak, 12, a seventh-grader at OLGC. "It feels good even though we didn't know her, but now we know a lot about her."

After designing the cards, students formed an assembly line to make packs of 10 original cards and envelopes, which were are being sold at Gabriala's and The Haven in downtown Plymouth, as well as Ann Tailoring - owned by the mother of 12year-old Cindy Ding of Canton.

"She sold them all," said Ding, proudly, of her mother's allotment. Terry Zimmerman of Canton is the seventh-grade teacher who read about Lindsay this past summer. She

enlisted the help of her students and those of eighth-grade teacher Nancy Carapellotti, whose husband owns a printing company and helped defray

"We need to teach children to look outside themselves, appreciate what they have but also do for others," said Zimmerman. "They jumped on board." Michael Whalen, 12, of Canton said

the project was worthwhile. "Because all the money goes to her

and she can do whatever she wants with it," Michael said. "I don't think she gets to go a lot of places, so I hope she goes somewhere fun ... or uses the money to help with her disease."

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Township slices full-time

Union: Board didn't have the authority

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to slice the hours — and by extension the benefits package - of seven union workers to save some \$150,000, a move trustees who voted in favor of the measure say was necessary to avoid even deeper cuts down the road.

But members of the township's local unit of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the union most affected by the changes approved Tuesday, don't think township officials have the authority to make the changes.

However, apparently buoyed by attorney opinions rendered in a closed session prior to Tuesday's meeting, the board voted 4-3 to approve the slicing of seven fulltime AFSCME jobs to part-time. Six of the jobs were cut from 37.5 hours to 30 hours per week; a seventh, the full-time park ranger, was cut from 40 to 30 hours.

The other cuts came from around the township, including the clerk's department, public works and the police department. An additional job, the admin-

Please see CUTS, A4

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PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

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Coming Thursday



I ow budget or big budget - we have the New Year's Eve events for you. Check them in the next issue of Filter on Christmas day.



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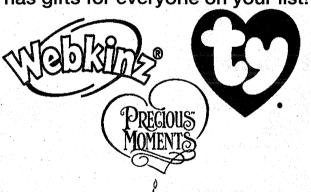
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Grocery mag tabs Hiller's as 1 of best

At first, they were impressed with the new store in Union Lake. Upon further investigation, Richard Turcsik and his team of industry experts at Grocery Headquarters Magazine realized that Hiller's Markets is an outstanding American company with the values, dedication and quality that all grocers should exemplify.

That's why Hiller's Markets will be featured on the cover of the January 2009 issue of Grocery Headquarters Magazine as that publication's Independent Retailer of the Year.

"It's more than a beautiful new store," says Turcsik. "Hiller's is an interesting company. Especially given the state of the economy in Michigan, the fact that Jim Hiller is building his customer base and meeting the needs of consumers is extraordinary."

In addition to the new Union Lake store, Hiller's has a store at 5 Mile and Haggerty.

"I'm just a grocery man trying to do well and do good at the same time," says CEO Jim Hiller, whose family company has served metro Detroit's grocery needs for more than 65 years. "I couldn't live with myself if my stores weren't clean, cutting-edge and complete in offering the best quality, service and selection around. Why settle for anything less than the best? Even in tough economic times, I believe a business must represent the core values of the people behind it if it is to succeed.'

Nationally known as a leader in the food business, Hiller's maintains an exceptionally high level of quality, selection and service in every department. Founded in 1941, Hiller's has long been dedicated to meeting the needs of specific food audiences, including glutenfree, kosher, vegan, organic, gourmet and allergy-sensitive as well as unparalleled British and Japanese food sections. The company is committed to supporting the communities around its stores. In collaboration with producers and manufacturers, Hiller's is spearheading an economic recovery.

Last month, Hiller's launched a green tag program which slashed prices on thousands of everyday items by 10-60 percent - without compromising its high standards. Departmental buyers can trace the path of every food item from origin to store shelf. Hand-selected meats are ground fresh daily, and all fish at Hiller's was raised humanely in pristine waters. Hiller's produce is always grown naturally and safely without fear of bacteria run-off. It is the last store perpetuating the art of grocery buying, with relationships between buyers and producers driving a humane

"I have always been proud of my company, which is built on the strength of relationships with loyal customers and manufacturers," says Jim Hiller. "In today's tough economic climate, I am even more proud to be a Michigan business owner dedicated to rebuilding our economy."

Rose Parade honor

Leah Girard, a senior at Canton High School and threeyear member of the Plymouth Canton Marching Band, has been selected by Bands of America for the national Honor Band in the 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Girard was selected from among hundreds of applicants across the nation for membership in this prestigious honors



Girard

Girard,
the daughter
of Steve and
Francine Girard,
performed for
band directors
Marc Whitlock
and Martin
Montoya and

color guard section diretor Jennifer Leseth. She has studied dance for 14 years at the Dancin' Feet Studio of Canton, under the direction of Cheryl Reitz.

The BOA Honor Band is a 300-piece national ensemble with winds, percussion and a flag and dance team. George N. Parks, Director of the University of Massachusetts Minuteman Marching Band, and an All-Star staff, will direct the band. Bands of America is a program of Music for All, one of the nation's largest and most influential organization's in support of active music-making.

Girard, a dance team member, will spend a week in southern California, where she will have rehearsals, performances at the Tournament of Roses Bandfest and Disneyland, special activities and a featured appearance in the world-famous parade. The Tournament of Roses Parade, "America's New Year's Celebration," will kick off at 8 a.m. New Year's Day.

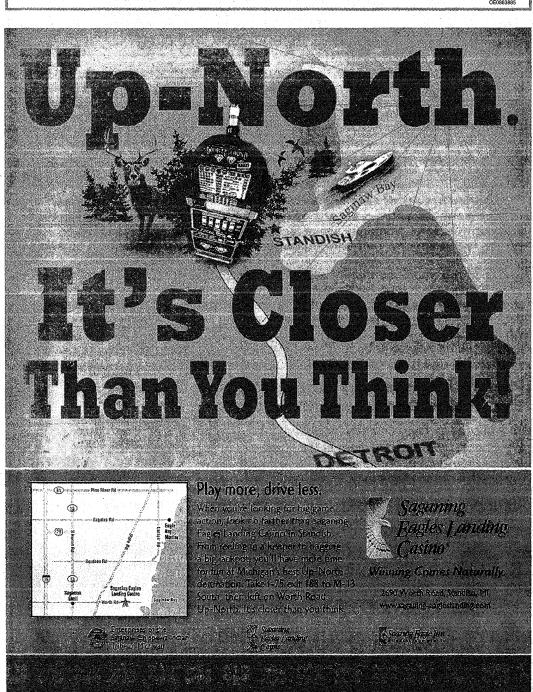
"To be selected for this unique opportunity is a once-in-a-life-time experience for these students," says Scott McCormick, Bands of America President and CEO. "The Tournament of Roses Parade is one of our country's national pageantry treasures and the 2009 Honor Band members will be ambassadors of America's bands and of their states and communities."













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istrative assistant to supervisor Richard Reaume, was eliminated Wednesday.

Reaume, treasurer Ron Edwards and trustees Kay Arnold and Bob Doroshewitz voted in favor of the cuts. Clerk Joe Bridgman and trustees Michael Kelly and Steven Mann voted against them.

Doroshewitz said the cuts were necessary to avoid facing a budget deficit that could rise to \$1.2 million in two years.

"It's tough times, we've got some very difficult financial goals we need to meet," said Doroshewitz, who admitted other options were discussed but wouldn't elaborate because they were talked about in closed session. "Without taking any action we're looking at a \$1.2 million deficit two years from now. If we were to wait, we'd most likely be put in a position in the future where we'd have to take even more drastic action.

"We're really trying to shore it up now," Doroshewitz added. "The longer we wait, the more Draconian the actions might

Union members believe they've given enough. The union, which had 36 members when they ratified their first contract in 2001, was down to 25 members before Tuesday's action. While the part-timers are still represented, union leaders vow to fight the cuts.

"We'll do everything we can to stop it," local president Carol Pyykkinen said. "We're already doing more with less. The level

of service is going to plummet."

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 21, 2008

Muddying the waters is an upcoming vote the local is scheduled to take Jan. 8 to decide whether to stick with AFSCME or switch to the clerical wing of the Police Officers Association of Michigan. Township officials say the cuts weren't discussed with union leadership because of a state law that prohibits them from talking to unions within 30 days of any scheduled vote.

The issue could actually end up in court. "The Plymouth Township

Board exceeded its legal authority by voting to reduce the regularly scheduled working hours of seven township employees

represented by AFSCME," said Albert Garrett, president of Michigan Council 25 AFSCME. "At any time, such a proposal would be subject to bargaining between the employer and the Union, and could not be implemented unilaterally by the employer.

"However, at this time a rep-

resentation election under the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act has been scheduled for this bargaining unit in January 2009, and the law requires that wages, hours and conditions of employment remain frozen until after that election has been conducted," Garrett added. "We are consulting our legal counsel to determine the most appropriate course of action to halt these illegal actions by the Plymouth Township Board and to protect the legal rights of these seven AFSCME members."

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Announcing

Music man

Library staffer leads a musical life

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

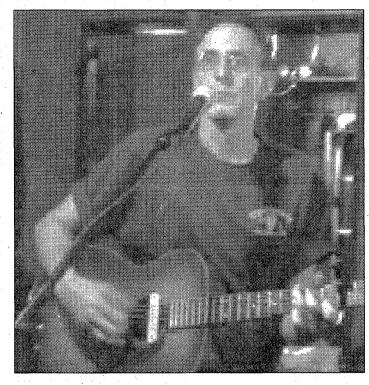
When Leo Papa was a child, his Italian parents wanted him to learn to play an instrument, so they got him an accordion.

Papa long ago left the accordion behind (although he still has it), but the love of music that came with it still reaches all the way down to his soul. It's what convinced him to start a production company, "Cybersong," while he lived in Texas (he still maintains the Web site at www. cybersong.com) and it's what sustains him now.

"My mother had a great love of music," said Papa, also known in the music world as Levon Bus. "There was such an era of creativity in the late 1960s and early 1970s in music and pop culture. I got caught up in the folk music scene. Art is something that really sustains people. It enriches

It's been sustaining him now for years. Papa, who grew up in Allen Park and got a degree in education from Eastern Michigan University, spent a few years teaching in Wisconsin. From there he migrated to Texas, where he attended library

While he lived in Michigan, he said, he "learned a lot" about folk music, blues and even country music. Texas, he said, was an



Leo Papa, a department head for technology at the Canton Public Library, has built a career as a music producer and occasionally gets out to play on his own.

"eye-opening experience."

Texas has its own brand of sort of folk and blues, with some Cajun music mixed in," said Papa, now the department head for technology programs at the Canton Public Library. "I met a lot of fine musicians living in

It's also where Papa started "Cybersong," a home-based

recording business focused on using the Internet to blend technology and music, a Web site that helped him emphasize the digital recording of acoustic music.

Papa recorded a few artists he says have done pretty well, including Russell Clepper, whose first CD was chosen as one of the top 12 of the year by a Texas music Web site.

But after more than 20 years in Texas, Papa returned to Michigan, where he hooked up with some Irish musicians, including one of his favorites, Terry Murphy, with whom Papa frequently plays (including gigs Tuesday and Friday at Dick O'Dow's in Birmingham). In fact, Papa says, he's been playing with Murphy "a lot," and has helped produce two CDs with him, but wants to make sure to draw the line of distinction between himself and Murphy.

"Terry is one of the premier true, traditional Irish folk musicians in the area," said Papa, who noted Murphy plays with two bands - The Goats and a trio called The Bowzies. "He is

a student and historian of Celtic music, he's a great guitar player, great singer, great performer. Terry is involved in multiple bands and is a professional musician. I just go out and play."

Papa is just being modest, according to his biggest fan, co-worker Kathie Gladden, who also works at the Canton Public

"First off, he's a pretty good guitar player," Gladden said of Papa, who has worked at the library five years. "He really feels his music; he even writes some of his own songs. Also, he's my friend and I respect both his and Terry's ability to get up in front of a group of strangers and make music, especially since I can't even read music or talk in front of strangers.

"I always enjoy myself when I see them play, because they create an atmosphere where you can just kick back and trust that what they are going to lay down is going to be quality stuff."

Papa is currently working on what he lovingly calls his "lifelong project," a CD of his own that was supposed to be titled "Watershed," until country singer kd Lang came out with an album of that name. The CD is a mix of different types of American folk, blues and country, all original songs either Papa has written or were written by songwriter friends in Texas.

Papa, a retired Texas educator, is also hoping to translate what he knows about recording and music into a kids' program at the library dealing with music and technology.

"I'd love to be able to connect with kids who have an interest in music," Papa said. "I'd like to get a little more involved teaching kids again."

Still and all, while music is a big part of Papa's life, it isn't the only - or even the most important - part. It's a portion of his life he likes to keep in perspec-

"It is for me a secondary preoccupation," Papa said. "I get out (to play) as much as I can when I have time, and I've had the good fortune of playing with some really good musicians. (But) My job and my family come first. Over the course of 30 years, I've been able to do some great things. It has enriched my life, but it's not the sole focus."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009 commencing at 6:00

Application 1463, 13320 Karl DR: The applicant is requesting a variance in required distance between residential dwelling units; required distance is 16 feet, proposed distance is 12.7 feet, variance requested is 3.3

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

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building

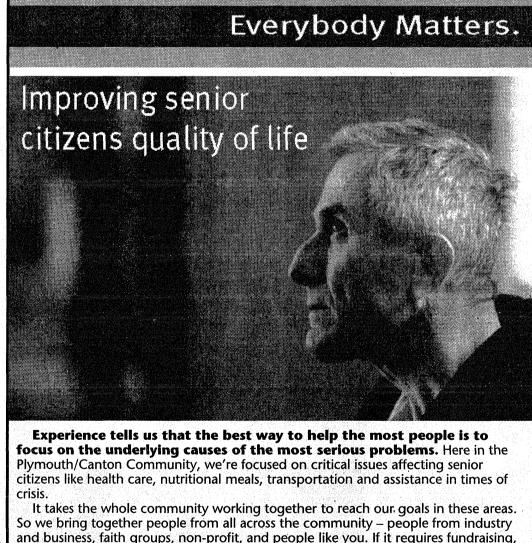
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Snow-blowers were out in full force as locals went about the business of cleaning sidewalks of more than six inches of snow.

A blast of winter

Snow no reason for locals not to go about business

Ann Kurtis of Livonia generally runs about five miles a day.

When Mother Nature dropped some 6-10 inches of snow on the area Friday morning, Kurtis refused to be deterred and got into her gear anyway.

"It's better than a treadmill." said Kurtis, who is married to famed local runner Doug Kurtis.

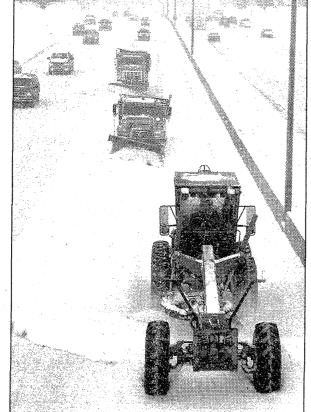
The storm, the biggest the area has seen this season, dumped less snow than the 10-12 inches originally expected, but still brought its share of problems (shoveling, digging cars out) and pleasure (sledding, day off from school).

Lauren Hurley ter, getting in some winter fun with her two boys and golden retriever, Ellie.

"I love the snow." said Hurley, who was almost done shoveling her driveway. "It's Christmassy and it's fun for them to play in. I don't mind the shoveling. Maybe in March we'll feel differently about it."

Bill Peck figured he'd gotten away from the white stuff when he moved to sunny Englewood, Fla. But he couldn't escape the snow upon his return to the area to visit his mother, Margaret Peck, a resident at Plymouth's Tonquish Creek Manor.

"I drove right into it," said Peck.



County crews had heavy equipment out on I-96 trying to keep the roads clear of snow and ice.



big pile of snow on Penniman Avenue. He is out enjoying the weather with brother Eric Olson-Baker, and his aunt, Michelle Olson.



Bill Peck came up from warm Englewood, Fla., to visit his mom, Margaret Peck, who resides at Tonquish Creek Manor in











Pre-planning a funeral may save trouble for loved ones

Dear Rick: My wife and I are in our early 70s and it seems we've been attending too many funerals of late. Friends told us they have pre-planned and pre-paid their funerals. It seems like a smart thing to do. Do you recommend it?

There are two separate issues that need to be addressed. First, is whether you pre-plan your funeral. Second is whether you pre-pay?

Most Americans don't plan



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 21, 2008

Rick Bloom

position after a loved one's death. The result is many people spend

too much money on funerals.

their funerals,

to handle.

family and

If you're thinking about pre-planning a funeral, some of the issues to consider are whether you will thus leaving it be buried or cremated and what type of casket you desire. A casket is where individuals can save a to loved ones substantial amount of money. Most people purchase caskets directly through a funeral home where, Unfortunately, in many cases, prices are artificially inflated. Caskets are high-profit items for funeral homes and it friends are in a is not unheard of for them to mark up caskets 500 percent or more. Some funeral homes may tell you very vulnerable that you must purchase the casket through them, however, that is not the law.

