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November 15,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 124
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75 CENTS

Holiday cards for a cause - B6

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Local family makes Whaler feel right at home
- Sports, B1

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Goodfellows help

The Plymouth Goodfellows are coordinating volunteers for their annual paper sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

People can sign up for any time frame. "Times are difficult ... and we need all the help we can muster to help us meet our goal of 'No Child without a Christmas,'" Goodfellows spokesperson Penny Irwin said.

Contact the Goodfellows at plymouthgoodfellows@yahoo.com or by calling (734) 262-3199.

'Chasing Light'

Pulitzer Prize winning composer Joseph Schwantner is coming to lead educational workshops in conjunction with the Michigan premiere of his *Chasing Light* performed by the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra Nov. 21, at the Village Theatre of Cherry Hill.



Schwantner

Schwantner will give two workshops for fifth grade students at Farrand and Hulsing Elementary schools in the Plymouth-Canton School District and will spend a day with graduate composition students at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor.

The performance will include the *Lincoln Portrait* by Copland, Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing*.

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras concert takes place 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill (at Ridge), Canton.

Tickets are \$25, adult; \$20, senior, \$10, student. Call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouth-symphony.org.

PCA auction

Officials at Plymouth Christian Academy host "MISSION POSSIBLE," the school's annual Fall Auction, Friday, Nov. 20, in the school building at 43065 Joy Road in Canton.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a buffet pasta dinner and silent auction. The live auction begins at 7 p.m. and will include such items as a ride on the Red Wings Zamboni complete with game tickets, fabulous sports and vacation packages, a ride on a B-17 Flying Fortress at the Yankee Air Museum and pearl sets made by women who have been rescued out of the human trafficking trade.

Proceeds from this event will go directly to support students in the pursuit of a college preparatory, Biblical worldview education.

For more information, contact PCA at 734-459-3505 or www.plymouthchristian.org.

'Hell' of combat



Stew Israel grills strip steaks for veterans. The Plymouth Elks and American Legion Passage-Gayde Post 391 partner to serve veterans from the Veteran's Administration Hospital and homeless veterans.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Veterans enjoy steak lunch at Plymouth Elks

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A day after people in Plymouth and around the country marked Veterans Day with speeches and ceremonies, a Plymouth service club and a veterans group recognized local military veterans again — this time with hospitality and a hot meal.

The Plymouth Elks Club, assisted by members of American Legion Post 391, hosted more than 100 veterans for lunch Thursday at the Elks' Lodge 1780 on Ann Arbor Road. Patients from Veterans Administration hospitals in Detroit and Arbor, and men from two area shelters for homeless veterans, enjoyed steak and potatoes, salad and rolls, cake and coffee and musical entertainment by the Detroit Police Department's rhythm-and-blues band, The Blue Pigs.

"The whole purpose of this is to say thank you and give you the respect you really deserve as our heroes," Stewart Israel, the Elks' veterans affairs chairman, told the crowd.

The Elks had been hosting annual lunches for several years, Israel said, and when the Legion joined them a few years ago, they began doing two a year, one in November, which is Veterans Remembrance Month, and one in March.

"They treat the vets special," said Peter Wilkerson, a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War who was wounded in combat. "They really show feelings for the vets."

The Elks also host monthly ice cream socials at the John D. Dingell V.A. Medical Center in Detroit, collect deer hides to make gloves for veterans in wheelchairs and distribute Christmas gifts annually to about 800 veterans through three V.A. hospitals and two shelters, Israel said.

"It makes me feel good," said Vivian Beigun, an Elks member for four years and frequent volunteer. "They give their life, and this is what I can do for them."

Veterans describe terrors of war, paths to civilian life

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two men. Two wars, 20 years apart. And after what could be described as a season in hell that left each of them combat-wounded, two divergent paths.

"It's been a scary road because of what I did experience in Vietnam," said U.S. Army veteran Peter Wilkerson, who was shot in the left arm in combat in 1965 and is totally disabled. "I take it day by day."

"I wouldn't want to go through it again, I'll tell you that," said Elgin Olson, also an Army infantry veteran, who was part of the invasion force June 6, 1944, that stormed Nazi Germany's Fortress during World War II.

Wilkerson and Olson spoke Thursday during a steak luncheon event for local veterans at the Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780. The luncheon was hosted by the Elks with help from members of American Legion Post 391.

'I STILL HAVE NIGHTMARES'

Wilkerson, who grew up in Detroit and volunteered for the Army — but not for Vietnam, he points out — said he has suffered from mental problems since the war and is on a 100-percent military disability.

"I still have nightmares," he said. Not just about being shot, he added, but about "just being in Vietnam, period."

"That was a scary place," he said. Four months into his tour, Wilkerson said, he was the point man on a patrol when he spotted the enemy.



Veterans Howard Thomas (Army) and Curley Lighton (Air Force) play cards while the steaks are grilling.

He turned to warn the others, he said, when he was hit.

"The bullet was so powerful it knocked me to the ground, and I screamed for the medic," he said. The medic ran up and began attending to him, he said, and was himself fatally wounded.

"I remember him working on me. I think he shot something in my arm," Wilkerson said. "He got killed shortly afterward."

Wilkerson was hospitalized for about two years, he said, first in Saigon, then

in Tokyo, and then at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The bullet had torn through his arm, he said, damaging bone and nerves. He regained use of it, but it pains him in cold weather, he said.

Wilkerson said he wouldn't be around without the help of an outpatient treatment program at the Veterans Administrations John D. Dingell Medical Center. He attends three days a week.

Please see **VETERANS, A2**

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

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Plymouth seminary, Moody merge

It'll be "two schools, one mission" when the merger of Plymouth-based Michigan Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Institute in Chicago is complete.