> they want to give the funeral director the impression that they are cheap. In addition, when you're grieving over the

mindset to shop around, nor do loss of a loved one it is hard to think dollars and cents. That is why it makes sense to pre-plan a funeral.

If you're thinking about

pre-planning a funeral, some of the issues to consider are whether you will be buried or cremated and what type of casket you desire. A casket is

where individuals can save a substantial amount of money. Most people purchase caskets directly through a funeral home where, in many cases, prices are artificially inflated. Caskets are high-profit items for funeral homes and it is not unheard of for them to mark up caskets 500 percent or more. Some funeral homes may tell you that you must purchase the casket through them, however, that is not the law. Over 20 years ago, the Federal Trade Commission issued a ruling that required funeral homes to accept caskets other than their own. The ruling also required funeral homes to itemize charges.

Pre-planning a funeral can save your loved ones aggravation and a substantial amount of money at a time when they can least afford it. I believe it makes sense to pre-plan a funeral. However, pre-planning is different than pre-paying.

When it comes to pre-paying a funeral, issues to consider are what happens if you no longer live in the area, the funeral homes goes out of business, or you just change your mind regarding the funeral. If you decide to pre-pay your funeral check with the funeral home in regard to these issues.

Death is a topic that no one likes to talk about. However, it is a fact of life and therefore we should not ignore problems that may arise when we are no longer here. That includes what to do with your funeral and have a good and current estate plan.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@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.

Women To Work boosts job search

The next Women To Work Program presented by JVS starts with an information meeting on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, at the Southfield office from 9-11 a.m. The program starts on Tuesday, Jan. 27, and continues for five weeks, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, ending on Feb. 26. Hours are from 9 a.m. to noon.

"I've gotten such a good response," said Judy Richmond, employment specialist/Women To Work coordinator, of past Observer & Eccentric coverage. She often gets her best candidates from the OSE, including the Livonia and Plymouth areas. Charter One Bank supports the pro-

gram. "We assist women who are interested in entering or re-entering the job market," Richmond said of the program, also available to men. Some participants have been out of the paid workforce, often for family responsibilities which can include caring for older parents."

"It's for people who are able to begin a job immediately and can commit to that schedule of Tuesdays and Thursdays." Richmond also meets with participants individually during the program.

For additional information on Women To Work, contact Judy Richmond at JVS, (248) 233-4232.

- By Julie Brown



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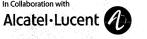
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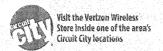
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Commission fails to override Ficano's veto on parks money

BY KURT KUBAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Commission met Thursday for the last time this year, and failed to come up with enough votes to override Robert Ficano's veto of a parks funding ordinance that would have sent money back to local communities for local parks initiatives.

Last week the county executive vetoed the commission's ordinance to distribute 25 percent of what each community contributes to the county's parks millage. While some of the ordinance's supporters vowed they would have the 10 votes to override Ficano's veto on Thursday, the ordinance was sent back to the commission's Wavs & Means Committee for further deliberation.

Alan Helmkamp, an assistant to the county executive. said the commission made the right decision because the ordinance had legal problems and would have resulted in some major cuts to the parks department, which he said has improved dramatically as a result of the millage.

"The concerns the county executive expressed about the legality and the policy problems obviously resonated with the commission," Helmkamp said. "By sending this back to committee was a way to avoid losing on the override vote.

The parks millage was initially passed by Wayne County voters in 1996, and involves a levy of .25 mils, generating approximately \$12.7 million per year. The millage was renewed in 2000 and again in 2005. It expires at the end of 2010.

Under provisions stated in the ordinance, each Wayne County municipality that contributes to the millage will receive 25 percent of the funds to improve parks and related facilities within the municipality. The other 75 percent will be allocated for improvement and operations at Hines Park, Elizabeth Park and other county owned parks facili-

Commissioner Kevin McNamara (D-Canton), who is one of the sponsors of the ordinance, said the vote was not taken Thursday because Commissioner Ronaele Bowman (D-Westland) failed to show up at the meeting. She had voted for it previously.

Despite the fact that there is a new commission coming in next month, McNamara said there is still the possibility that the ordinance could emerge from the committee and be voted on sometime in January.

"From what I understand, we have 45 days from the day the executive vetoed the measure (Dec. 12)," he said.

"I'm very disappointed. I think it's the right time for this ordinance. It's good policy, and the right thing to do. As I've said, the only problem with expanding our parks system has been trying to maintain it. We should give this money back to local communities, and let them maintain their parks," McNamara said.

Helmkamp said Ficano recognizes the plight of local communities in these times, and he is committed to working with them and explore ways to partner on recreation projects.

"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

LOCAL NEWS

Saturdays at the Penn

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the **Plymouth Canton Symphony** Society present "Saturdays at the Penn" old-fashioned variety shows for children and families at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

The upcoming performance features special musical host Nan Washburn, conductor of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, announcer Timothy Thompson and special guest performer Josh White, Jr. The event is set for noon Saturday, Jan. 3.

Tickets are \$3 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open 11:15 a.m. The Penn is located at 760 Penniman.

To purchase tickets before the concert or for more information on group purchases, contact Deb Madonna at (734) 377-0914. The concert is made possible, in part, by a grant from The Wilcox Foundation and other sponsors.

Plymouth Community Arts Council Winter/Spring 2009 Schedule

PCAC offerings

The Plymouth Community Arts Council's Winter/Spring Session starts in January.

The PCAC is bring back its camp program for children ages 5-12. The mid-winter camp runs Feb. 23-27, the spring break camp is April 13-17, and the PCAC offers snowday camps when Plymouth-Canton school officials call a snow day due to inclement weather. All camps run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The PCAC offers Girl Scout programs, with workshops for badges including ceramics and clay, theatre, Her Story and colors and shapes.

There are drop-in art classes with Pam Grossman. The drawing-based class takes place Mondays and Wednesdays, while the youth (ages 6-19) classes are offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Pottery A-Z with Jeff Burda

Holiday Hours

Dec. 13- Dec. 24

Sunday

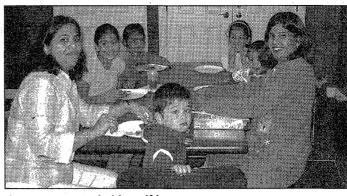
Dec. 24.

...9:30-8

....12-5

...9:00-3

AROUND PLYMOUTH



Game on at the library

The Plymouth District Library will host a couple of game nights over the

Family Game Night takes place 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29 for kids ages 5-12 and their families. The library will provide the board games, pizza and pop at no charge. Registration is required for this free event; call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5. A Teen Family Game Day takes place noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3. Teens and their families will also enjoy pizza and board games, video games and fun for the entire family. No charge for this event, though registration is required (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

is offered in six-week sessions for children ages 6-12, on Saturdays Jan. 24-Feb. 28, March 7-April 11, April 25-May 30.

All camps and classes are held at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. To register for these programs stop in at the PCAC or call (734) 416-4278. More information on all programs is available at the PCAC Web site, www.plymoutharts.com

New Morning options

New Morning School is accepting applications for several current openings in their successful early childhood program. Students are eligible to begin classes in January 2009.

There is one spot available in

the Monday-Wednesday morning preschool program, as well as one spot in the Tuesday-Thursday morning program.

New Morning School also announced they have afternoon or full-day kindergarten spaces available. Plymouth-Canton bus service can be arranged.

New Morning School is a state-certified, non-sectarian, non-profit school for students in preschool through grade eight. To find out more, call (734) 420-3331 or visit the school's Web site at www.newmorningschool.com

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:

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

To volunteer or for questions, contact peep-seniorparty@comcast.net





\$4.25 to\$4.75

bonus \$1.00 concession coupon for every \$10.00 in gift cards

Last shows Christmas Eve will start no later than 5pm.

First shows on Christmas Day will start after 3pm.

MET-THAIS LIVE SAT. 12/20 12:00 PM ♥YES MAN (PG-13) FRI-TUE 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:50 WED 11:45, 2:10, 4:30 ♥ THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)

WED 11:50, 2:00, 4:10

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL WED 12:00, 2:20, 4:40 FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) FRI-TUE 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:50 WED 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35 AUSTRALIA (PG-13) FRI-TUE 6:25, 9:50

FRI-TUE 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40 **BOLT DISNEY DIGITAL 3D** (PG) FRI-TUE 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:35 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) FRI, SUN-WED 11:15, 1:30, 3:45

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING In accordance with the provisions of Section 18, chapter IV,

Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, seven or more freeholders have Petitioned the County of Wayne to absolutely abandon and discontinue:

WAYNE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

All of that portion of the alley, 20 feet wide, as dedicated to the use of the public, abutting lots 821 through 852 and the Northerly portion of Lot 822, North of the Easterly extension of the South line of Lot 746 along the East line of said alley, also that portion abutting Lots 732 through 746 along the West line of said alley, inclusive, in MCINTYRE GARDENS SUBDIVISION NO. 1, lying South of Crescent Ave. (60 feet wide) and West of Morton-Taylor Rd., being a part of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 15, T.2 S., R.8 E., Canton Twp, Wayne Co., Michigan, recorded in Liber 61 of Plats on Page 74, Wayne County Records.

Therefore, it has been decided a Hearing be held on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2009 at, 2:30 p.m., at Wayne County Department of Public Services, 415 Clifford Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226, and that a Hearing Examiner of the County shall hold said hearing and obtain all necessary facts and information concerning the advisability of either granting or denying said Petition, and shall report all findings of fact to the Board of Wayne County Commissioners.

True copies of this notice are to be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. $\tilde{2}83$ of 1909, as amended.

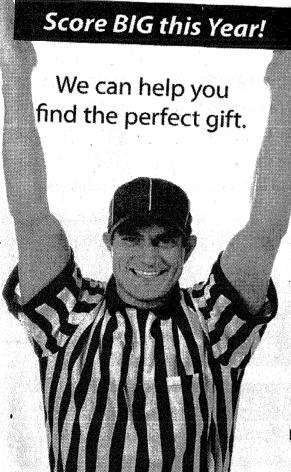
WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES Real Estate, 3rd Floor Attention: Sandra M. Martin 415 Clifford Street Detroit, Michigan 48226 313.224.7772



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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA **JANUARY 8, 2009**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning **Board of Appeals**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. The following Agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Craig Engel, Steve Johnson, Vicki Weltv Alternate: Dawn Zuber

Acceptance of Agenda

1. Don Conger, 1547 Walnut Ridge Circle, Canton, MI 48187, for residential property located at same address, east side of Lilley Road between Saltz and Ford Roads, appealing Buildings and Building Regulations Article V, Section 78-128(a), required fence permit.

Zone R-5 Parcel 053 04 0113 000 (Building)

2. Mark Mosed, 13506 Helen Street, Detroit, MI 48212, for commercial property located at 3933 Lotz Road (Super 8 Motel), east side of Lotz Road between Michigan and Van Born Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.06 nonconforming signs.

Zone LI-2 Parcel 141 99 0027 715 (Building)

3. JFK Investment Company L. L. C., 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 210, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, for commercial property located at 42595 Ford Road (buybuy BABY), south side of Ford Road between Lilley and Morrison Roads, appealing Sign Ordinances Article 6A.00, Section 6A.09.17 blade under-canopy signs, Article 6A.00,

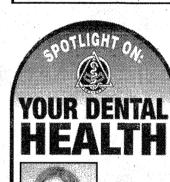
Section 6A.17 wall sign area scale, and Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, legibility and design requirements. Zone C-2 Parcel 054 99 0001 701 (Building)

Election of Officers for 2009

Approval of the December 11, 2008 Minutes

Written comments need to be submitted prior to 5:00 PM on the date of the hearing. All written comments must be sent to the Charter Township of Canton, Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188.

Publish December 21, 2008





Vivian, D.D.S.

SIDE NOTES

An estimated 30-40 million Americans grind their teeth when they sleep. Not only does bruxism (tooth-grinding) raise a ruckus, it causes premature tooth wear. In addition to the biting surfaces of grinding molars wearing down, as one might expect, bruxism can also cause tooth loss on the sides of teeth. This bruxism-related loss of tooth material at gum level is caused by "abfraction," which involves flexing of tooth structure. As the affected teeth grind, the force creates tension on one side of the tooth and compression on the other. As a result, notches develop as enamel is lost. Addressing this restoration of the lost tooth material that bruxism caused.

Bruxism isn't only a nighttime activity. Some tooth-grinders continue damaaina practice throughout the day. Whether you are in our office for bruxism or just for a simple cleaning, our personal, casual, and relaxed style in providing quality dental care will help put you at ease. We'll take the time to get to know your needs, answer your questions about the latest techniques and materials, and make sure that you are comfortable. Find out just how pleasant a visit to the dentist can be--call us at 734-453-9413. Complete family dental care is available at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth.

P.S. Notches in teeth related to abfraction can be effectively restored with dental bonding.

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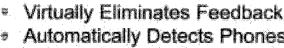




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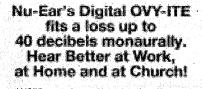
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Santa request shows the world in good hands with youngtsers

hen I was a child I would make an annual pilgrimage to the Hudson's in downtown Detroit to visit Santa

in downtown Detroit to visit Santa Claus.

We rode the Michigan Avenue bus through



Carole Florence

sleet and snow and then walked the rest of the way from the final bus stop to the door of Hudson's. We then rode escalator after escalator up floor after floor until we reached the very top where Santa's village was. I recall waiting in a long line for my turn to sit on his lap and to make my requests. A picture was taken, a candy can given

and we were on our way back home.
Yesterday afternoon I traveled with my
three daughters to the local nursery in
search of a Christmas gift. We wandered
outside for a short while and then proceeded
to move inside where it was warmer.

As we wandered down the main aisle we heard a jolly "Merry Christmas" from a large cabana off the aisle. We looked over to see Santa sitting in his chair, dressed in his official bright red Santa suit.

We stepped inside and began a conversation with the jolly old elf. He asked my girls what they would like for Christmas. They looked at each other, thought a moment and all three responded at the same time with a request for world peace.

Santa thought for a few minutes and then the discussion began. We stood in the cabana for some time talking about the unique request. He said he couldn't recall getting that request before. They discussed how nice it would be if he could spread some world peace as he made his annual journey around the world on Christmas Eve.

They also discussed how different Christmas would be if everyone received just ONE gift to open Christmas morning. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine waking up Christmas morning and having only one gift to unwrap? What would it be? They decided people would think a lot longer about a gift request if they received only one thing

Near the end of our visit Santa mentioned that another young child had asked him

whether he would be willing to shave off his whiskers after the Christmas rush in support of cancer. Santa asked my girls if they had realized his whiskers were real. My middle daughter turned and asked if she could touch it to confirm. She tugged on his whiskers and they really were real. She nodded and waited for Santa's response. Santa said he was giving the request some thought but that he was seriously considering it.

Today my girls asked if we could return to the nursery after school. They had wrapped a small box in pretty recycled paper with a red bow on top. The box was probably the smallest gift of Christmas and contained one small piece of paper that read "World Peace." When we arrived the chair stood empty in the cabana because Santa was not working today. The box and a note were left on his chair. The note read:

"Dear Santa:

"We saw you yesterday afternoon and shared with your our request for world peace. Thanks for the nice visit. Here is a box containing world peace. Please use some of your Santa magic to spread it around the world as you make your Santa deliveries Christmas Eve. Maybe one day we'll all live in peace. Until then – continue your good work. If you do decide to donate your whiskers for cancer – be assured that your hair will all grow back. Lots of love."

While my children's visit with Santa was nothing like the visits I had at Hudson's many years ago, I am thankful for men like the Santa at the nursery who took the time to listen to my children's request. Their request was sincere and from the hearts of three girls ages 14, 11 and 9.

So, for all those individuals who have lost hope that the world can be saved – know that many young people care and will succeed with the help of many old people. The future of their world rests in their hands and I am confident the world will be a fine place to live many years from now, with a little help from Santa's magic. All you have to do is "believe."

Carole Florence is a Plymouth resident.

In these difficult times, we're still your local news source

s this column is being written, President George W. Bush, the decider, is deciding what kind of Christmas gift he's going to give Detroit's automakers.

His press secretary keeps saying that help is definitely on the way as soon as the president works out the details, and he won't be rushed. Apparently the president only allows himself to be rushed by investment banking interests, who work out the details to their best advantage at a

later date.

These are hard times. Some say we are at the beginning of a deep recession. Others call it the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The more optimistic, as always, see opportunities where others see disaster.

Hugh Gallagher

The domestic auto industry is certainly in deep trouble and trouble in that industry means hard times for almost everyone

in southeast Michigan. But another troubled industry is newspapers.

This past week, the Detroit Media Partnership announced a major upheaval in how business will be done at the *Detroit Free Press* and *The Detroit News*. The *Free Press* will be home delivered on only three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, traditionally the days with the most advertising. *The Detroit News* will be home delivered only on Thursdays and Fridays. The *Free Press* will continue to publish print newspapers seven days a week and the *News* will publish print newspapers six days a week for distribution at newsstands and stores. But five of those newspapers will be slimmed down, redesigned papers for readers on the go.

Both newspapers will put more emphasis into their online product. The *Free Press* is offering a digital newspaper, complete with advertising, coupons and traditional layout for subscribers while continuing to offer news on their www. freep.com Web site.

Dave Hunke, Free Press publisher and Detroit Media Partnership chief executive officer, is

Media Partnership chief executive officer, is one of those optimists who sees opportunity where others see disaster. Advertising is down, circulation is down, the cost of paper, ink and transportation is up. More and more readers, especially young readers, have drifted from the print product to the Internet. These are the realities. Hunke acknowledges that this is a gamble, of sorts, but so is doing nothing. Advertising revenue for the Web has been steadily rising, though it will be a while before it matches print revenues.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are not exempt from these challenges. The O&E and the Free Press are owned by the Gannett Corp., the nation's largest newspaper company. Last week the editorial offices of the Observer Newspapers were relocated from our building in Livonia to the DMP building on Lafayette and Third in downtown Detroit. (Our customer service and circulation are at our offices at 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, advertising is at 44704 Helm St., Plymouth.)

Our new accommodations are comfortable, but the move was a difficult economic necessity. We understand that it moves us from our suburban family of readers. But like the DMP newspapers, we are striving to meet the needs of our readers and our advertisers in these difficult times.

Our reporters and photographers will be out and about in our communities, filing stories daily to our Web site www.hometownlife.com and developing stories for our print product on Thursdays and Sundays. They'll have an office in Detroit, but they'll also have an office on the go in Livonia, Redford Township, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

We'll be there to cover the local news that our readers have come to depend on. We'll be there to cover local sports, from game coverage to personal profiles of our student athletes. We'll be there as an integral part of the communities we cover. All the other news media are beginning to brag about putting a new emphasis on local news. We have always been about local news and we always will be.

We'll be in touch with you, stay in touch with us.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by phone at (313) 222-8730 or by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com.





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Scrappy Spartans earn road win over Plymouth

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In a sport generally ruled by teams whose rosters are stocked with Rolls Royces, Hummers and Cadillacs, Livonia Stevenson's boys basketball team is doing just fine with its downsized fleet of energy-efficient models.

The Spartans, who have seven players 5-foot-11 or smaller, relied on hustle, scrappiness and momentum-changing pressure defense in Thursday night's 57-50 road win over Plymouth.

The victory improved the Spartans' record to 2-1 while the Wildcats slipped

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

"We're not big and we don't have any superstars on this team — nobody's going to score 25 points a game — but we have great team chemistry and we have a lot of very smart players," said second-year Stevenson coach Mike Allie. "We're a balanced team. We always have four or five guys on the court who I feel we can go to at any time. If we get balanced scoring every Tuesday and Friday night, we should be O.K."

The Spartans' scoring attack was shared mainly by senior guard Brian

Rowe (17 points) and Bobby Naubert (16). Junior forward Jordan El-Sabeh and junior guard Austin White both contributed seven points.

"Everybody on this team plays hard," said Naubert, a 5-10 back-court whiz. "In our first game, we came out slow and didn't hit our shots. Tonight, we worked hard on defense, and that got us a lot of points."

The Wildcats were led by senior guard Cliff Buttermore, who poured in 14 points, and sophomore center Justin Moss, who netted 13.

"We were lazy moving without the ball tonight," lamented Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "Stevenson was able to jump our passing lanes and get a lot of transition points. They caught us back on our heels."

The Wildcats were in charge most of the first half and upped their biggest advantage to 22-14 on Mike Nadratowski's triple with 3:10 left in the second quarter.

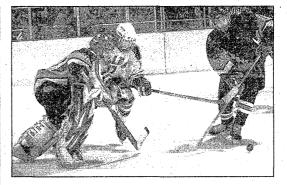
The pivotal point of the game unfolded mid-way through the third quarter when the Spartans' amped-up pressure resulted in a series of consecutive Plymouth turnovers that turned a 31-26 'Cat lead into a 38-33 Stevenson edge at the end of the third.

Please see BASKETBALL, B4



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Ryan Quigley (white jersey) manages to get off a shot despite an air-tight defensive effort from Plymouth's Mitch Martin. The PCEP rivals skated to a 3-all draw.



Salem forward Josh Jarvela's scoring efforts are subdued by Plymouth goalie Mike Justus and Evan Swieczkowski (right).

Weather or not, PCEP rivals skate to 3-3 draw

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Friday night's Plymouth-Salem hockey show-down more than lived up to its only-game-intown billing.

With the remainder of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park sports calendar wiped out by a snow day, the Rocks and Wildcats skated to a spirited 3-3 draw in front of a large, vocal crowd at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The contest marked the season's mid-way point for the Wildcats, who stand at 7-4-1

Please see HOCKEY, B4

Trojan grid star chooses Spartans

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

He is still a Trojan, but Jeremy Gainer can't wait to become a Spartan.

The multi-talented Livonia Clarenceville senior, a football and basketball stalwart, verbally committed Thursday to play college football not too far from home – at Michigan State University.

"I think it came down to the social aspect of being able to be close to home," said Gainer, good friends with many current MSU athletes (including basketball player and Redford Covenant alum Durrell Summers) and those on the way to East Lansing. "I know most of the players on that recruiting class."

cruiting class. Gainer, a hard-hitting linebacker who earned the defensive MVP honor in the Metro Conference for a second consecutive year, also made parents Kimberly and Jerome Gainer very happy about his choice.

"They said they'd support me anywhere I'd go," Jeremy Gainer said. "But they were sure happy I'll be close so they can see some of my games."

His choice came down to between Michigan State and the University of Minnesota, with strong interest also coming from Colorado, Kansas State, Iowa State, Indiana University and Penn State.

Proximity to home was only part of his decision and so was knowing Michigan State really wanted him. "They came to me and I know they have a great organization."

have a great organization."

MSU coach Mark Dantonio came

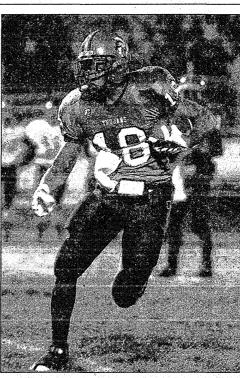
to the Gainer home to help make the athlete feel comfortable going forward, noted Clarenceville head coach Ryan Irish.

"I believe in Jeremy's heart that he made the right decision for him and his family," Irish said.

With his choice, Gainer, who registered 100 tackles in 2008 for the Metro champion Trojans, gave his high school coach something to be proud about, too.

"I am very excited to be able to see him play more, due to the closeness of Michigan State," Irish noted. "I'm looking forward to seeing him continue to develop into a better football player and a well-rounded young man."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Jeremy Gainer is shown running the ball during one of his team's playoff games this season. But it will be at linebacker where he will likely find his mark at Michigan State University. Gainer verbally committed to MSU on Thursday.

Clarenceville's

Rescheduled events

The Canton vs.
Salem girls basketball game that was
postponed by Friday's
snowstorm has been
rescheduled for
Wednesday, Jan. 7, at
7 p.m. in the Salem
gymnasium.

Friday's Wildcat
Relays boys swimming competition
has been rescheduled
for Monday at 1 p.m.
at the Canton High
School pool.

GCYBSA news

Registration for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball and Softball Association's 2009 season will open Jan. 9 and close March 10.

GCYBSA offers T-Ball through 18U baseball and 8U through 18U softball.

Registration information is available online at www.gcyb-sa.com.

For more information, contact cott@ canton-mi.org or call (734) 394-5489.

Cheer clinic

The Canton competitive cheer team will be hosting a kids clinic in the Canton High School cafeteria on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Check-in will begin at 9 a.m. with the clinic running from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Kids from kinder-

Kids from kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to participate.

For more information, call (734) 765-1998. The registration deadline is Jan. 7.

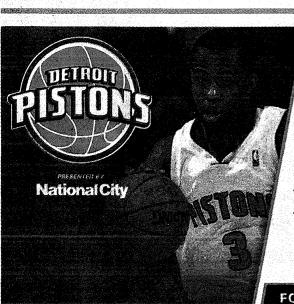
Precision camps

Precision Baseball in Canton will be hosting softball and baseball camps for kids in grades 1st through 8th later this month.

The softball camp will be held Dec. 26-27 with a cost of \$65 per session or \$115 for both.

The cost of the baseball camp, which will be held Dec. 26-28, is \$65 per day or \$180 for all three days.

For more information, call (734) 459-5921 or visit www. precisionbaseballone.



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Improving 'Cat matmen drop pair at quad meet

The Plymouth wrestling team's steady improvement may not be showing up in the record books, but it's apparent to first-year coach Quinn Guernsey.

"We're improving every day," said Guernsey, who was upbeat despite his team's two losses at Wednesday's Allen Park quad meet. "Derek Davey and Said Youssef both looked very good in their wins, but even the guys who lost their matches wrestled well."

The Wildcats lost the opener, 52-21, to the host Jaguars before dropping a 47-27 decision to Livonia Franklin in the night-cap. The two setbacks dropped Plymouth's record to

ALLEN PARK 52

PLYMOUTH 21
Wednesday at Allen Park
160 pounds: Derek Davey (P) pinned
Mike Gaggin in 4:40; 171: Phil Adamicen (AP) pinned Rob Barackman in 4:51; **189**; Alex Winn (P) pinned Bobby Garza in 3:26; **215**: Chris Bryant (AP) pinned Brian Chandler in 1:40; **285**: Rubert Miller (AP) pinned Jordan Birman in 5:12; **103:** Said Youssef (P) decisioned Jake Polenciewicz, 7-4; **112:** (P) decisioned aske Polenciewicz, 1-4, 112: Bobby Webb (AP) pinned Kenzie Benka in 32 seconds; 119: Calib Riley (AP) pinned Nick Rizzo in 3:29; 125: James Cousin (AP) pinned Jimmy Ahearn in 2:51; 130: Christian Hersey (P) pinned Tyler Paravano in 59 seconds; 135: Joey Suski (AP) dec. Tate Braboy, 14-8; 140: Trent Wolfe (AP) won by decision over

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Ryan Schultz; **145:** John Meece (AP) won by major decision over Brandon Crowther, 21-6; **152:** Steve Niedowicz (A:) pinned Timon

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 47
PLYMOUTH 27
Wednesday at Allen Park
171 pounds: Don Stratz (LF) pinned Curtis
Crosier in 1:22; 189: Alex Winn (P) pinned
Nick Simpagnes in 1:23; 235; Cay Hay (LF) Nick Simmons in 4:38; **215**: Cody Hay (LF) pinned Brian Chandler in 4:25; **285**: Mike Modes (LF) pinned Jordan Birman in 1:05; **103**: Said Youssef (P) decisioned Ryan Kline, 8-6; 112: Paul Hanni (LF) pinned Kenzie Benka in 29 seconds; 119: Nick Rizzo (P) Steve Tuyo in 1:05; 125: Eric Czeck (LF) won by major decision, 12-0, over Jimmy Ahearn **130:** Christian Hersey (P) won by void; **135:** Josh Hatfield (LF) dec. Tate Braboy, 6-2; **140:** Ryan Schultz (P) pinned Jordan McGwire in 5:28; **145:** Brandon Conger (LF) dec. Brando Crowther, 12-3; **152:** Brandon Billiau (LF) inned Timon Crawford in 1:24; 160: Alvin

PLYMOUTH'S DUAL-MEET RECORD: 1-6

Case for the defense

Stevenson makes enough stops to cage Wildcats

Livonia Stevenson girls basketball coach Paul Tripp believes his team has a good chance to win if they hold their opponents "in the 30s we have a good shot to win."

Mission accomplished Thursday night for the host Spartans, who edged Plymouth, 39-37, to improve to 2-3 overall.

Stevenson led 22-19 at the half and held the Wildcats to six in the third period.

"Our defensive rotation was great," Tripp said. "We had 13 steals and only four turnovers, which are good numbers."

Tasi Newton, who hit a couple of clutch free throws down the stretch, led the Spartans with 10 points. She also had three steals.

Kaylee McGrath added eight

points and 11 rebounds, while Sarah Smith also scored eight and had a key steal late with the help of teammate Nina Bonanno.

Kelsi Robinson and Stacey Klonowski each scored 12 for the Wildcats, who fell to 1-3 overall.

Senior center Shaakira Haywood was limited to four points, but added a team-high 11 boards.

"She (Haywood) was a presence defensively and I thought Kaylee (McGrath) did a great job battling her inside," Tripp

Plymouth was only 13-of-26 from the foul line, while Stevenson was 8-of-15.

FRANKLIN 52, HARTLAND 37: Twin sisters Brittany and Briauna Taylor combined for 30 points and 20 rebounds Thursday as host Livonia Franklin (5-0) downed the Eagles (3-2).

Brittany, a senior forward, finished with 16 points and nine rebounds, while Briauna finished with 14 points and 11

Sophomore Chelsea Williams

GIRLS HOOP

chipped in with 10 points, while Brittany Milican and Amanda Borieo added six apiece.

"Hartland is a good team, big and strong," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "I though Chelsea (Williams) did a good job driving the pockets and making them play defense. We made the proper pass and were shooting when we were supposed to."

Meredith Kussmaul led Hartland with 12 points.

Franklin was 8-of-10 from the foul line, while Hartland hit 10-

CHURCHILL 53, REDFORD UNION 16: Junior Darcy DeRoo scored 12 points Thursday as host Livonia Churchill (2-2) rolled to a non-league win over Redford Union (4-1).

The Chargers, who led 18-2 after one quarter and 27-8 at halftime, also got nine points apiece from Lindsey Graciak and Alysa Boldiszar.

ANNAPOLIS 47, CLARENCEVILLE 21: On Thursday, host Livonia Clarenceville (1-5) got fell behind 23-2 after one quarter and never really threatening the rest of the way in non-league setback to Dearborn Heights Annapolis

"We've been battling the flu and just didn't show up tonight," lamented Clarenceville head coach Julie Patterson. "We were down 20 in the blink of an eye. We finally woke up a bit in the second half but it was too little, too late."

A bright spot for the Trojans was senior forward Marlene Azar, who tallied 10 points.

Junior guard Justina Williams paced the Cougars with 14 points. Neither team had a strong

night at the free-throw line. Clarenceville sank just 3-of-9 tries, while the Cougars made 5of-13 attempts. BRIGHTON 68, SALEM 52: The

Bulldogs broke open a tight

game with a late 10-0 run to improve their record to 3-1. The Rocks slipped to 0-3.

"We played well for most of the game," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "We were only down six without about five minutes left, but they turned their defensive pressure up and ran off 10 straight points. Brighton has a very good team and they went into another gear late in the game.

"We still have a chance to be a very good team. The girls are playing very hard. We just need to pull together."

Junior guard Sara Stone paced Salem's balanced scoring attack with 14 points. Tracey Whalen added 12, Victoria Brotz contributed 10 and Brett deBear chipped in with eight.

PCA 55, AGAPE 27: On Tuesday at Ypsilanti Calvary Christian, the Eagles soared to a 4-0 start with a convincing victory over the host Wolverines.

Senior Megan Greve ruled the paint, scoring 18 points. Also excelling for the winners were Allyson DeKruyter (eight points) and Kristin Malcolm (seven points, eight rebounds).

"Jessica Murphy and Brooke Williams played awesome defensively for us," said PCA coach Carol Gerulis.

The Eagles broke open a tight game by outscoring their rivals 16-4 in the second quarter to grab a 27-15 halftime lead. PCA put the game away with a 19-6 run over the third period.

"We started very slowly, but my kids picked it up in the second half," said Gerulis. "We pressed them full court in the second half and that was effective. Megan Greve played very good, especially in the third quarter when she scored eight of her 18 points."

Ayanna Martin paced the Wolverines with 19 points.

Both teams struggled from the free throw line. PCA was 6-of-14 while Agape was 5-of-12.