The merger was announced at a gala event held in Plymouth last week. Moody Bible Institute President Paul Nyquist and Michigan Theological Seminary Chairman Rick Warren jointly announced plans for MTS to merge with Moody and join with Moody Theological Seminary and Graduate School.

Both boards approved the decision to join the seminaries at their spring 2009 board meetings. The Higher Learning Commission officially approved the merger at their Oct. 29 meeting, stipulating a few additional merger conditions. These issues will be addressed in anticipation of a formal merger agreement to be in place by Jan. 1. "MTS and MGS not only align theologically and doctrinally, but this merger combines two schools with the same mission to train and equip students for ministry," said Jerry Jenkins, Moody board chairman. "As a single entity we can be more effective for the Kingdom."

Moody currently enrolls 400 students in its

seminary program and by merging with MTS, whose enrollment is 200, the school population will move it into the middle tier of seminaries, providing opportunities each school would not have on its own. Additionally, the merger allows more students access to broader study programs, and will enhance students' educational experience by providing access to a diverse faculty in both locations through brilliant classroom technology. "MTS brings a well-established counseling program and Moody brings an effective online education program combining the two schools offers students access to courses and ways of studying they may not have had otherwise," said Dr. Charles Dyer, provost and dean of Education at Moody.

In addition to the exceptional educational benefits of joining the two like-minded graduate schools, the economic potential for better stewardship of resources was an important factor in the discussion to merge.

Joining the two schools into a single entity allows for greater cost savings and efficiency. This will be achieved through the use of a shared technological infrastructure and back-of-the-house operations, officials said.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

"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

Farrand craft fair

Farrand Elementary School hosts its annual Vendor/Craft Fair 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at the school, located at 41400 Greenbrian Lane in Plymouth. Well-known vendors as well as home-made crafts will be available.

Admission is \$1 at the door.

Corriveau coffee

State Representative Marc Corriveau (D-Northville), whose district includes Plymouth, Northville and part of Canton, hosts a coffee hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Parthenon Coney Island, 39910 Ford Road, in Canton.

For more information, call (734) 981-0200.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-Sarah Ann Cochrane chapter meet for a birthday luncheon at noon Monday, Nov. 16, at Station 885, 885 Starkweather in Plymouth.

Speaker Sharon Hopkins, honorary state regent, state chairman Michigan Room, will speak about The Michigan Room.

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

Medicare workshop

The Plymouth District Library will again be offering



Dance delights

The Salem High School Junior Varsity Dance team earned first place in their division at the 2009 Mid American Pompon Dance and High Kick Championship Nov. 8 at Eastern Michigan University. The team placed first in the Junior Varsity Jazz category. Salem JV performed with a Jazz routine to the song 'Let Me Think About It' by Ida Corr. The 12-girl team coached by Liz Hynes is preparing for the Regional Competition at Churchill High School Saturday, Jan. 23, with hopes of qualifying for the State Competition at EMU Sunday, Feb. 13.

workshops to assist individuals who are looking to enroll in the prescription programs offered by Medicare.

Co-sponsored by CVS Pharmacy, workshops will be held on all Tuesdays in November - Nov. 17 and 24 - from 10 a.m. to noon. Attendees are required to put all their current medications in a bag and bring it to the workshop.

Trained library staff members will review the medications and obtain a comparative look at the programs offered. Space is limited; register by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

Holiday Arts & Crafts

The annual Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters Holiday Arts & Crafts Ensemble is a

juried art and craft exhibition hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Plymouth High School.

Exhibitors include makers of handcrafted jewelry, holiday gifts, floral arrangements, purses, wood crafts, glass works, clothing & linens, paintings, painted glass ornaments, and more. In addition to the 100-plus exhibits, there will be food, baked goods, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

All the proceeds from this one day event go towards the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park, the campus of three high schools in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. For more information visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft

For more information, call (734) 414-7654.

Reunion time

Plymouth Canton and Salem

Class of 1994 is hosting its 15-year reunion 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, Nov. 27 at the Novi Sheraton, 21111 Haggerty in Novi.

Cost is \$50. Details can be found and tickets purchased at www.pcep1994.com

For more information, contact Julie Burkett (Orleman) via e-mail at julieburkett@hotmail.com or call (734) 674-3478.

Entertainment books

The Beckridge Chorale is selling the 2010 Entertainment Book to support its vocal scholarship program. The book contains hundreds of 2-for-1 and 50-percent discounts at airlines, restaurants, hotels, car rentals, movie rentals, theater and sports events, and much more.

Retail cost is \$35; your cost is \$20. Save money and support the BeckRidge Chorale.

Call (734) 459-6829 to order. Books will be delivered in the Plymouth area upon request.

VETERANS

FROM PAGE A1

He hasn't held a job, and a brief marriage — he was married at the time he was wounded — ended in divorce. "It didn't work," he said.

Wilkerson reflected on how he's coped for the last 40-some years.

"It was hell. I don't know how I did it," he said. "The only thing I can say is God was with me."

Wilkerson had joined the Army with the hope of becoming a drill sergeant.

"I would've made it, too," he said.

'HELL'

Olson's road from combat, which had left him with shrapnel wounds in various parts of his body, was much different.

He reported no particular problems readjusting to civilian life. "I felt good," he said.

Olson, who grew up in Wyandotte, married, divorced, remarried, became a widower and married again. He worked at a Wyandotte chemical plant and later in construction, he said.

Now 82 — he was only 17 on D-Day — he's raised children and he and his wife, Joy, live in Southgate.

Olson is a patient at the V.A. hospital in Ann Arbor, where he recently had knee-replacement surgery on his left leg. He's got two or three weeks left in his hospital stay, he said.