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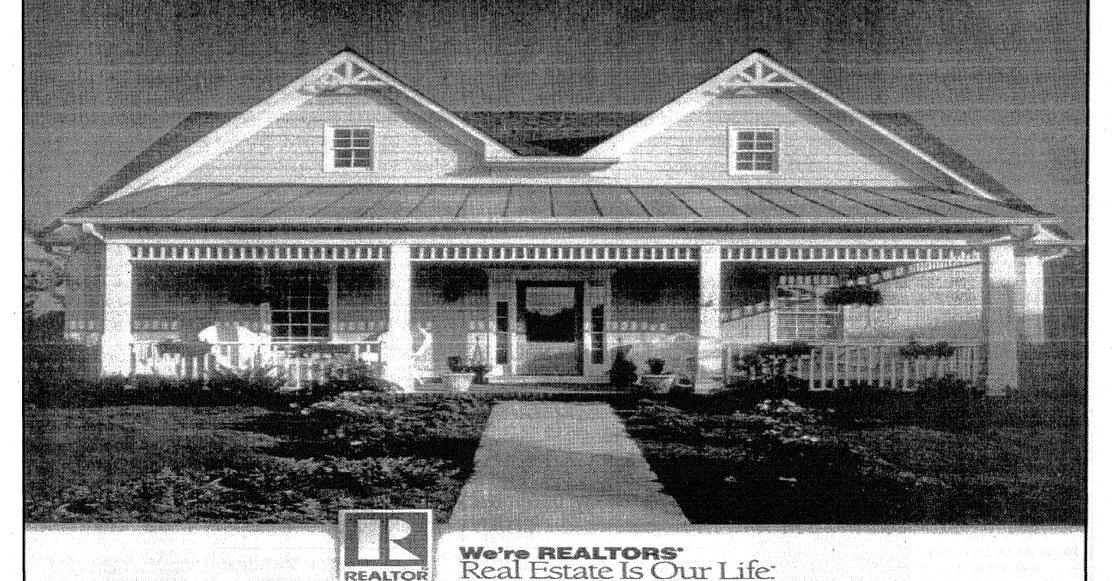
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Plymouth icers nip Spartans, 1-0

Evan Swieczkowski tallied the game's only goal on a 5-on-3 advantage to give Plymouth a 1-0 win Wednesday night over host Livonia Stevenson in a game played at Edgar Arena.

Swieczkowski's goal came on a shot from the point during the second period as the Wildcats, now 6-3 overall, evened their record to 2-2 in the South Division of the **Kensington Lakes Activities** Association.

Mike Justus was spectacular in the Plymouth nets stopping all 35 Stevenson shots, including 17 in the final period.

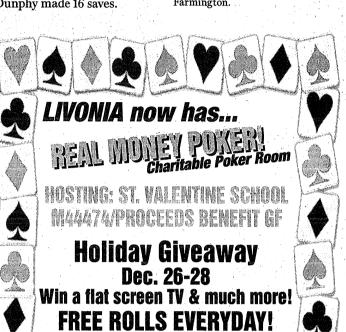
The Spartans' Richie Dunphy made 16 saves.

"We played a pretty solid hockey game, but just couldn't capitalize on our chances," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Give Plymouth

Stevenson is now 4-3-1 overall and 2-2-1 in the KLAA's Central Division.
FARM. UNIFIED 10, FRANKLIN 2: Scott

Newel finished with four goals and. one assist Wednesday as Farmington Unified (6-4 skated to the decisive non-league win over host Livonia Franklin (0-5) at Edgar Arena.

Caleb Wright finished with four assists, while Peter Kusik, James Long, Dane Laird, Andrew DeBrincat, Jimmy Chesney and Ryan Murray also scored for Farmington.



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overall and 2-2-1 in the **Kensington Lakes Activities** Association. The Rocks will take a 4-4-3 mark into the holiday break. Although Salem never led

 Plymouth built leads of 2-0 and 3-2 - the Rocks came within two stellar Mike Justus last-minute saves from converting a game-winning power-play goal.

"We had some good shifts tonight, but for the most part we played a little selfish and we didn't play good team defense," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender, whose team was capping a threegames-in-four-nights string. We were sort of running all over the place and we took some bad penalties. Two of their goals were the result of our lazy play.

'We gave up more shots tonight (24) than we gave up against Livonia Stevenson or Northville. I don't know if that was because we were tired or if it was from the pressure of playing in a big rivalry game."

Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher said the tie was a reflection of his team's entire season.

'The comebacks were great tonight, but the fact that we fell behind early was a result of our inconsistent play, said Ossenmacher. "And that inconsistency is why we're 4-4-3 right now. Some nights we play just well enough to win, other nights we don't quite play well enough to



Salem's Sam Ott (right) and Plymouth's Zach Gambrell battle for control of the puck during Friday's 3-3 tie.

win. Tonight kind of wraps up what our season has been

Plymouth's Ryan Renault ignited the scoring when he banged home a shot in front of the crease off assists from Chris Merrill and Alex Holcomb.

The Wildcats extended their lead to 2-0 3:19 into the second period when Taylor Currier wristed a rebound shot past Salem goalie Adam Powers, who made a spectacular stop seconds earlier on a John Maurer rocket.

The Rocks lit up the scoreboard for the first time just under four minutes later when David Russell lifted a rebound shot past Justus 7:34 before the second intermis-

Two minutes later, Salem knotted the game at 2-all when Steve Haburne scored the first of his two tallies after securing a slick pass in front from Ryan Quigley.

This was Steve's first full game at forward after playing defense all season," said Ossenmacher. "He gives us a big body who goes to the net. He did what we wanted him to do tonight." Plymouth regained a 3-2

lead with 12:04 to play when John Deal slid a shot into a narrow slot between Powers' skate and the right post. He was assisted by Maurer and Mitch Martin.

The Rocks drew even two minutes later when Haburne re-directed an Eddie Mazorowicz shot past Justus.

Salem outshot Plymouth 24-18.

Even though all other PCEP sporting events were postponed when school was cancelled Friday morning, the hockey game was played because ice time is difficult to schedule later in the season, Ossenmacher explained.

Prior to Friday night's varsity contest, the inaugural Plymouth-Canton-Salem alumni game was played and won 6-5 by a team made up of former Salem players. The "old" Rocks defeated a contingent of ex-Chiefs and ex-Wildcats when Aaron Cheesman - currently a Rock assistant coach — scored with 40 seconds to play.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PCA pressure cooks Agape

Canton Agape fell right into Plymouth Christian Academy's trap Tuesday night during a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference basketball game played at Ypsilanti Calvary Christian.

The Eagles' half-court trap proved to be the momentumchanger in their 58-42 vic-

We started slow and Agape dictated the pace in the first half," said PCA coach Mike

Doyle. "In the second half we switched up our defense to a half-court trap and that forced a lot of turnovers and we got some easy baskets."

Senior forward Brent Zinn led the winners with 24 points. Sophomore John Slater added eight points and senior post player Reid Barber led all rebounders with 11.

PCA led 7-6 after one quarter and 16-14 at the half before dominating the third

stanza, 18-7. Zinn was the catalyst of the third-quarter uprising as he poured in nine points.

"He's the one who spurred us on," said Doyle. "Brent got a lot of fast-break points created by our defense and he hit one three."

Don Mullett paced the Wolverines with 19 points.

PCA hit half its free throws (14-for-28) while Agape was 20-for-31 from the line.

"I subbed in Austin White, Ricky Chrzasz and Jordan El-Sabeh and we went to the diamond press," Allie said.

"That seemed to swing the momentum to our side for the rest of the game. From there, we just kept pressuring their guards and our kids started contesting every shot."

Sparked by an and-one

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three-pointer from Mark Grisa and a pair of buckets from Rowe, the Spartans reeled off a 10-2 spurt to start the fourth and put the win on

The 6-6 Moss led all rebounders with 11 - eight coming on the offensive end. Fellow sophomore Brennen Beyer ripped down six boards.

"Plymouth plays very hard," said Allie. "They start three sophomores, so their program

is going to be excellent in the future. They should have a good season this year. It will just probably take a few games for their young kids to get used to the varsity level."

Stevenson hit 17-of-43 field goals (39.5 percent) and 19-of-27 free throws (70.3). Plymouth was 20-for-67 from the field (29.8 percent) and 5of-10 from the charity stripe.

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Direct Cremation

BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 22 A.A. Gab. Richard at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23 Clarenceville at John Gle Friday, Dec. 26 (Franklin Tournament)
Rochester vs. Fordson, 5:30 p.m. Franklin vs. Howell, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27
Franklin Tournament, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
(Romulus Christmas Tournament) Clarenceville vs. Det. N'western, 2:30 p.m Monday, Dec. 29

(John Glenn Basketball Classic) Farmington vs. Crestwood, 11 a.m Ferndale vs. Canton, 1 p.m. Waterford Mott vs. Detroit Central, 3 p.m. N. Farmington vs. Thurston, 5 p.m. John Glenn vs. Det.-Univ. Prep, 7 p.m (Woodhaven Tournament)

Tuesday, Dec. 30 in Glenn Basketball Classic Wayne vs. N., Farmington, 1 p.m. Wat. Kettering vs. Thurston, 3 p.m. John Glenn vs. Ferndale, 5 p.m. Clarenceville vs. Detroit Central, 7 p.m (Woodhaven Tournament)

Salem vs Annapolis, 3 p.m GIRLS BASKETBALL Monday, Dec. 29 (Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Tournament) Ladywood vs. Inkster, 3 p.m. Loy Norrix vs. McBain, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30

Loy Norrix Tournament, 3 & 6 p.m. Salem at Detroit Community, 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3 Canton at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m PREP BOYS SWIMMING Monday, Dec. 22 Wildcat Relays at

Canton pool, 1 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY Saturday, Jan. 3 Ladywood vs. Bloomfield at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m. Salem at Farmington United mington Hills Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING

Tuesday, Dec. 23 Brother Rice Tournament, 4 p.m Saturday, Dec. 27 Salem Invitational, 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30

Trenton Invitational Team Dual, 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3 Romulus Royal Tournament, 9:30 a.m. Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
PREP GYMNASTICS

Saturday, Jan. 3 Salem Invitational at Plymouth gym, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Monday, Dec. 29 (Hope College Russ DeVette Tourney)

Madonna vs. Judson College (III.), 6 p.m Hope College vs. Davenport, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30 Hope College Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 3** St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.

Madonna vs. Marygrove College at U-D Jesuit H.S., 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Sunday, Dec. 21

Schoolcraft at Scottsdale (Ariz.), 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 Schoolcraft at Glendale (Ariz.), 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28 (Las Vegas Invitational) Madonna vs. Vanguard (Calif.), TBA. Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 29-30

Madonna at Las Vegas Inv., TBA. Saturday, Jan. 3 St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

FARMINGTON UNIFIED 143.60 LIVONIA RED 137.05 Dec. 17 at Farmington Gymnastics Center Vault: 1. Paúla Guzik (Red), 9.25; 2. (tie) Dani Bresso (Farm.), Lena Schneewind (Farm.) and Elana Cocke (Farm.), 9.0 each; 5. Alyssa Bresso (Farm.), 8.95.

Uneven bars: 1. Guzik (Red), 9.6; 2. Sam Kohl (Farm.), 9.15; 3. A. Bresso (Farm.), 9.0; 4. (tie) Kyoko Yamamoto (Farm.) and Amy Bell (Farm.

Balance beam: 1. Cocke (Farm.), 9.4; 2. Kohl (Farm.), 9.0; 3. A. Bresso (Farm.), 8.75; 4. Courtney Simpson (Red), 8.7; 5. Alicia DiMauro (Red), 8.55. Floor exercise: 1. Cocke (Farm.), 9.5; 2. A Bresso (Farm.), 9.4; 3. Kohl (Farm.), 9.3; 4.

Schneewind (Farm.), 8.95; 5. DiMauro (Red),

All-around: 1. Kohl (Farm.), 36.4; 2. A. Bresso (Farm.), 36.15; 3. Schneewind (Farm.), 34.65; Yamamoto (Farm.), 34.25; 5. Amanda

Dual meet records: Farmington Unified, 1-0 overall; Livonia Red, 0-1 overall.

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

Hope for the future

Screening for ovarian cancer on the way

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O & F STAFF WRITER

Janis Warren still might be alive to light the menorah with her 3-year-old grandson Ryan this Hanukkah if screening had detected the ovarian cancer earlier. Unlike mammography for breast cancer a woman can only hope to recognize symptoms such as abdominal bloating,

fatigue and pain in time. Janis fought ovarian cancer 18 months before dying in April 2007 at age 60. Her husband, Larry Warren, sons Michael and Jeff, and daughter Stephanie Harold came together at the family's Farmington Hills home the day after Thanksgiving to talk about the need for screening. In September they raised \$55,000 from a walk in Drake Sports Park in West Bloomfield to fund Michael Tainsky's research at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit. The director of the molecular biology and genetics program is developing a blood test to diagnose ovarian cancer at the

earliest possible stage. "People are totally unaware of what ovarian cancer is and

the limited span of life these women have," said Larry Warren who watched his wife die from the disease. "People aren't aware of how brutal the end is. She starved to death. She couldn't keep anything down. Tumors were growing on her intestines. Eight days before she died she aged to 85 quickly."

Before ovarian cancer Janis led a busy lifestyle and even sang in the Temple Beth El choir in Bloomfield Hills. Health was one of her priorities. She continued exercising four to five days a week even after her surgery.

"She was having abdominal discomfort. Her tummy was sticking out," said Larry. "Before the cancer she looked 35 but was 59 when diagnosed. I didn't suspect anything because she had her ovaries removed right after she had breast cancer 11 years earlier."

On a visit home Michael noticed his mother had put on weight. Then she told him she was having pain. An OB/GYN at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Michael Warren became concerned.

"Most women are diagnosed in stage 3 or 4," said Michael.

"The cure rate is 95 percent in stage 1, 10 to 15 percent in stage 3 depending on the type of cancer. If you're feeling discomfort or pain in the stomach it's pretty late. Ovarian cancer almost inevitably reoccurs. They weren't able to remove all of the cancer."

Stephanie Harold isn't taking any chances that she might develop cancer like her mother. While Harold is careful not to miss mammograms or breast MRIs there's nothing she can do to screen for ovarian cancer. That's why the family started the walk. In addition to raising money for research they want to educate the public about the deadly disease.

"This is an illness that needs support as far as funding research," said Stephanie. "People think a PAP smear screens for ovarian cancer. It does not.'

Tainsky was well aware of the lack of screening when he began a new line of research in 2001. The Southfield resident began his career at the National Cancer Institute 30 years ago. In 1998 Tainsky came to Karmanos to study high risk individuals and



The Warren brothers Jeff, left background, and Michael with their sister Stephanie Harold, her husband Dan and 3year-old son Ryan gather with their father Larry next to a family portrait taken with their mother Janis who passed away in 2007 from ovarian cancer. The family celebrated Thanksgiving together in Farmington Hills.

noticed an incidence of breast and ovarian cancers in the families.

"Our human immune systems make antibodies against new tumor proteins. Those proteins (or antigens) are somehow a little different," said Tainsky, the Barbara & Fred Erb professor of Cancer Genetics at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

"We've developed a microchip to look at thousands of these proteins at once. As of 2006 we had a relatively good test but still falling short of acceptable. We should have a panel for outside testing in a year or two. This is absolutely new kind of work and we can't predict the problems. You're not clear what the speed bumps are until you hit them but we

have every reason to believe it will work. We're hoping in the long run that these antigens can be used for vaccines personalized for each woman like a booster shot for tetanus."

The second Janis Warren Walk for Ovarian Cancer is Sept. 13, 2009. For more information, visit janiswalk.org.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241.



Award-winning writer

Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric health and community life writer, receives the Excellence in Community Awareness Award from Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion (HOPE), on Sunday, Dec. 14, at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. HOPE, which is dedicated to Fibromyalgia education and awareness. also screened a new documentary on diagnosis, treatment and management strategies at the awards dinner. Chomin, here with Sharon Ostalecki following the dinner, has written extensively about Fibromyalgia, a chronic condition characterized by muscle, ligament and tendon pain, as well as fatigue.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

DECEMBER

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Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Childbirth Education Weekday programs held 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays to Jan. 14. Childbirth Education workshops 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information, or visit www. stmarymercy.org

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.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 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. Registered dietitian Katie Dooley presents Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control on Jan. 14. 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, pre-registration not

Blood donors needed for post holiday drive

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, the American Red Cross once again holds its critical Post Holiday Blood Drive for businesses and residents in the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park area at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites located off of the southbound M-5 Service Drive behind the Bill Cook Automotive

Dealerships. The hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (517) 545-7712 to schedule an appointment.

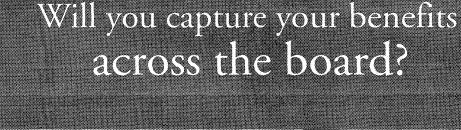
Approximately 800 units of blood are needed on a daily basis to fulfill the requirements of local hospitals.

Platelets have a shelf life of only 5 days and are necessary for patients undergoing cancer

therapy and open heart surgery or have leukemia or aplastic anemia.

To help encourage participation, a free Detroit Pistons ticket will be given to any donor with the purchase of a second discounted ticket.

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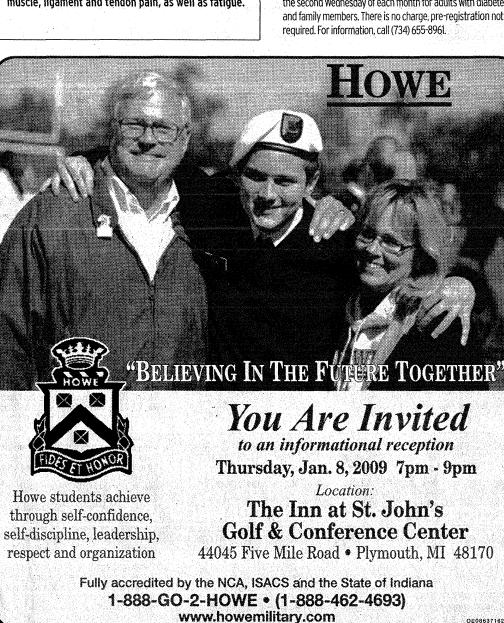
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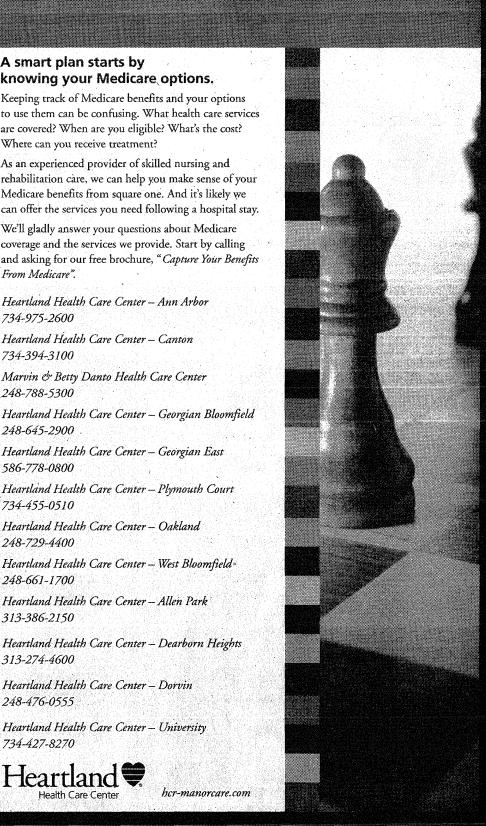
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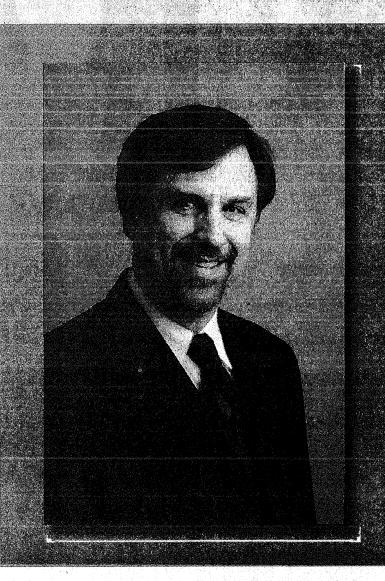
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Having been a consulting physician for the 1996 Olympic Games and numerous professional, college and high school athletic teams, Stanley Sczecienski, D.O., or "Dr. Stan" as he is called by his patients, has demonstrated his excellence in the area of Sports Medicine. He is currently an Associate Professor at Michigan State University and Des Moines University, and a member of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. He is board certified in Sports Medicine, Family Practice and Pain Management.

Sunday, December 21, 2008

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

www.hometownlife.com

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Expand your horizons in the new year

he new year is a good time to expand your horizons. Elizabeth LaManna has grown musically since resolving to join the BeckRidge Chorale in 2006. The elementary school teacher was among the board of directors who met Tuesday night at

rs who met Tuesday night at
the Plymouth District
Library to discuss their
spring concert.
The BeckRidge

Chorale is looking to add new voices for a program of love songs April 25-26, at Northville High School. This is the 35th

Linda Chomin

This is the 35th anniversary of the nonprofit formerly

known as the Plymouth Community Chorus. The name was changed two years ago to reflect the membership which hails from Canton to Fenton, Rochester, Allen Park, Walled Lake, and Plymouth.

"I hadn't sung since high school when a friend told me they had been to the Christmas concert," said LaManna of Northville. "I've been here ever since."

The chorale rehearses from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13, at First United Methodist Church on North Territorial, between Beck and Ridge, in Plymouth. For more information, visit www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885.

The year kicks off with a Jan. 6 meeting of the Vision Team which director Michael Gross formed as a way to plan for the future. The Canton resident took over as leader 30 years ago after reading an article in the Observer Newspaper.

"I asked them to help me think differently and get the chorale to the next level," said Gross, who wants to form a separate non-audition group of singers. They novices would rehearse and perform for two years before joining the BeckRidge Chorale.

"It's a learning process," said Gross.
"I want everybody to sing."

The board of directors and Gross already encourage high school and college students by offering \$1,000 scholarships if they rehearse and perform with BeckRidge for an entire season. Right now they're only able to support three or four young singers but have dreams of inspiring as many as 16. When Gross wanted to go to college to study music his mother said no, so Gross paid his own way. Although he ended up in a business career, he has used the musical training to direct the chorale and several church choirs.

Jeanne Martin first sang under Gross at First United Methodist in Plymouth. She enjoyed his style so much she followed him to the chorus after he left the church choir.

PROFESSIONAL, CARING

The BeckRidge Chorale regularly reaches out to help the community whether it's by participating as a group in fund-raising walks for cancer or performing at senior centers.

"I feel privileged to be on board," said Martin of Canton. "We care about our community. We bring hope. We do a lot of sacred music with the group with a core Christian heart."

Sherrie Northway emphasizes that Beckridge is not a social group.

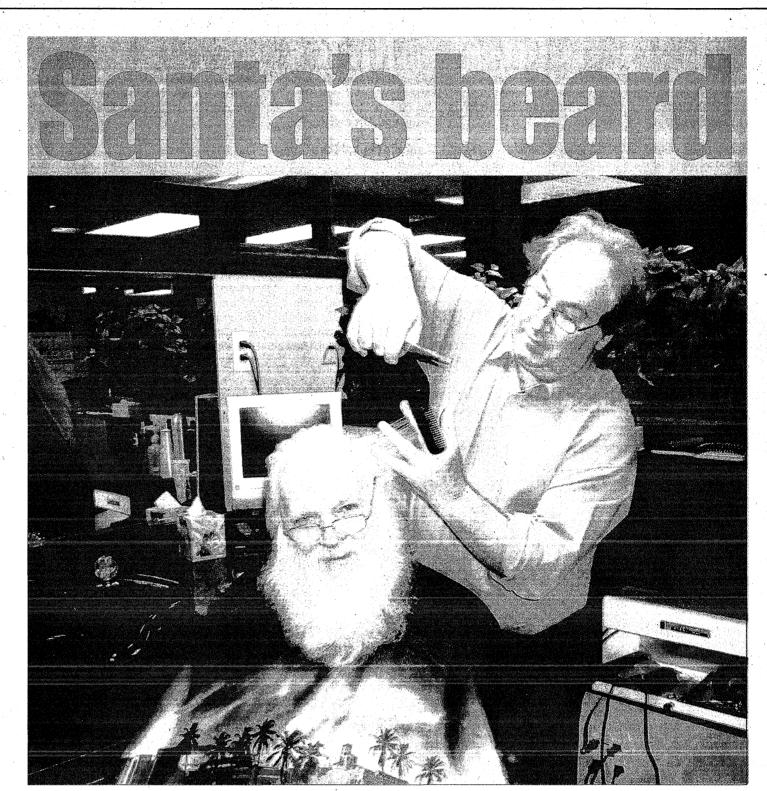
"People come to our concerts expecting to hear a community group and leave thinking they've seen professionals," said Northway, a Redford resident who joined in 1982. She drove through a snowstorm from her workplace in Troy last week just to talk about the chorale. Not to be outdone, Sandi Edwards drove from Commerce Township.

"I had been an audience member for years and knew that there was good musicality I wanted to be part

Please see **BECKRIDGE**, **C2**



Make a resolution to expand your horizons by joining the BeckRidge Chorale in song.



Joe Smotherman (right) grooms Santa in his hair styling shop in Farmington. Michael Deller (left) personifies the Big Guy in the red suit.

Barber keeps Santa looking good for his big day

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O & E STAFF WRITER

Clients smile as they pass the Big Guy in the red suit inside Joe's Headquarters in Farmington. Yes, Virginia, Santa needs a haircut just like everyone else. On this day though, he stopped by just to say

hello.

Michael Deller, the Big Guy's Agent, usually makes an appointment with barber Joe Smotherman every six weeks then disappears much like Superman's Clark Kent. In his place appears Santa and a green velvet bag filled with tricks of the trade. The jovial elf is especially busy right before Christmas telling stories to children at libraries. Deller told his first tall tale as director of the Livonia public libraries from which he retired in 1999. He is a 1959 graduate of Birmingham

High School.
"I call them scissor stories," said Deller

as he began telling the story of an old woman who lived alone except for two

Deller mesmerizes the audience as he cuts out two pieces of cheese and mice from a paper plate. The Livonia resident has his own story to tell about accidentally becoming Santa's Agent. Back in 2002, he and wife Paulinda were moving when Deller forgot to shave for a couple of days. His sons bet that the beard wouldn't grow out completely white. Deller, who turned gray and then white by age 50, had no doubt as to who would win.

BECOMING SANTA

Not long after he was visiting Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey's office when a staff member was so impressed with the new look she asked him to play Santa in the city's Holiday Parade after another Santa quit. Deller said yes, but had nothing to wear so it was on to Bronner's for the red suit, Scott Colburn's for boots, and his eye doctor for reading glasses to look like Santa. Deller was having so much fun he decided to attend Charles Howard's Santa School in Midland. He's been warming the hearts of children and adults ever

Santa (Michael

Deller) enjoyed

donating his

time to have

photographs

children at the

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

in Westland.

The big jovial

elf has a limited amount of time

right now as he

prepares for the busiest night of

the year.

taken with

And no, it's a myth that Santa puts on weight magically before traveling around the world to deliver toys to all the good boys and girls — just ask Deller who sports a hefty physique all year long.

"I went for a refresher course in 2008 to see if there was anything new," Deller said. "Different Santas approach what they do as Santas in a different way. I learn something new from presentation to what to do when visiting a nursing home or hospital."

BUSY SANTA

Please see SANTA, C2

Nonprofits looking for end-of-the-year donations

BY SHARON DARGAY

Is it mission-focused?
Is it responsible with its money?
Does it have high administrative overhead?

Does it do good work?

Those are a few of the questions that individuals may be asking themselves as they sort through end-of-the-year appeals for charitable causes from local nonprofit

It's the kind of thought process Beth Morrison goes through when



she and her family consider where they will spend charitable dollars.

"HAVEN is my No.
1 organization for support," said Morrison,
who heads the Oakland
County domestic vio-

lence shelter. "But there are a few other nonprofits that my family and I support. At some point in the year we sit down and ask 'Are we going to support everything we did last year?' I think a lot of people go through a thoughtful process and more so now than ever, because dollars are so limited. They want to make sure their gift makes an impact. If, for example, I have the capacity to give \$1,000, do I give it all in one place or

"Some people literally wait until the last week of the year to make a decision on what they want to donate. Part of it is just habit. The day after Christmas they sit down and decide. Every year with all of our donors, we do an end of the year appeal," Morrison said.

spread it out over 10 places or more?

Other organizations do, too.

HELPING THE HOMEBOUND

Linda Devore of Senior Alliance
— Area Agency on Aging 1-C, the
organization that aids senior citizens
and individuals with disabilities in
Western Wayne County, is still taking donations for its holiday meals
program, hoping to garner a few
more dollars before Christmas.

"We're selling Christmas cards for \$5. The card will go to a senor with their meal," she said, adding that the donation funds the cost of one hot holiday meal. "Meals on Wheels is

Please see **DONATIONS**, **C3**

Although Deller knows of Santas who have lost their jobs this year in malls, he booked the bulk of the Big Guy's appearances by Aug. 15. Santa especially enjoyed donating his time to have photographs taken with children at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Westland where Michael Saine offered the treat for free to parents.

Smotherman's clients like to share their list with Santa as well when he's in the hair styling shop.

"Customers come in saying I've been a good boy or girl,"

Smotherman said. "We all joke around. They say you aren't bringing me coal, are you?"

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 21, 2008

Smotherman's been an especially good boy this year by giving free haircuts to longtime clients who have lost their jobs. He began cutting hair in 1967 and uses a special shampoo to prevent Santa's hair from oxidizing and turning yellow.

"He makes me look really good. December is one of my busier months," said Santa with a wink.

Before long the Big Guy was finishing the story that ended happily ever after and it was time to leave and prepare for his trip.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

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Dinner to benefit local health organizations

The CDS Foundation holds its 16th Annual Wild Game Benefit Dinner 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The event benefits the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit; St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center and Angela Hospice Home Care in Livonia, and **Botsford Hospital Foundation**

in Farmington. The evening begins with hors d'oeuvres followed by a family style dinner with wine at 7:30 p.m.

The 50/50 raffle and silent auction run from 6-10 p.m., a standard open bar from 6-11:30 p.m. then a cash bar from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.

There will also be a live auction, crap shoot and Texas Hold

Tickets are \$70 per person. This is a stag event.

For more information, call (734) 462-0770.

"It's the professionalism of the group that I admire and our spiritual side," added Kathy Norred. The Livonia woman joined in 2002 after husband Bruce became a

Norred was a chef for the chorale's Musical Feast program along with Schoolcraft College culinary arts students and dinner is a popular event. "I joined nine years ago

'cause it's fun," said Jack Charlefour of Dearborn. "I love to sing and it's one of my ways of worshiping."

Charlefour is a member of the chorale's 16-member Village Voices, an elite group that performed the music of French composers at the last Musical Feast.

It's obvious the BeckRidge Chorale offers real opportunity for growth.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (313) 222-2241.

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 July 25,2009 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, Dj, and cash bar. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. For details, contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@ yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo. com/group/brightonclassof1989.

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 email: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.

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 gchs1989reunion@hotmail.

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@sbcgloblal.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: Kayninilu@aol.com. Milford High School Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. Email milford78@gmail.com.

of," said Edwards, who most enjoyed singing with the group in 2002 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

this fall. The annual concert

Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY

18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



TROCHANTERIC BURSITIS

At times, for unknown reasons, the bursa becomes inflamed. The pain that ensues, may radiate to the low back or down the leg, and may present at night when you turn in bed or shift position. The pain is close to the hip joint and often brings a person to make a doctor's appointment from concern that hip arthritis has begun.

the bursa is to prevent a large muscle, the glutius maximus, from rubbing against the side of the hip

Your doctor can usually tell immediately that the problem is not arthritis. Particularly important is that you are experiencing pain at night while in bed. Arthritis lessens at such times, because you are off your feet, not weight bearing. In contrast, trochanteric bursitis asserts itself because of movement of the muscle over the bursa when turning.

When trochanteric bursitis begins, the best treatment is heat alternating with ice. The heat brings in a blood supply and the cold gives relief by numbing the bursal area and also causes blood vessels in the vicinity of the bursa to expand widely when the heat begins. If these measures do not work, then the next step is injection into the bursa with cortisone. Your

doctor can repeat injection therapy as needed as long as each injection provides you benefit. In some instances, the bursitis will resolve, and the other leg bursa will become irritated and need attention. Why this sequence occurs is not known; fortunately, conventional treatment by heat,

cold or steroid injection, resolves the bursitis. www.driiweiss.vourmd.com



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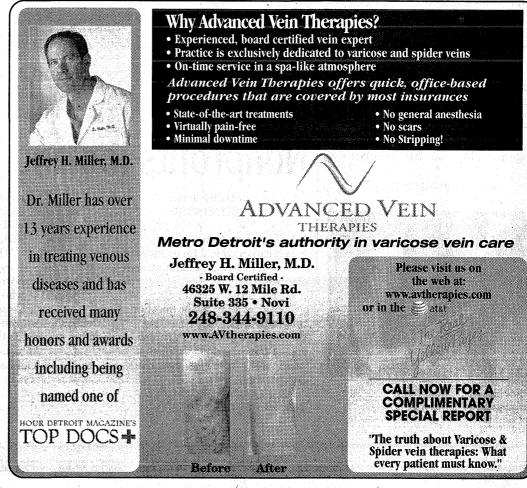




734-459-4190

1020 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170

www.bouldersbar.com



FROM PAGE C1

not open on holidays, so we pick up delivery on Easter, Labor Day, Christmas and Thanksgiving.

'The need is great. It grows every year. If we get an increase in funds, we can add holidays, like Fourth of

The organization's counterpart, Area Agency on Aging-1B, serves approximately 8,300 meals a year through its holiday program to the homebound in six counties, including Oakland. Its volunteers will deliver hot meals for Hanukkah and Christmas this week, as well as on New Year's Day, Easter, Passover,

and Thanksgiving. "We don't have a special (fundraiser) event. We send an appeal,

communications director. "A lot of times the need is not necessarily tied to income. A lot of times, the seniors we serve don't have the mobility to get around to the grocery store.

"Something that we give these people most often who are homebound is companionship. Often there's no one else there to wish them a happy holiday beyond the volunteer."

MONEY TO EXPAND

Like Devore, Alice Dent hopes to receive enough donations to expand her organization's efforts in 2009.