Olson said he volunteered for the Army. "My dad didn't want me to go," he said.

Asked why he volunteered, he says he doesn't know. All his friends were volunteering and it seemed like the thing to do, he added.

He had just three weeks of basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky. — where Wilkerson also had

basic — before being put on a troop ship, he said. "They needed the men over there," he said.

Olson participated in the D-Day invasion, then in the fierce combat in ancient Normandy hedgerows as the Allies fought to expand their foothold on the continent.

"The Germans were picking us off and everything else," he said.

The hedges were so thick, Olson said, that even tanks couldn't penetrate them until infantrymen began welding giant cutting tools onto the front of them.

"We had airplanes buzzing us and everything else," he said.

Asked to describe the experience, Olson paused. "Hell. Hell," he says.

He was wounded by artillery shrapnel several times, and said he still carries it in his body. He shows a mark on his forehead.

"They'd put a Band-aid on it and it was all right," he said. "You'd lay around for maybe a day or so and go back again."

But the cumulative effect of the wounds, he said, along with the winding-down of the war, got him a ticket home. Olson said he was on a transport ship when victory in Europe was declared.

Olson has a theory about why the Vietnam veterans seemed to have a harder time coping back in civilian life than the veterans of his war.

Vietnam was a jungle war, he said, and a guerilla war, one in which the enemy wasn't always apparent or dressed in uniform. And the drugs prevalent in the Vietnam era messed with soldiers' minds, he said.

"They had a different war than we did," Olson said.

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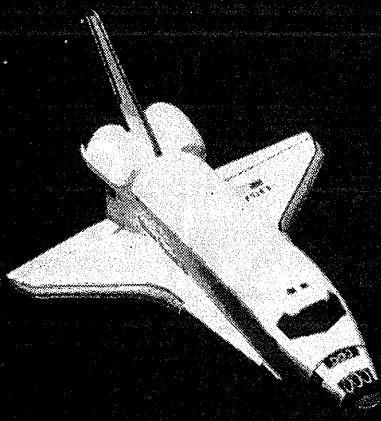
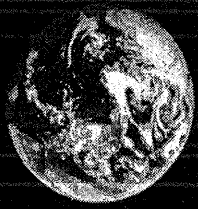
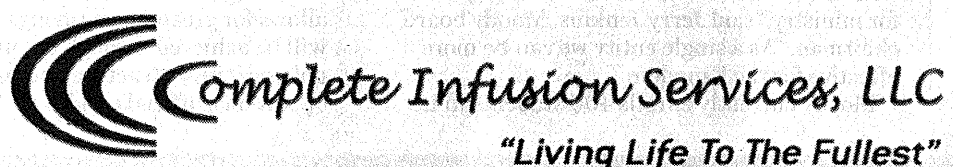
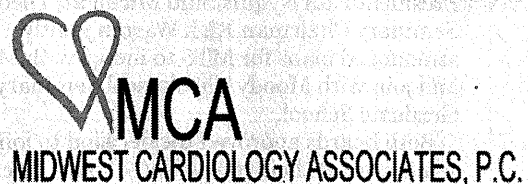
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kathleen Kasperek-Korelis, project leader for the Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery, talks about the new operating rooms where equipment is suspended from the ceiling, eliminating cables and carts on the floor.

St. Joseph Mercy to open its \$43 million investment

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

St. Joseph Mercy Health System has confirmed it will open its new Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery in December after investing \$43 million in its township facility near Canton Center and Palmer roads in Canton. Health officials say the 53,000-square-foot, two-story addition makes St. Joseph the largest health care provider in Canton and marks the first time a facility in southeast Michigan will offer cancer patients a radiation therapy using RapidArc technology, a state-of-the-art, tumor-fighting system that improves precision and speed. "We are thrilled to bring advanced and life-changing technologies to the Canton area," said Kathy Kasperek-Korelis, St. Joseph director of oncology and project leader for the twofold cancer-treatment and outpatient-surgery facility at 1600 S. Canton Center Road. The new addition marks a vast expansion of an

85,000-square-foot facility that opened 11 years ago, and health officials plan to celebrate with an open house 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, just weeks before the center will start accepting cancer patients in early to mid-December. The surgery area is expected to open in late spring. "We're very excited to show this to the community," Kasperek-Korelis said. From the moment a visitor steps inside the main lobby, it becomes clear St. Joseph chose a design intended to create a relaxing, healing environment for patients, both on the first-floor cancer center and the second-story outpatient surgery and procedure area. The decor includes soft colors, soothing artwork, an outdoor "healing garden," private chemotherapy infusion bays, flat-screen televisions and an American Cancer Society resource office, among other amenities. Three surgical suites — and space for a fourth — are spacious and designed with no electrical cords on the floor, providing a distraction-free environment for medi-

cal providers. "We have created a healing environment within a high-tech building," Kasperek-Korelis said. Moreover, St. Joseph officials say the new facility will provide top-tier care close to home for patients who live in or near Canton. "The Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery will allow people in Canton and surrounding communities to receive advanced care right in their own back yards," said Rob Casalou, president and CEO of St. Joseph hospitals in Ann Arbor, Saline and Livingston County. "At St. Joe's, we are dedicated to healing body, mind and spirit; (the new center) goes a long way to support our mission." Health officials say the new center will complement an existing facility that offers primary and specialty care physician services; St. Joseph's busiest urgent care center; clinical lab; radiology; physical rehabilitation services; and an interactive health education center popular among children.