Dent is executive director for Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County, the faith-based organization based in Plymouth that builds and rehabs houses for the needy. Although volunteers work without pay on Habitat construction sites, the cost of building supplies

increased this year as gas prices soared. And when the economy nose dived in the fall, Dent had to reduce new builds to two houses.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"We need at least \$80,000 for new builds and a company or individual who can co-sponsor a rehab house at \$5,000. They can be a full sponsor for \$20,000," Dent said. "We are in desperate need of licensed general contractors that can donate handson time to our organization. We also ${\it need real estate appraisers \dots site}$ supervisors and crew leaders with construction experience that would like to help lead volunteers."

The organization also needs help with grant-writing and clerical support. Anyone interested in volunteering can call the Habitat office at (734) 459-7744. Donate by sending a check to 638 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170. Or visit www. habitatwwc.org.

Donate to the group's Oakland County counterpart by visiting www. habitatoakland.org.

Here's donation information for other groups:

■ The HAVEN: Morrison says crisis calls have increased in the past month and that the agency's shelter generally is full, with children accounting for half of its residents. The organization needs volunteers, financial contributions and items for the shelter. Make online donations and download a wish list of items at www.haven-oakland.org. Or call (248) 334-1284, Ext. 659.

■ The Senior Alliance: Buy a holiday meal for a senior for \$5 or make a donation. Stop by in person or send a check to 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne, MI 48184. Call (734) 727-2063 to volunteer.

■ Area Agency on Aging-1B: Donate by calling the center at (800) 852-7795 or online at www.aaa1b.

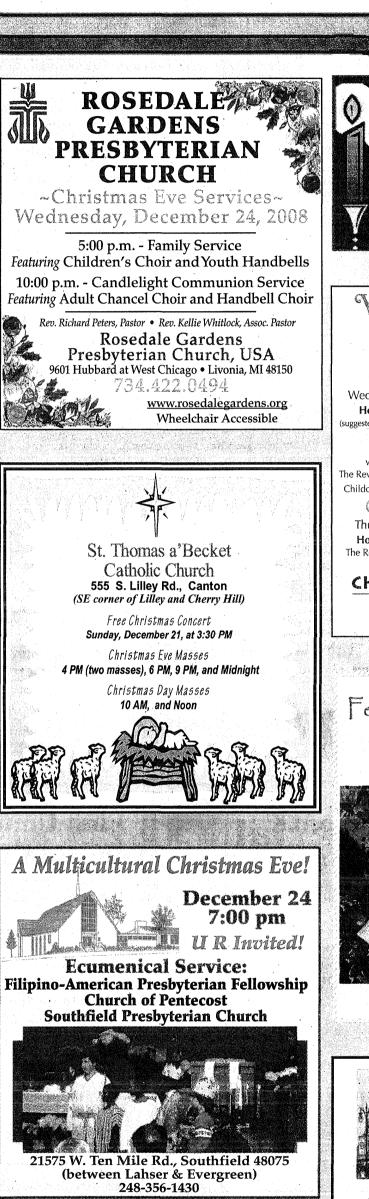
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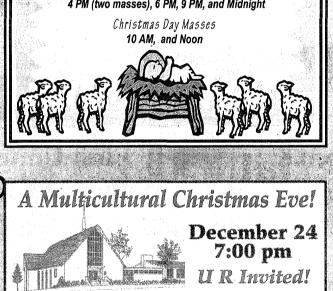
CARE House of Oakland

Child Ab County, home of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council: "Our greatest need is monetary donations to be able to continue with the programs we have in place," said executive director Pat Rosen. The organization in Pontiac serves approximately 4,000 families and children annually. All of its services and programs are provided at no cost to its clients. Mail contributions to CARE House of Oakland County, 44765 Woodward, Pontiac, MI 48341 or make an online donation at www.carehouse.org. The group also maintains a wish list online that includes arts and crafts supplies, disposable diapers, baby food and toys, among other items.



Birth of Christ







ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

620 Romeo Street, Rochester

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Christmas Eve Services

4 p.m. - Children/Family Celebration

7:30 & 11 p.m. — Candlelight Celebration

Childcare for birth through 4 years is available

at 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. services.

Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24 Holy Eucharist at 5 p.m. (suggested for families with small children) **Festive Eucharist** at 8 and 11 p.m. with choir and orchestra The Rev. Edward L. Mullins preaching Childcare available at 5 and 8 p.m.

Christmas Day Thursday, December 25 Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. The Rev. W. Terry Miller preaching



CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills (at corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook) 248.644.5210 • www.christchurchcranbrook.org

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00pm



"Why God Became Man" Rev. Dr. James N. McGuire

(Nursery Provided)

We meet at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road - Livonia (Parking lot is NW corner of Levan & Schoolcraft)

www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

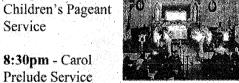


St. John's

Episcopal Church Voodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50) NEXT TO COMERICA PARK www.stjohnsdetroit.org (313) 962-7358

Christmas Eve – December 24

4:00pm -Children's Pageant Service



9:00pm - Candlelight Festive Communion

Christmas Day – 11am in the Chapel

Saturday, December 27th The Feast of St. John the Evangelist

4pm – Christmas Lessons and Carols with our professional choir for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our parish!

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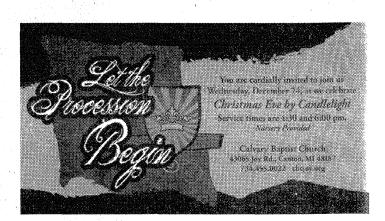
Christmas Eve Service:

Wednesday, December 24, 2008 - 6:00 pm

Sundays:

Sunday School (Classes for all ages) - 9:45 am Morning Worship Service - 11:00 am

Loving Him, Loving Others & Working with Him in the World



Newburg United Methodist Church



36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Léad Pastor Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon

"Love Came Down at Christmas" ... and made all the difference!

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm...Children/Family Service 7:00 pm...Family Worship & Candlelight pm...Lessons & Carols, Communion & Candlelight



St. Anastasia Catholic Church 4571 John R, Troy 48085 (248) 689-8380

Christmas Eve Mass Times: 4 pm, 7pm & 12am (midnight) Christmas Day Mass Times: 8:15am & 11:15am

www.stanastasia.org & http://stabasic.com

North Congregational Church

Sunday, December 21, 2008

10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent: "Prince of Peace"

Worship, Chancel Choir and Orchestra performs

the Christmas Section of Handel's Messiah

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:30 P.M. - "Wonder in the Night"

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, Rev. Mary E. Biedron

36520 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills MI

Anlıoch.

33360 W. 13 Mille Road Farmin of Antioch, a congregation of the E.C. NE corner of 13 Mile and Farming ington Hills. (248) 626-7906; websit

Lutheran Church Christmas Worship :

Wednesday, December 24 (commun 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre-10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival Wo

Sunday, December 28 (one service) 10:00 a.m. Festive Service-Praise

You're invited to experience the sights δ sounds of Christmas Wednesday, December 24, 2008 Childcare 4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. available a 4:00 & 7:00 Trinity Church 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road . Plymouth, MI . www.trinityepc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-DETROIT

21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield (248) 569-2972 www.fbc-detroit.org



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 21st - Fourth Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant

W<u>ednesday, December 24th – Christmas Ev</u>e 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service "Candlelight Service"

ROMAN CATHOLIC CLUSTERED PARISHES IN LIVONIA ST. GENEVIEVE 29015 Jamison...ST. MAURICE 32765 Lyndon

December 24...Christmas Eve Masses 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 4:30p at St. Maurice Church Children's Masses 10:00p at St. Genevieve Church

December 25... Christmas Day Masses 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve December 31... New Year's Eve Masses 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 6:00p at St. Maurice Church December 31-January 1...Holy Hour at St. Maurice 11:30p Exposition...12:30a Reposition & Benediction January 1...New Year's Day <mark>Masses</mark> 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve Church



"A Family in Christ" St. Augustine Lutheran Church LCMS

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 pm

Opportunities for Children King's Court each Sunday at 9:45 am For more information call (248) 879-6400 http://www.saltchurch.net

Christmas at the Kirk

December 21

4:00 PM Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve 8:30 PM Holy Night Service

11:00 AM Young Families Service Rev. Lana Russell

4:00 PM Family Service Rev. Katy Doyle

6:00 PM Family Service Rev. Katy Doyle

Dr. Norman Pritchard 11:00 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard

Kirk in the Hills

1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302 (248) 626-2515 kirkinthehills.org

First United **Methodist Church** 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham 248-646-1200 • www.fumcbirmingham.org CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children Nursery Open

2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols Dr. John E. Harnish preaching

Holy Communion at 2, 7 & 11 Nursery Care at 2 and 7

John E. Harnish, Senior Pastor Rodney F. Quainton Jeff Nelson Chad Oyer Carl Price

Come Catch the Christmas Spirit Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

Diana & Bob Goudie **Pastors**

Sunday Dec. 21 2 services 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 28 one service 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the children & their toys

11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

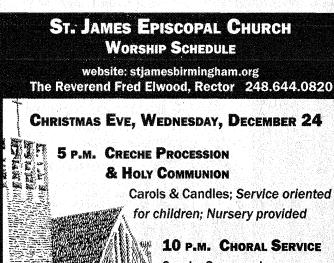
5:30 p.m. ☆Family Musical: "Angels We Have Heard" A multi-generational choir presents a delightful story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music. ☆ Closing service with individual candles ☆ Nursery provided for preschool children

Dec. 24

10:00 p.m. ☆ Adult Choirs
 ☆ Hand Bell Choir ☆ Communion ☆ Candle lighting

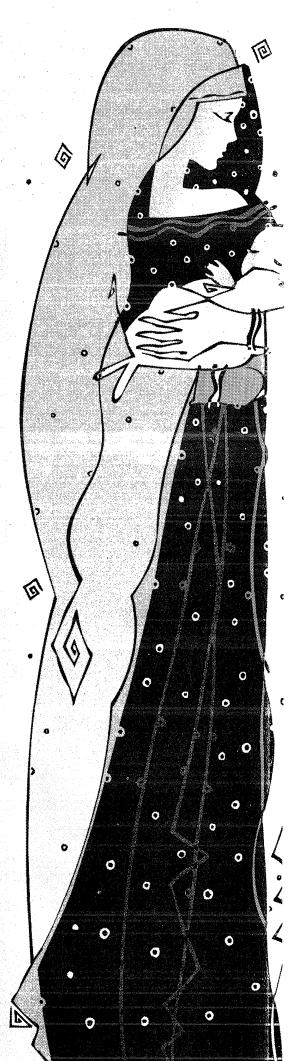
10000 Beech Daly 2 blocks south of Plymouth Road 313-937-3170

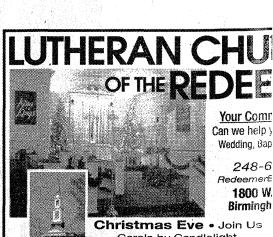
www.redfordaldersgate.org



Carols, Communion, **Christmas Message &** Candles (Music begins at 9:30!)

(Downtown Birmingham between Woodward & Southfield, corner of W. Maple and Chester)





Carols by Candlelight 5:30, 8:00 & 10:00 P.M. New Years Eve Worship 7:00 P.M

Pre-Service Meal 6 P.M. Call for Reservation Weekly Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:30 A.M., Mond Children's Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30

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nusic at 5:45)

(pre-service

vices.

Grace Lutheran Church

25630 Grand River Ave. Redford, MI (just E of Beech Daly)

Sunday, December 21 at 9:15 and 11:00 (S.S. at 9:15 and 11:00) Fourth Sunday in Advent

Service of carols, concert and sermon. The Chancel Choir will render extra music along with a sermon by Rev. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Family Worship
11:00 PM Candlelight Worship
Music provided by the Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor preaching



734.722.1735 Prince of Peace Lutheran - Westland

Poin us this Christmas!

7:30 pm - Candlelight Service | Christmas eve 9:30 am - Nativity Service | Christmas day

37775 Palmer Rd. (1/4 MI west of Newburgh)

Berkley First United Methodist Church

2820 W. Twelve Mile Road, Berkley Michigan 48072 248-399-3698

www.berkley1stumc.org

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
December 21 at 10:30am LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

December 21 at 6:30pm

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT December 24 at 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24 at 10:00pm

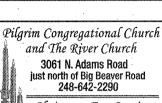
Risen Christ Lutheran

David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) 734.453.5252 Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available

Christmas Eve 4:30 & 7 pm

All are welcome.



Christmas Eve Service: "Gift of Music" A prelude of traditional, nstrumental music - 7:30 pm. "Carols, Candlelight and Communion Worship - 8:00 p.m.

St. Priscilla Church

19120 Purlingbrook Street Livonia, MI 248-476-4700

North of 7 Mile Road Between Middlebelt & Merriman Roads Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve 4:30 PM Children's Liturgy 6:00 PM Mass

12 Midnight Mass (Carols begin at 11:30 PM) **Christmas Day** 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Christ the King

Lutheran Church 9300 Farmington Road Livonia, MI 48150 734-421-0749

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion

7:30 & 11:00

The Rev. James L. Fogle, Paster www.ChristTheKingLivonia.com

Resurrection Catholic Church



48755 Warren Road anton, Michigan 48187 734-451-0444 Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24th

- 4:30 p.m. Mass & 10:00 p.m. • 4:30 p.m. Children's Mass (All Saints Gym)
- CHRISTMAS DAY Dec. 25th 10:30 a.m. Mass
- SUNDAY, Jan. 1st 10:30 a.m.

Come. Let Us Adore Him St. John Lutheran Church 23225 Gill Road • Farmington Hills • 248-474-0584

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services...5:30, 8:00 & 10:30 pm

Christmas & New Years Sundays

Traditional Service...9:00 am

Contemporary Service...11:15 am

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

5631 N. Adams Road · Bloomfield Hills · 248-646-5041 Between Square Lake & Long Lake Roads



10:00 am ~ Holy Communion Service Regular Worship

Sat. 5:30 pm Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Come join Riverside Park Church of God

CANDO TO CANDO TO CANDO TO THE

for any or all of the **December Activities**

December 24

5-6 pm

Christmas Eve Service with Communion

December 31 10:00 pm **New Years Eve Service**

Regular services are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 10:00 am Located at 11771 Newburgh Rd (NW of Plymouth Rd) Information 734-464-0990

St. Paul's **Presbyterian Church**

All Are Welcome to Join Us for

SALEM CHURCH

Downtown Farmington

33424 Oakland Ave.

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Farmington, MI 48335

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Christmas Eve 8:00 pm

Candlelight with Holy

Everyone Welcome

Christmas Eva Sarvicas Communion and Candlelight Services 8 p.m and 11 p.m.



Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

39020 Five Mile Rd , Livonia 734-464-0211

www.holytrinitylivonia.org

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30 pm Contemporary Candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 pm Festival Music Prelude

with Holy Communion

with Holy Communion

m Traditional Candlelight

5:30 pm Family Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm - Family Service 11:00 pm - Candlelight Service

GraceChapel 27996 Halsted Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48331 (NE corner of 12 Mile & Halsted)

Christmas Eoe Worship Carols, Candlelight and **Holy Communion** 4:00* 7:30 and 11 pm

*For families with young children All are Welcome



invites you to celebrate the holidays with our welcoming congregation. Our liberal religious traditions embrace the hope and inspiration of the Christmas story, as well as the many faiths that celebrate this season. Please join us for fellowship:

10 a.m.

11 p.m. For more information, visit

www.northwestuu.com or call 248-354-4488.

Northwest Unitarian **Jniversalist** Church

Sunday Morning Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Tridentine Latin Rite Mass

22310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239 (313) 534-2121 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS) 17810 Farmington Road ~ Livonia, Michigan

734-261-1360 ~ website: stpaulslivonia.org

Christmas Worship at St. Paul's

Christmas Eve Worship......6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship......10:00 a.m. New Year's Eve..............6:30 p.m.

Come and worship with us!

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN

Christmas Day and New Years Day are Holy Days of Obligation



Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Pastor James Hoff

Confessions Midnight Mass

Mass

10:15-11:50 pm 12:00 am

No Confessions

New Years Day Confessions

Mass

9:45-10:25 am

10:00 am

10:30 am

Celebrate Christmas! Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Parmington Road, Livonia

Just north of 1-96 (734) 522-6830



Christmas Day:

10:00am Worship

Two very special events on two very special nights... Old Moravian Lovefeast Sunday, December 21, 2008 • 7 pm

You are invited to our 36th annual Old Moravian Lovefeast! Bring the whole family to celebrate the birth of Christ through scripture, beautiful music, candlelight and sharing a simple meal of a Moravian bun and water.

Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 22, 2008 • 7 pm Dealing with death, divorce, loss of a job, cancer, or some other dis-ease can take the joy out of the season. Our Blue Christmas service holds out the promise of Christ's healing and hope for all people. Join us for a time of support and affirmation.