Karl's comedy night hosted by Plymouth native

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It'll be The Two Joeyes, plus Don, at the next Komey at Karl's Cabin event next week-end. Plymouth native Joey Bielaska, the founder of the local Joey's Comedy Clubs, will host the quarterly Komey at Karl's on Friday and Saturday. Dinner starts at 8:30 p.m., the show at 9:30 p.m. Joey Kola, a New York native who's been doing standup for 28 years and is a regular on The Martha Stewart Show, is the headliner, with Don Tersigni a special guest. Kola, reached Friday — while shopping for shirts at Macy's — said an ironic, high-energy look at family life is his specialty. Call him the Lewis Black of domestic, instead of political, situations, he said. "I just talk about how the American Dream has changed with my life," said Kola, who is married with two teenage



Joey Kola headlines standup night at Karl's Cabin.

children. Asked to explain, he said that while growing up, his father was the king of his castle. Now, "I'm just the lowly court jester," he said. While he loves the empowered status of women, he said, "It's just not like our parents had it." "I can't wait to come back to Michigan," said Kola, who has worked before with Bielaska. Kola on Monday is taping a segment for Dick Purtan's show on radio station WOMC; he expects it to air on Tuesday.

Bielaski, who founded Joey's (he is no longer in the club business, though he sold the Joey's name to a club in Livonia), is a captain for Spirit Airlines. He notes that he both took his first flying lesson and first got into standup, during an amateur night at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle (the standup, not the flying), 30 years ago this fall. "It's kind of fun. I get to fly around the country and make my observations" and bring them to the stage, Bielaska said. He paid tribute to the Detroit television comedian Soupy Sales, who died recently. He was a mentor, Bielaska said. "He taught me everything I think I know today," he said. "He was quite the showman, and boy did I learn a lot from him." Karl's Cabin is at 6005 Godfredson Road, south of North Territorial, Salem Township. Call (734) 455-8450 for tickets (\$15 each) and dinner reservations.

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Pick mortgage carefully, don't let house own you

Q: Dear Rick: My wife and I have lived in an apartment for the past few years and have decided to buy a home. Our original plan was to begin looking for a house in February or March. In one of your past columns, you wrote about the tax credit for first-time homebuyers, which we are. Your article said that the tax credit expired Nov. 30, 2009. Is it possible to get an extension and do you physically have to take control of the house before Nov. 30 or can you sign a purchase agreement by that date and close later?

A: President Barack Obama signed a bill Nov. 6 extending the federal tax credit for first-time homebuyer. You must enter into a purchase agreement by April 30, 2010, close and take possession by June 30, 2010.

The first issue is to make sure you qualify for the credit. To qualify you must be a first-time homebuyer. A first-time



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

homebuyer is someone who has not owned a primary residence in the last three years. The fact that you've been renting and haven't owned a home means you meet this test.

In addition, there is an income limit. To qualify for the full credit, for purchases after Nov. 6, 2009, your adjusted gross income, if you are married, must be less than \$225,000. For a single individual, the income limit is \$125,000.

The credit is 10 percent of the purchase price, up to a maximum of \$8,000. Therefore, if you bought a home for \$100,000 and you meet the income test, you would qualify for an \$8,000 credit. At the end of the year, if you did not owe money in

taxes, the government would send you a check for the amount of the credit.

Under the new law, the price of a home cannot exceed \$800,000. There was no price limit under the old law.

The new law also provides that current homeowners may purchase another home to live in and also receive a credit. If a person has owned the current home for at least five years as the primary residence, a \$6,500 tax credit is available. The credit is 10 percent of the purchase price, up to a maximum of \$6,500 in this instance.

The first-time homebuyer's credit is certainly an incentive for many people to purchase homes. For those who have not already found a house and started the mortgage process, with the extension of the law, you now have additional time to find a home.

Another benefit of the new law is to get the credit (or income tax refund) in the homeowner's possession as

soon as possible. If you purchase a home prior to the April 30, 2010, (and close by June 30, 2010) deadline you may treat it as purchased in 2009. The purpose of this is to report the purchase on your 2009 income tax return (or amended tax return for 2009 if purchased after filing your income tax return) even if you purchased the home in 2010. By treating it in this way you will receive the credit sooner. Otherwise, you would have to file your 2010 income tax return in 2011.

I strongly recommend that any prospective buyer take time and select a mortgage that fits his/her individual situation and not one that makes the mortgage company happy.

Make sure you own the house and that the house doesn't own you.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Residents are invited to Community Conversation

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Canton Community Foundation are joining with the Center for Michigan to host a Community Conversation - a bottom-up, common-ground citizen agenda for Michigan's transformation and future prosperity.

The community conversation is scheduled from 7-9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16 in The Canton Community Foundation Office, 50430 School House Road, Suite 200. The foundation offices are located in the Canton Human Services Building at the corner of Ridge and Cherry Hill roads.

The session is limited to 25 participants. To register, call the foundation office at (734) 495-1200 or e-mail info@cantonfoundation.org or srosiek@hometownlife.com.

The Center is working on Michigan's Defining Moment project, which is seeking to engage 10,000 state residents in a three-year period to participate in the Community Conversation.

Participants will use interactive polling devices to record their opinions on issues such as the economy, education and good strategies for government.

Trained facilitators will conduct the conversations and written materials will guide the conversations. Videos and an interactive "Michigan Game," an ice-breaker helps participants become engaged in the discussion process.

The Center for Michigan is a bipartisan, centrist think-and-do tank that is sponsoring Michigan's Defining Moment (MDM), a public engagement campaign designed to link Michigan citizens with the public policy choices that face our state.

"Citizen voices are even more important as Michigan braces for the most serious economic and political challenge of our times," said Philip Power, president of The Center for Michigan.

"In 2010, all of Michigan's the top elected positions and many of the seats in the Legislature will change hands due to term limits. MDM doesn't seek to elect candidates of any particular party. Instead, we work to heighten citizen dialogue and build a pragmatic, solutions-oriented agenda for the state's future - with action items that can be taken up by Democrats and Republicans alike."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties:
Agenda's and Minute's for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings scheduled for July 21, August 18, September 8 & 22, October 13 & 27, November 17, and December 15, 2009 are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org.

Agendas and minutes are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

Joe Bridgman, CMC
Clerk

Publish: October 11 & 25 & November 15 & December 13, 2009

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Student 'inspired' by D.C. leadership forum

Gwendolyn Carey, a sixth-grader at Discovery Middle School, recently returned from Washington, D.C., where she attended a People to People World Leadership Forum.

Carey, along with fellow delegates from around the world, toured government and historic sites throughout the D.C. area, learned about international diplomacy while dining at the Ethiopian Embassy, and developed an understanding of our nation's history during visits to Jamestown Settlement and Colonial Williamsburg.

The delegates also learned about the inner workings of the U.S. government while exploring Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and other sites on the Hill, and enjoyed a personal presentation about tools and techniques for personal success by Sean Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

One of the highlights for Carey was having the opportunity to meet and talk with a Vietnam Veteran who was at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall when the delegates visited. Throughout the course of the program in Washington, D.C., Carey learned about leadership and how great leaders through-

out history have handled world events. Various hands-on activities, professional speakers, workshops, and visits to significant memorials, museums, and monuments gave Carey a new perspective on the importance and essential need for informed, passionate world leaders.

"I learned about the importance of setting personal goals and working hard to achieve them," Carey said. "It made me think about how world events affect all of us, and how it's important to understand what's going on in the world today so we can get involved and affect the future. And learning about our country's history really made me proud to live in the United States."

The People to People World Leadership Forum offers students a unique blend of specialized educational, leadership, and cultural exposure through a variety of programs, as well as an itinerary filled with the highlights of the hosting community.

While in D.C., Carey formed many lasting friendships with other Student Leaders from around the world. Participants in these programs often experience life-changing shifts in their attitudes toward individual and shared responsibilities, global leadership, and appreciation of cultural diversity, while they also return



Caruso Johnson

home with enhanced skills and self-confidence.

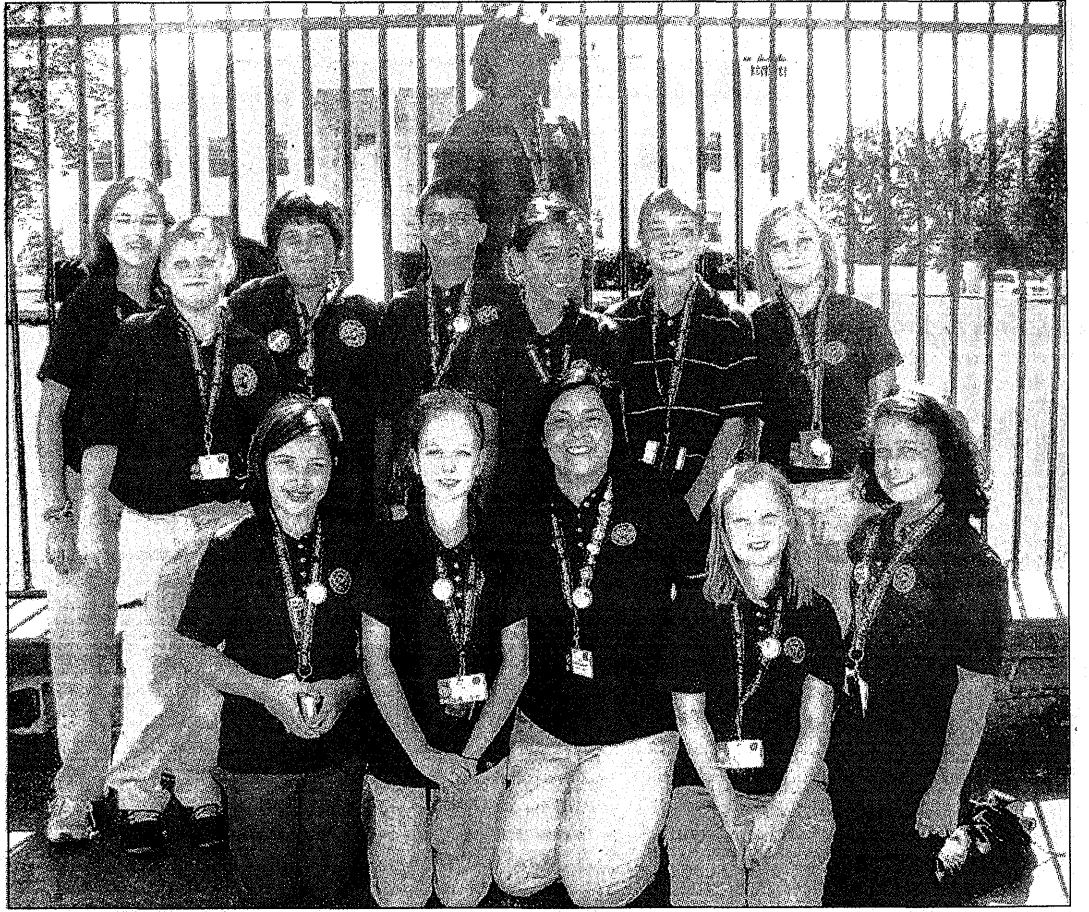
Dinner and song

Former Canton resident and mezzo Soprano Andrea Caruso and soprano Kojelyte Johnson headline an evening of dinner-and-song, "The Sopranos," 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Amantea Restaurant in Garden City.

The evening also features accordion players Andrew Caruso and John Shallock, Bass player John Dana and pianist Ron Gould.