Metropolitan United Methodist Church 8000 Woodward Avenue • Detroit

FREE Admission FREE Supervised, Lighted Parking

For more information call...313-875-7407 or www.metroumc.org

WE'RE ABOUT TO CELEBRATE THE MOST **WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY EVER.**

It belongs to Jesus. And we're going to celebrate it four times

on December 24. We'll have a service at: 3:00 p.m. - This is not a hush-hush worship.

(It's for families with children of all ages.)

5:00 p.m. - We'll have one for jazz lovers. (Very relaxed with cookies.)

8:00 p.m. - We'll share the lord's supper.

(Everyone's welcome at that table.) 11:00 p.m. - It's all about singing.

(You, the choir, everybody sings. Music begins at 10:45 p.m.)



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Hours: Mon – Fri 9:30 – 7:00 pm • Saturday 9:30 – 5:00 pm • Sunday noon – 4:00 pm 11655 Farmington Road (Just N. of Plymouth Rd.) Livonia • 734-421-PETS (7387)

Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. The couple wed Dec. 27, 1958, at Newburg Methodist Church in Livonia. They are parents to James (Mary) VanBoven of Canton and Brian VanBoven of Redford Township.

Golden anniversary

They have one grandson, Andrew, 16.

Cornelius worked in trucking for more than 40 years and Jean worked for Plymouth Canton Community Schools. Both are retired. Cornelius has been a member of the American Legion in Plymouth for 43 years.

The couple celebrated their anniversary with family and friends, Saturday, Dec. 20

ANNIVERSARY



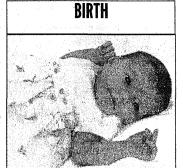
at Atlantis Restaurant, in Plymouth. They plan a trip to Hawaii in the New Year.

PLEASE

RECYCLE



Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton on their wedding day 50 years ago.



Mya Ranee Bedoun

Jason and Megan Bedoun of Canton are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Mya Ranee Bedoun, at Providence Hospital in Southfield. Her grandparents are Al and Ann Thomas of Canton and Ed and Debbie Bedoun of Canton. Her great-grandparents are Albert and Margaret Thomas of Harriman Tenn., Jennie Meier of Novi and Frank and Peggy Hicks of Canton.

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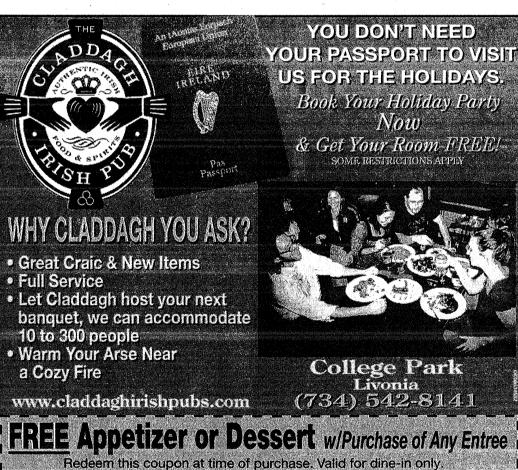
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Ronald DeLuca, D.D.S.



ENGAGEMENT

Zucchet-Szachta

John and Linda Joslin of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Danielle Renee Zucchet to Daniel John Szachta, son of Don and Karen Szachta

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Churchill High School, the James Madison College at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Her fiancé is a graduate of Troy High School, Michigan State University and currently works for Johnson Controls. The couple plans an April 2009 wedding in Plymouth.



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Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
YOUR TOTALLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Pet love: Treat your dog to homemade, holiday cooking

BY SHARON DARGAY **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Nancy Ridella wouldn't think of letting her dog, Max's, birthday go by without baking a tasty turkey cake frosted in mashed potatoes for him and his canine party guests.

When her church, Unity of Rochester, needs cross-shaped biscuits for its annual pet blessing, her oven is already heated and ready to bake.

And if someone in her Troy neighborhood has a new puppy, she'll welcome the new pooch with a big batch of homemade canine treats.

"It's our animal world. I just love it," she said. "Our church is so full of people who love animals. Once a year I make the biscuits and bring in and after service, if people want biscuits, they can donate whatever amount of money they can

for them.' She sends the proceeds — \$250 for her latest batch — to Hawkeye and Friends, a dog rescue in Memphis, located on the dividing line between Macomb and St. Clair coun-

"Max rules the house. He lays on the couch, paws over the edge, but that's OK. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Nancy is my kind of pet owner. She doesn't just cook from scratch for her husband, Bob, but occasionally cracks open the recipe file for Max, their Border Collie-Lab mix, underscoring just how much a part of the family he is. She includes a little something extra for Max at the holidays, for celebrations and makes sure the homemade biscuit jar is always full.

Max's diet isn't limited to dry kibble day in and day out.

Neither is my dog's. I started cooking occasionally for Hunter, my 3½-year-old Akita-Shepherd mix several months after I brought him home from an Ohio shelter over Labor Day weekend 2006. I got a few pointers from my O&E colleague and longtime dog owner, Linda Chomin, who cooks for her Irish Wolfhound, Clancy, very day. I scoured the cool shelves, checked the Internet, and started experimenting with different foods, stepping up my efforts during the melaminetainted pet food recall in early 2007. Since then I've scaled back some, limiting most of my canine cooking to the weekends when I have extra time and just occasionally after work.

But you can bet I won't let the upcoming holidays go by without serving him at least one special meal or homemade treat. While the family indulges in holiday fare, he'll get his own hot meal. For me, it strengthens the bond I've developed with my loyal fourpawed friend.

This year, I've got a few new recipes to try - and to share with you. Nancy gave me her biscuits and turkey cake recipes and Susan Goetz, owner of All Under One Woof dog day care in Oakland Township, passed along a chicken cake

Julie Schalter and Michael

Dickman, both of Plymouth,

The bride, daughter of

Alan and Connie Schalter

of Rochester Hills, earned

a degree in marketing from

Specialist at Carhartt.

Sanders of Pinckney and

in 2003 and his master's

degree in 2004 in account-

Eric Dickman of Hamburg,

received his bachelor's degree

Michigan State University in

She is an eCommerce Retail

The groom, son of Catherine

were married Oct. 17, 2008 in

Dickman-Schalter

Rochester.



recipe that one of her clients often makes.

They follow, along with one of my favorite "every day" canine entrees and a couple of cookbook suggestions:

PEANUT BUTTER K9 COOKIE

- by Nancy Ridella 2 cups wheat flour
- 1 cup wheat germ 1 cut peanut butter
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup cooking oil
- ½ cup water

Mix all ingredients together; roll out dough and cut with cookie cutters. Bake in a 350degree oven for 15-20 minutes. Cool on racks.

DOG BIRTHDAY CAKE

by Nancy Ridella

- 4 pounds ground turkey 3 cups of cooked brown rice
- 1 cup diced carrot
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup minced parsley 2 eggs beaten
- 3 teaspoons chopped garlic
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup whole wheat flour

Optional: mashed potatoes for frost-

Mix ingredients. Place in 9- by 13-inch pan or larger. Bake in 350-degree oven for an hour. Cool. If desired, frost with mashed potatoes. Nancy says the recipe can be cut in half to make it more manageable. She often makes the full · amount explaining "I always have extra on hand in case someone's dog comes over."

CHICKEN BIRTHDAY CAKE

Submitted by Susan Goetz, who got it from one of her doggy day care skitchen.com

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ cup margarine, softened ¼ cup corn oil
- 1 jar strained chicken (baby food)
- 1 cup shredded carrots 3 eggs
- 2 strips of bacon, fried and crumbled Yogurt for icing

Sift flour and baking powder together; set aside. In large bowl, cream margarine until smooth. Add corn oil, baby food and eggs and carrots; mix until smooth, gradually add flour and baking powder to the mixture and blend until smooth. Pour batter into well-greased and floured 8-inch round pan. Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven, 60-70 minutes. Cool on wire rack before removing from pan.

BARLEY, TURKEY AND PUMPKIN

WEDDINGS

The Rev. Marc Gemelarro of

St. Andrew Catholic Church,

ing from Michigan State

internal auditor at Pulte

officiated the ceremony.

The bride's attendants

were Jenny Lenz, Jocelyn

Milshteyn, Jillan Bellows,

Kara Jelley, and Alexa Jelley.

were David Dickman, Jamey

Schalter, and Zach Dickman.

A reception was held at the

Royal Park Hotel in Rochester.

They couple took a honeymoon

trip to Amsterdam and Berlin.

The groom's attendants

University. He is a CPA and

Ice cake with yogurt or cottage

cheese. Crumble bacon on top.

- Never feed your dog:
- Chocolate
- Grapes and raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Alcoholic drinks
- Chicken bones
- Anything with xylitol, a sugar substitute found in sugar-free
- Unripened tomatoes and

food to avoid, even though many dog food recipes include garlic or garlic powder. According to the ASCPA Web site, "Garlic does have toxic potential to pets, and is generally more potent than onion, also a member of the Allium species, in causing changes in red blood cells in dogs and cats. This is true in raw, cooked or powdered forms." The site also says it generally takes a large single ingestion or continued exposure to alter a significant number of red blood cells, compromising their ability to carry oxygen. However, it also cautions that some dogs may be genetically more susceptible to problems from garlic. "An occasional low dose, such as those found in most commercial pet foods or treats, would not likely cause problems." But if you want to avoid risk, just leave the

day dinners. It's an altered version of a recipe that originally appeared in Rachael Ray's magazine

- 3/4 guart of vegetable or chicken
- 1 cup pearl barley ½ pound ground turkey

ingredient out.

- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 3/4 cup of shredded carrots

Warm 1/2 quart of broth and add barley. Cook until it begins to bubble, about five minutes. Add turkey to broth, crumbling it in smaller chunks. Cook until the liquid is absorbed by the stirring occasionally, until the barley is tender. That's about 20 minutes. At the 15-minute Remove from heat and immediately add the pumpkin, stirring it in and making sure it's just heated through.

my favorite books:

- "The Healthy Dog Cookbook" by Joanna Anne with Mary Straus.
- "The Dog Ate It" by Linda West Eckhardt and Barbara Bradley. Each recipe includes a canine version and
- "The Natural Pet Food Cookbook" by Wendy Nan Rees, includes recipes for both dogs and cats.

This is one of Hunter's favorite Sun-

TOXIC FOODS

- Coffee

- Onions
- gum, among other products
- tomato plant leaves
- Yeast dough
- Moldy or spoiled foods
- Avocado

The ASCPA also lists garlic as a

- broth
- Pinch nutmeg and cinnamon

grains and then add the remaining 1/4 of the quart of broth. Cook. mark, add the shredded carrots.

For more ideas, check out three of

- Contains 50 "nutritious and delicious"
- spiced-up version for people.

Alan and Joyce Hawkins, of Farmington Hills, both 70 and retired, embarked on one of many of their dream vacations - a cross country adventure on their BMW motorcycle and side car.

Retired couple is high on adventure in golden years

CORRESPONDENT

Retirement, the Golden Years, is it a myth? Or is it just attainable for a select

few? For one Farmington Hills couple, retirement is all about realizing their dreams. It affords them the opportunity to travel here and abroad, tend to their garden and home, and reconnect with family and friends.

Recently, Alan and Joyce Hawkins, both 70 and retired, embarked on one of many of their dream vacations - a cross country adventure.

Their mode of transportation was not a car, or plane, or mobile home. Instead, they chose a custom BMW motorcycle with deluxe side car.

When asked why he chose to travel this way, Alan Hawkins told about his love for motorcycles, stemming back to his teenage years in England. Why he chose to attach a

side car was necessity over "My legs weren't long

enough to reach the ground, so the side car was added for balance," he said.

Riding in the side car is very comfortable and Joyce finds lots to do: writing notes in her journal, reading, sleeping, or providing her husband with directions via chatter boxes affixed to their hel-

"It looks like the Bat pod," said their son, Tony Hawkins, also of Farmington Hills.

Choosing not to use their home as a piggy bank and take out second or third mortgages to fund vacations and gratuities, the couple decided long ago they were never going to live on credit.

"If we couldn't afford to pay cash, we wouldn't buy it" was their motto. Alan a builder, and Joyce, a homemaker, saved enough money to be able to enjoy a comfortable

Cruising to New Zealand and Australia, visiting their native England, and purchasing such luxury items as two BMW motorcycles — and a car to match — only served to enhance their golden years.

When they're not traveling,

that they have their health and each other as they enter

the couple spends their days tending to their vegetable and flower gardens, doing their own home improvements (updating each room of their house), and visiting with family and friends.

Their last trip was a sixweek excursion, traveling into Canada via Glacier National Park and extending all the way to California, visiting old friends and relatives along

Back home, their sons minded their two acre lawn and tennis court-sized garden and greenhouse.

"At 70, I only hope I can do half the things my dad is able to do and with the same energy and enthusiasm," said Tony Hawkins.

three siblings were taught that if they wanted extras, they needed to find jobs and pay for luxuries themselves. "We all learned a strong

As children, Tony and his

work ethic early on," said Joyce and Alan count their blessings and feel fortunate

this stage in their life.



Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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View Obits On-line@www.hometownlife.com

BETTY BUTLER

Went home to be with the Lord on December 16, 2008. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews and Viewing will December 22, 12-4pm, with funeral at 4pm at Uht Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers please send contributions to Wayne County Senior Services.



CARL D. MARSEE

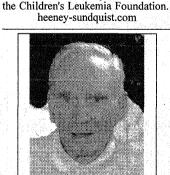
December 18, 2008. Age 91 Plymouth. Beloved husband of Ila. Loving father of Barbara, David and the late Judy (Ed) Langer, Proud grandpa of Dawn Bradford, Darren(Jana) Koretko, Scott (Anita) Langer, Todd (Kara) and the late Kevin. Dear brother of Orin (Arlene). Also survived by nine great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews including Joan (the late Eugene) Morrison. Funeral Service Monday 12 noon at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Visitation Sunday 2-9PM. Interment Riverside Cemetery. To share a memory with the family, please visit

www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Paying **Tribute** Loved One

LILLIAN M. LEENY

Age 86, of Farmington Hills, longtime Congressional Aid, passed away December 18. Loving mother of Camilla Landry, Pamela (James) Kolo and Dennis; beloved grandmother of Scott Vermen, Barbara, Denise, Matthew Landry, Christopher and Terry. Lillian is preceded in death by her son Frederick. Funeral Mass Monday, December 22nd, 11 AM (in state 10:30 AM) at the Servant Church of St. Alexander, 27835 Shiawassee (btwn. Middlebelt & Inkster Rds.), Farmington Hills. Visitation Sunday 2-8 PM with a 7PM Rosary service at the Heeney Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (just N. of Grand River, btwn. 9-10 Mile Rd.), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial tributes may be directed to



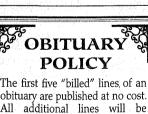
WILLIAM G. FEHLIG

December 12, 2008. Age 88 of Plymouth. Loving husband of Virginia. Beloved father of David (Holly) and Patricia (David) Tome. Beloved grandpa of David (Maria), Jeff (Nancy), Brian (Sabrina) Tome Catherine Tome, Jeff (Chitose) Hanert and Jill (George) Carroll. Dear Great-grandpa of Brittany, Makayla, Brenden, Jeremy, Justen, Jordan, Reed, Owen, Luke and Brandon. Mr. Fehlig was a custom home builder, developer and real estate broker. Bill was the last surviving charter member of the Plymouth Lions Club, having been a very active member for 61 years. He was also a lifelong member of the Plymouth Elks. Visitation and funeral services were held at Vermeulen Funeral Home-Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to the Plymouth Lions Foundation. To share memories, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

MABLE MARSH

Passed away on December 15 at the Grandvue Nursing Home in Northern Michigan located in East Jordan at the age of 100. Mable was born on July 28, 1908 in Baltimore, Maryland the daughter of John and Lula Roberts, She worked for many years in retail sales in the Birmingham area. Many of her customers were friends and she retired in her late eighties. Mable is survived by two daughters Lea Shea and Carol Samanen, five grandchildren and nine great grand-children. Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

 \Longrightarrow



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:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday

Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines vill be placed in the next available issue. e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com

or fax to:

Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318 Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082 or toll free

800-579-7355

LaMontagne-Kain

Robert and Ellen Kain of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Mallory, to Craig D. LaMontagne of Westland. He is the son of John and Lynne LaMontagne of Livonia.

The couple wed Nov. 8, 2008, at Christ Church of Redford. Pastor Mark Einem presided. The bride was attended by Megan Kain, Michelle Kain, Megan LaMontagne, Jennifer Katrich and flower girl Mia LaMontagne. The groom was attended by Jeff Springer, Kevin Jarvis, Dan LaMontagne and Joe Katrich.

A reception followed at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills, where the wedding party and guests enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing. The couple will make their home in Westland.





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equipment, exc. pay, 401K, medical & ownership opportunity. 734-454-4300 **BOWLING CENTER** now hiring afternoon Shift Manager. Ful or Part-Time. Please apply in person: Ford Lanes, 23100

CLEANERS NEEDED Plymouth area homes \$10 hr. to start. No nights Car required. 734-455-4570

Van Born, Dearborn Heights.