Cost is \$25, and the Italian family style dinner includes pasta, chicken, meatballs, green beans, salad, breadsticks, coffee, tea or pop and dessert. Limited seating is available; tickets are available in advance only.

Amantea is located at 32777 W. Warren Road in Garden City. For more information, call (734) 629-3512.



Discovery Middle School student Gwendolyn Carey and a delegation of students from around the country converged on Washington, D.C., for a People to People World Leadership forum.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2009 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

Application #1469, 47765 Halyard, Brembo Brakes: The applicant is requesting two variances and is in a TAR zoning district and has over 200 feet of road frontage. They are proposing (1) monument sign that will be twelve feet and five inches (12.5) in overall height. The base will meet the 30 inch requirement for snow accumulation and then the letters and white space will equal ten (10) feet for an overall height of twelve feet and 5 inches (12.5). The applicant is asking for a thirty inch (30") variance in maximum height.

They are also asking for a variance in materials from masonry to aluminum for the base of the sign per Figure 4 of the packet.

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

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

Publish: November 15, 2009

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THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 4:30, 6:45, 9:05 FRISAT LS 11:20
DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) 11:10, 1:25, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45 FRISAT LS 11:00
3D DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15 FRISAT LS 11:30
THE BOX (PG-13) 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) 11:20, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35 FRISAT LS 11:05
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:35, 9:40 FRISAT LS 11:40
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) FRISAT LS 11:50
FRISAT LS 11:50
TUEWED 11:15, 1:45 TH 11:15, 1:45, 4:15

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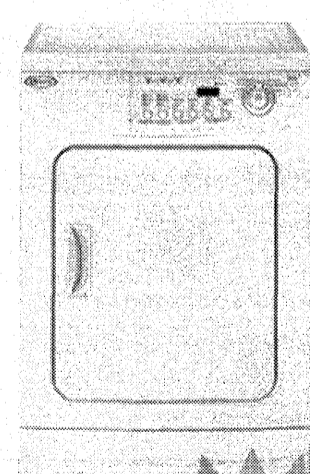
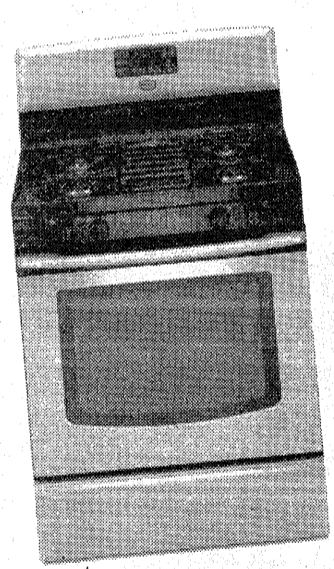
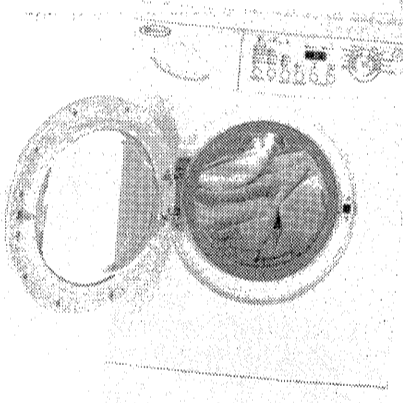
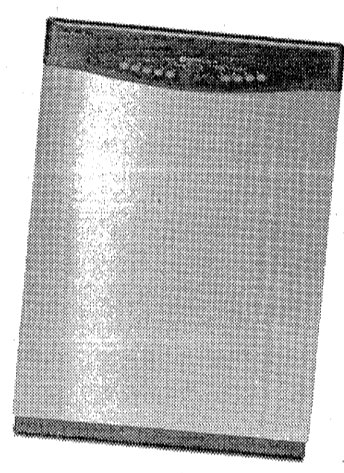
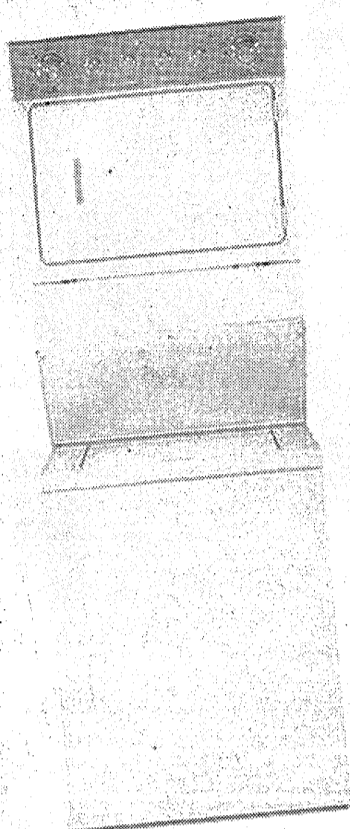


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TRADITIONAL DRYER	MGDC700VW*	\$649.00	\$524.00	WHITE
	MEDC700VW*	\$579.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MGDC400VW*	\$529.00	\$424.00	WHITE
FRONT LOAD WASHER	MEDC400VW*	\$429.00	\$399.00	WHITE
	MAH2400AWW*	\$749.00	\$599.00	WHITE
	MHWZ600TW*	\$949.00	\$699.00	WHITE
HE DRYER	MHWE300VW*	\$1,099.00	\$699.00	WHITE
	MHWE450WW*	\$1,399.00	\$1,099.00	WHITE
	MDE2400AYW*	\$749.00	\$599.00	WHITE
MICROWAVE -OTR	MGDZ600TW*	\$1,029.00	\$799.00	WHITE
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ELECTRIC RANGE	MMV1153WW*	\$219.00	\$175.00	WHITE
	MMV1153WB*	\$219.00	\$175.00	BLACK
	AER3311WAW*	\$351.00	\$299.00	WHITE
	AER5830VAW*	\$599.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MER7662WW*	\$649.00	\$549.00	WHITE
GAS RANGE	MER7662WB*	\$649.00	\$549.00	BLACK
	MER7662WS*	\$749.00	\$649.00	STAINLESS
	AGR3311WAW*	\$351.00	\$299.00	WHITE
	MGR7662WW*	\$649.00	\$549.00	WHITE
WALL OVEN	MGR7662WB*	\$649.00	\$549.00	BLACK
	MGR7662WS*	\$749.00	\$649.00	STAINLESS
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DISHWASHER	MDBM601AWQ*	\$479.00	\$299.00	BISQ
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	MDB6701AWW*	\$599.00	\$399.00	WHITE
	MDB6701AWQ*	\$599.00	\$399.00	BISQ
TOP FREEZER	M1TXEMMWW*	\$899.00	\$759.00	WHITE
SIDE X SIDE	MSD2542VEW*	\$999.00	\$875.00	WHITE
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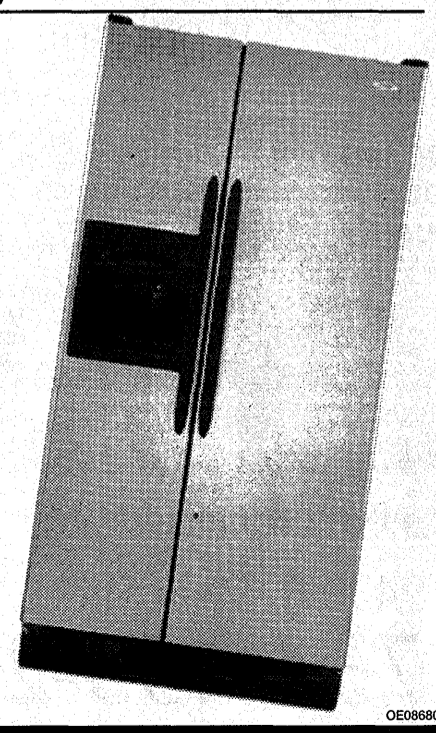


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Fireworks, music kick off Lightfest

Wayne County Parks will host the Lightfest opening ceremony at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Merriman Hollow Area along Hines Drive in Westland

The ceremony will include fireworks, music and light refreshments.

Lightfest features more than 35 giant animated displays and more than one million lights. It's the midwest's largest and longest light show. The complete Lightfest route is over four miles of Hines Drive. The holiday light display is open 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 19 through Dec. 31. It will be closed Christmas Day. There is a \$5 donation per car.

Dec. 1, 8 and 15 will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to provide toys to disadvantaged children in Wayne County. On those three nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee. Visitors also can make the donation. Wayne County considers the donations an opportunity for the people of the community to partner with the county in an effort to make a difference in children's lives.

At the walk-through display area, visitors can stop by Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale Area for refreshments and gift shopping. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23. Don't forget to bring your letters to Santa. Outside of Santa's workshop there will be a giant mailbox where kids of all ages can drop off their letters to Santa.

Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly. Visitors enter Wayne County Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman in Westland.

Lightfest is provided in partnership with Fox 2 News, the Friends of Wayne County Parks, DTE Energy, DBT



Santa Claus will be at the Wayne County Lightfest both in person and in lights. The annual Hines Park display opens Nov. 19.

Marketing and Promotional Group, Garden City Hospital, ITC Holdings, McDonald Modular, Entertainment Express Luxury Limousine, Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Beathetrain.com and Trails Edge store.

People also can sign up or the 13th Annual Wayne County Lightfest 8K Fun Run/Walk at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17. Participants will have an opportunity to travel the Lightfest display route on foot. For bike enthusiasts, there's the Bike Through the Lights at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18. There will be post race food

for both events, along with free long sleeve T-shirts and glow necklaces. Registration is \$20 in advance for adults and \$25 on race day. High school students and younger pay \$12. Both events will take place in Hines Park-Merriman Hollow area.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the parks' Web site at www.waynecountyparks.org or picked up at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in Westland or Total Runner store in Southgate.

For more information on Wayne County Lightfest, call (734) 261-1990.



Heartland Home Health Care & Hospice Celebrates National Home Care & Hospice Month

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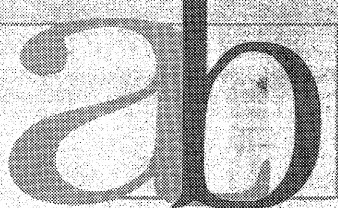


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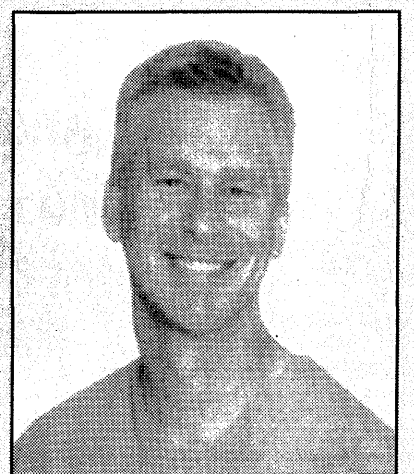
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Up the wrong tree - cat rescued after overnight ordeal

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Judd and Leslie Rowe of Canton did a favor for a friend of their daughter and took in her cat, Gelato, on what they thought was going to be a short-term basis.

Gelato may be staying a lot longer after surviving a harrowing experience earlier this week.

The Lowes let Gelato outside their Canton home, something they've been doing periodically, since Gelato has always returned home.

But Thursday was different. Gelato, whom Leslie Rowe believes got spooked by a neighbor's dog, ended up in neighbor Jill Engel's tree about 6 p.m. Thursday. By 9:30 Friday morning, the cat was still in the tree.