Help Wanted-General 5000

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Technical Architects Senior Technical Architects (job code STA-IBMEAI)

To apply, please visit http://www.perficient.com fill out a general application (available in Careers Section) & specify correct job code on cover letter.

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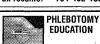
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Tues. Dec 23, 10am

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2009 Saturn Outlook Boosts Power

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian **Avanti News Features**



The 2009 Saturn Outlook is more powerful than ever because it has gone back to its SUV roots for added strength. Eleven more horsepower, to be exact, thanks to the addition of direct-injection technology, which provides added power and increased fuel efficiency.

General Motors Corp. didn't mess with a good thing. It just made it more powerful. The Outlook, now in its third year, still has the same crossover attributes, providing the capability of an SUV with car-like style, efficiency and driving feel, all while seating up to eight.

Direct-injection technology in the Outlook's 3.6liter V6 engine helps produce V8 engine power, yet uses regular unleaded gasoline. The Outlook XR puts out 288 horsepower and the Outlook XE is rated at 281 horsepower, which is best in class fuel economy.

The Outlook's V6 is mated to the Hydra-Matic 6T75 six-speed automatic transmission, an advanced transmission with clutch-to-clutch shift operation. Both the XE and XR are available in front-wheel- and all-wheel-drive configurations.

The front-wheel-drive XE gets 17 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway while the allwheel-drive version gets 16 city and 23 highway.

Changes have also been made to the top of the line XR model to make it even more lux. A major upgrade is standard leather seating and, for the first time, leather seating will be available on the base

Cabin comfort and convenience enhancements include OnStar with Bluetooth hands-free phone connectivity and a choice of two available Bose audio systems: the Bose 5.1 Cabin Surround system with DVD, or a non-surround Bose audio system.

The Outlook provides 19.7 feet of storage space Classifieds on the web: behind the third-row seat, which pays for itself if you need to haul a lot of luggage.



The 2009 Saturn Outlook XE's horsepower is up from 270 to 281, giving families extra power for pulling things like boats jet skis. Fortunately the added strength doesn't come at the expense at fuel economy numbers as the Outlook still gets a combined city/ highway 20 miles per gallon.

second-row seat cushions to flip up as the seat slides forward, creating a wider path of entry for access to the third row.

Rivaling the storage space of the Chevrolet Tahoe, the Outlook is ideal for road trips. With the second and third rows folded completely flat, the Outlook

holds an impressive 117 cubic feet. The Tahoe, which is an inch longer, only holds 109. If you need to haul more than the Outlook's capacity, you can order a hitch package that's

capable of towing 4,500 pounds. This is ideal for the people who need to pull a boat in the summer and a snowmobile in the winter. A backup camera is also new for 2009 and is

available on both XE and XR models. And to accommodate the in-mirror view screen, the compass on the XR model moves from the rearview mirror to the driver information center.

New, 20-inch alloy wheels also are standard on the Touring Package. Other Outlook models feature standard 18-inch wheels.

The Preferred Package on XE models adds bodycolor bodyside moldings, body-color, heated outside rearview mirrors and turn-signal repeaters for

Two new Outlook exterior colors are available: Quicksilver replaces Silver Pearl and Silver Moss replaces Ocean Mist.

The Outlook's comprehensive safety system is designed to protect passengers before, during and after a crash. A strong structure is the foundation and with a wide stance and low center of gravity, rollovers are highly unlikely.

In case the vehicle does somehow get out of control, the Outlook's proactive safety features keep a potential accident from turning into a major bang-

The Outlook is equipped with six standard air bags: two dual-stage frontal air bags for the driver and front passenger, two seat-mounted side-impact air bags in the first row and two head curtain sideimpact air bags that cover all three seating rows.

Complementing the air bags is General Motors' rollover sensing system, which can employ the sideimpact air bags if sensors determine a rollover is

Because rollovers are typically longer in duration than non-rollover crashes, the air bags stay inflated longer to provide occupants increased protection from being thrown around the cabin.

For added safety, all-wheel-drive models feature an Active On Demand system that manages the torque split between the front and rear axles, shifting power to different axles as needed.

If you are looking for an alternative to a minivan for family outings and the occasional need to tow a boat, the 2009 Outlook should suffice.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors Corp. for Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2009, Fracassa Communications.

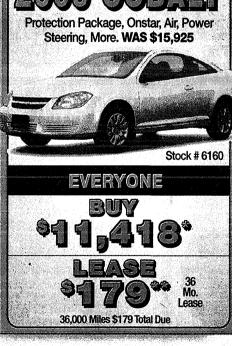
2009 Saturn Outlook Vehicle class: Crossover SUV. Power: V6 engine. Mileage: 16 city / 24 highway. Where built: Lansing, Mich. Base price: \$29,380.

Access to the third row seat and laying it flat for The Outlook's responsive four-wheel independent www.observerandeccentric.com storage is as easy as pulling a strap thanks to a steering system also enhances safety by providing a feature called Smart Slide. This feature allows stable ride and nimble handling. CHEVY **OPEN SATURDAY** 12-27-08 10am - 3pm Auto Overdrive, Locking Differential, Convenience Package. 20" Alum. Wheels, OnStar, too much to list. Stock # 4121 Thu LIST MSRP \$44,850 **INCENTIVES \$10,500** 6 Speed, Auto Transmission, Onstar, Auto V6, Power Windows, Power Protection Package, Onstar, Air, Power Power Windows, Power Locks, Tilt, Cruise, 3.6 V6, Power Windows, Power Locks, Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Power Seat, OnStar, Auto Overdrive, Much More. Steering, More. WAS \$15,925 Tilt, Cruise, Stereo CD. WAS \$29.065 Onstar, Much More.



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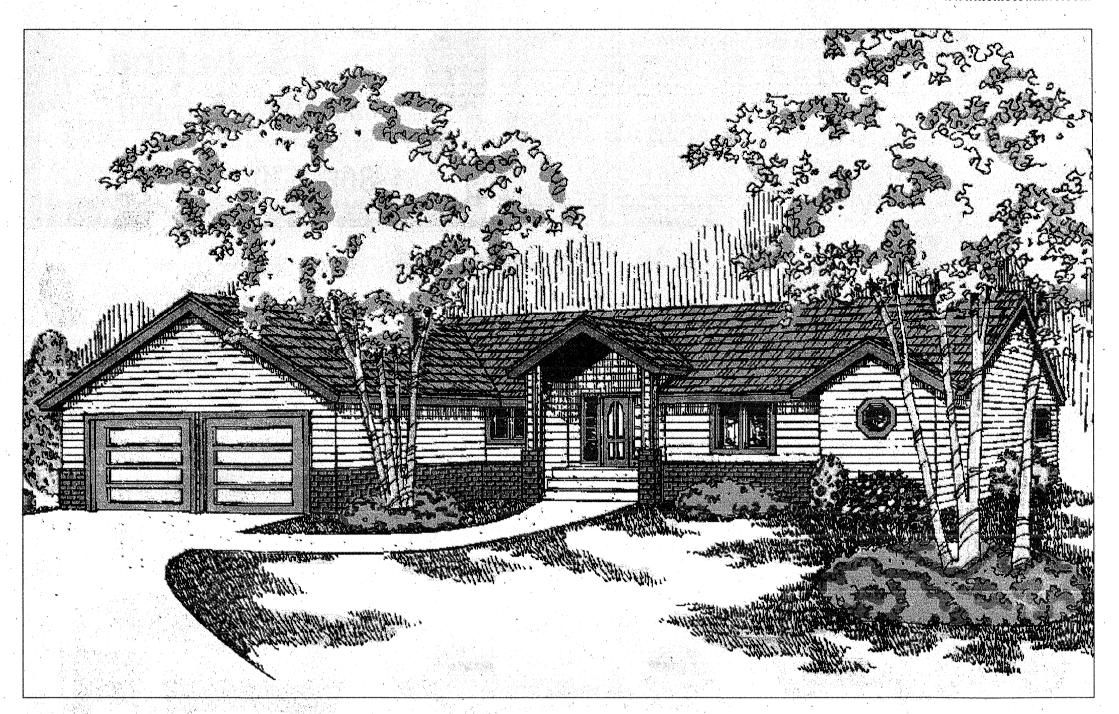
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Be prepared to enjoy life in spacious Scout home design

The Scout (405-28) follows a traditional style brick wainscoting and a columnar entry, with contemporary touches like the octagon window in the master bath and the doorway windows in the entry.

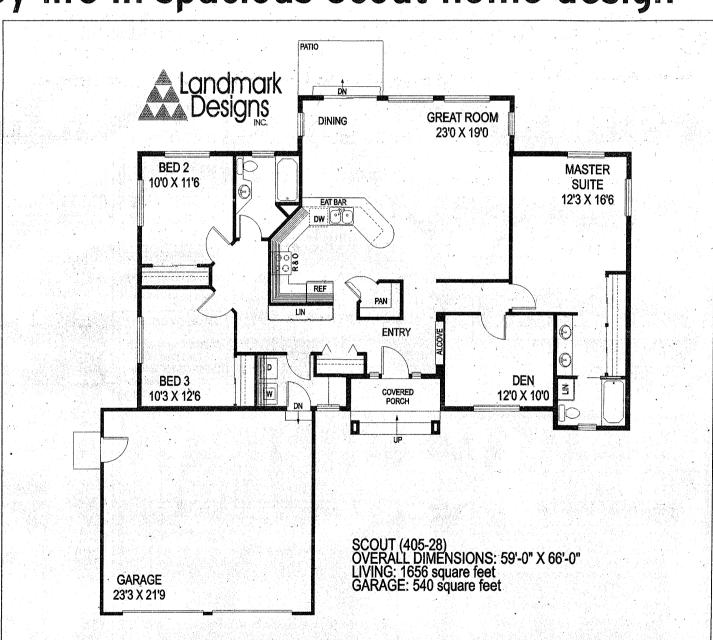
Inside, this well-appointed plan provides excellent traffic flow from the guest entry, as well as the garage entry, into the rest of the home. The entry also offers a unique alcove to display collectibles or a favorite painting. The master suite is located on the opposite side of the home from the secondary bedrooms. This design is becoming increasingly popular with parents wanting to give their children more freedom to play their music and have friends over without being disruptive. A full bath is located at the end of the hall, close to the bedrooms, while a large linen closet is just across the hall from the utility room. A window in the utility room, and the counter space below it, make the task of folding clothes more enjoyable.

The kitchen is integrated very well into this open plan. Ample cabinet space and a large pantry are balanced by an open peninsula with the sink and dishwasher on one side and a raised eating bar on the other. More than enough room lies beyond the eating bar for a large family dining table. The great room is brightened along the rear wall of the home with large windows, and a patio door leads outside for enjoying nice weather. The space is large enough for many furniture arrangements, accommodating a family's constantly changing needs.

To the right of the entry is the den with a door entry near the master suite. The spacious room could serve as a formal entertaining room, a movie room, or an office. The master suite at the end of the hall is quite large, and features double sinks in the dressing area, separated from the rest of the bath by a pocket door.

The Scout is a plan well suited for many families because of its versatile, spacious design.

For a study plan of the SCOUT (405-28), 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.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



Looking good: Realtors know curb appeal the way to go in sales

For the second year in a row, Realtors report that exterior remodeling projects return the most money as a percentage of cost, as detailed in the 2008 Remodeling Cost vs. Value

On a national level, wood deck additions and all types of siding replacements — upscale fiber cement, midrange vinyl, and upscale foam-backed vinyl returned more than 80 percent of project costs upon resale. Of these, the most profitable project was upscale fiber cement siding, which recouped 86.7 percent of costs, followed by wood decks at 81.8 percent, midrange vinyl siding at 80.7 percent, and upscale foambacked vinyl siding at 80.4 percent.

"Because today's buyers have much more to choose from in

the way of inventory, any home for sale must make a positive first impression," said National Association of Realtors President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth. "As a trusted source for real estate information, Realtors understand what attracts and motivates their buyer clients, which is why the results of this year's Cost vs. Value report underscore the importance of curb appeal in

the buyer's eye."

The 2008 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report compares construction costs with resale values for 30 midrange and upscale remodeling projects comprising additions, remodels and replacements in 79 markets across the country, expanding from 60 markets last year.

Data are grouped into nine U.S. regions, following the divisions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. This is the 11th consecutive year that the report, which is produced by Hanley Wood, LLC, was completed in cooperation with *REALTOR* Magazine, as Realtors provided their insight into local markets and buyer home preferences within those markets.

In addition to wood decks and siding, window replacements and kitchen remodels also returned a relatively high percentage of remodeling costs on a national basis. All types of window replacements — upscale and midrange wood and upscale and midscale vinyl — returned more than 76 percent of costs. A major midrange kitchen remodel returned 76.0 percent of project costs, while

a minor midrange kitchen remodel returned 79.5 percent of costs.

On a national level, bathroom remodels, while still a relatively good investment, do not return as high a percentage as in previous years. A midrange bathroom remodel was estimated to return 74.4 percent on resale, comparable to a midrange atticto-bedroom conversion, at 73.6 percent of costs recouped, and a midrange basement remodel, at 72.7 percent of costs recouped.

As in last year's report, the least profitable remodeling projects in terms of resale value were home office remodels, sunroom additions, and back-up power generators, returning only 54.4 percent, 56.6 percent, and 57.1 percent, respectively, of project costs.

Although most regions fol-

lowed national trends, the regions that consistently were estimated to return a higher percentage of remodeling costs upon resale were the Pacific region of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington; the West South Central region of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; the East South Central region of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee; and the South Atlantic region of the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

The regions that generally returned the lowest percentage of costs were New England (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), East North Central (Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin), West North Central (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota), and Middle Atlantic (New York and Pennsylvania).

McMillan explained that the resale value of any given remodeling project depends on a variety of factors. "A home's overall condition, availability and condition of surrounding properties, location, and regional economic climate are all factors that will influence the value of any remodeling project," he said. "That's why it's important to consult with professionals like Realtors in your area when you want to enhance the value of your home."

Results are summarized in the December 2008 issue of REALTOR Magazine.





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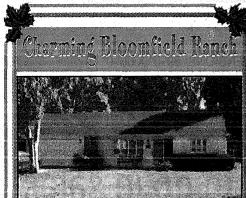
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1 Wharf

5 Twosome

6 Quaint lodg-

9 Collide with

10 Corroded,

as acid 11 Movie rat

component

57 Project starter

61 Explain further

2 Dreaded czar

3 Hang open 4 Miss a syllable

7 Toward sunrise

47 Rent

ACROSS

- Groove on
- 4 Pop singer AdamsTake hastily
- 13 Centurion's
- moon 14 Evaluate 15 Headings
- 17 Ominous sign 18 Handle dough 19 Meat dish
- 21 Rare mineral
- 23 Camel kin 27 Brownish tint 30 TV award
- 33 Overeat, with "out"
 34 Show distress
- 35 Ginnie or Fannie
- 36 Parched 37 Mag execs
- 38 Area

- 40 Nostalgic look

39 Gave the pink

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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16-Touch base 25 Thick mud 26 Like prime steak 27 Pitcher (2 wds.) 20 Famous cathedral town 22 Office note in a basin 28 Give up territory 24 Peak

29 Balance 31 Homo sapiens 32 Mild-mannered 36 Jaded 38 Where monkeys swing

41 Dittv

43 Trojan War saga 45 Judicial order 46 Fill the hull 48 Verdi masterpiece

49 Tire feature

50 Leered at 51 T'ai — ch'uan 52 Went first 53 A hundred percent

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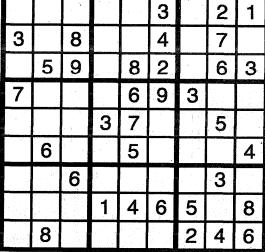
puzzle will have

you hooked from

the moment you

square off, so

Numbers



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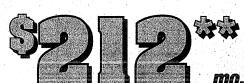
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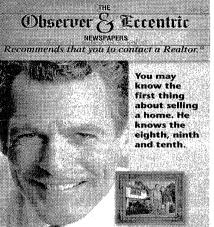
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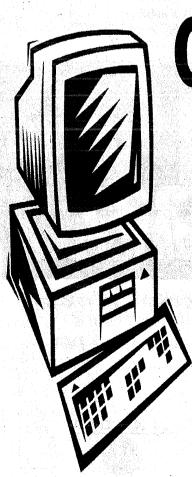
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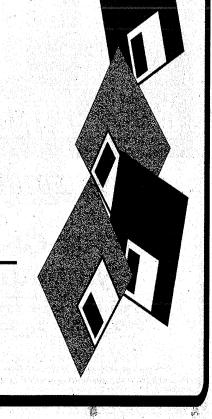
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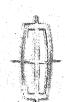
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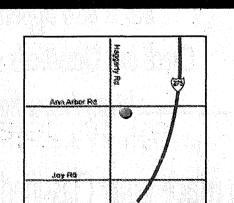
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