"It was frustrating," said Leslie Rowe, who was among those who had tried to coax the cat down. "She's small for her age, and I don't know that she would ever have figured out how to get down."

Leslie Rowe was worried, and her husband's attempt to comfort her - "He said, 'you don't ever see skeletons of cats in trees,'" she recalled with a laugh Friday afternoon - didn't get the job done.

But when the cat hadn't come down by Friday morning, the Rowes tried to find someone who could go up after her. Since the fire department no longer provides that kind of service, she called some tree services. One quoted her a \$400 price.

Luckily, Engel, whose tree Gelato chose to climb, is an animal lover who sits on the board of directors of Tail Waggers USA, a group dedicated to helping pet owners with a variety of services. Engle made a phone call, and got results.

"I told (Rowe) her cat couldn't have ended up in a better person's tree," said Engel, the special events coordinator at Parisian in Livonia. "I wasn't leaving my



Tony Parrelly of Michigan Tree & Stump Removal extended his bucket to its full 65 feet, then had to reach up another 4-5 feet to rescue Gelato, who'd been up in the tree overnight.

house until we got this cat saved."

Enter Tony Parrelly of Michigan Tree & Stump Removal in Livonia. Responding to the urgent call from Engel, Parrelly pushed back a paying job to take a look at Gelato's plight. By the time Parrelly got up into the tree in his bucket, the cat was about five feet beyond the truck's 65-foot reach and was frightened.

"It was a little out of reach, and it was crying like a baby," Parrelly said. "She clung to the branch for dear life. I had to peel her legs out from around it and tickle her a little to get her to let go."

"I thought for sure I was going to lose her," Parrelly added. "I didn't have a good hold on her, didn't have a good hold on myself, to be honest. It was just one of those situations where you came out of there luckily. I got a little help from beyond."

When he returned the frightened cat to its equally frightened owners, Parrelly

wouldn't take any payment for the service. That, to Engel, was one of the best parts of the story.

"He was an hour late getting to the other job so he could help with this pet, and he wouldn't take any money," Engel said. "That, to me, is just amazing. It's fantastic that there are still businesses out there that have a heart."

Parrelly shrugged off the compliment. "It was instinct," Parrelly said. "You just do what comes natural sometimes. You don't really think about it. You just do it."

The Rowes were happy to have Gelato back, and weren't too worried about another emergency - at least for awhile.

"Gelato has eaten and she is hiding in my closet on top of the heater," said Leslie Rowe, who noted it was "about 34 degrees this morning." "I think she may be there for quite some time."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

Griffin hosts memorial service

Griffin Funeral Home in Canton is inviting the Plymouth-Canton community to a holiday-season memorial service 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19.

The funeral home, 42600 Ford Road, offers the service every year for people who have lost loved ones

and who may need support.

The program will include a grief counselor, a priest, a minister, a reading of names of family members who have died, a candle service and prayers. Refreshments will be served.

For reservations call (734) 981-1700.

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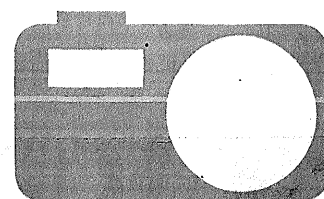
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HOCKEY HOSPITALITY

DAY IN THE LIFE

So you want to be a big-time hockey player? Then prepare for having hectic schedules to deal with, which is what Tyler G. Brown of the Plymouth Whalers routinely encounters. Following is a peek at a recent "game day" for Brown, who during hockey season lives with a billet family in Canton.

Morning: Tyler goes to the Waffle & Omelette Cafe in downtown Plymouth with teammates and walks around the city to burn off those carbs.

Noon: After driving back to the home of hosts Mark and Lindsay Hill, the player goes back out to a restaurant – a coney island – with Lindsay and her younger sister, Meghan – celebrating her 22nd birthday.

2-to-4 p.m.: He dons a suit and tie and tries to relax before doing a newspaper interview. There's time to play a video game with 5-year-old Trevor Hill.

4:15 p.m.: Tyler waves so long-to the Hills and leaves to pick up a couple other players before going to Compuware Arena.

At the rink: He needs to get there by 5 p.m., after which he'll attend pre-game meetings, tape sticks and gear up for the 7:05 p.m. puck drop.



PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

For Tyler G. Brown of the Plymouth Whalers (top) and his billet family, the Hills of Canton, it's been a virtually perfect match since he started living there during hockey seasons in 2007. Sitting on the couch in front of Brown are (from left) Mark, Trevor and Lindsay Hill.

Looking for a linemate to pass the puck to during a recent game is Plymouth forward Tyler G. Brown.



Canton family helps Whalers' Tyler G. Brown feel right at home

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tyler G. Brown knows it. And so do all the other Plymouth Whalers players who suddenly find themselves hundreds of miles away from their homes.

Just as important as training, coaching and ice time in the Ontario Hockey League in the development of these transplanted teens are so-called "billet" families such as Canton's Mark and Lindsay Hill.

'He's a good kid, he's thoughtful and he's part of our family. And, hey, he goes to my mom's for dinner.'

LINDSAY HILL, Canton

The Hills are hosting the 19-year-old forward from Wasaga Beach, Ontario, for the third season.

"Coming here my first year, it was obviously hard being away from home for the first time," Brown said during a recent interview at the Hills' home. "But it didn't take long

for me to fit in with the family. "They've taken me in like I'm one of their kids," he added. "It's been great living with these guys."

Mark, Lindsay and their 5-year-old son (Trevor) indeed have welcomed "Ty" into the fold.

"He's really fit in well with us," said Lindsay, 28. "He's a good kid, he's thoughtful and he's part of our family. And, hey, he goes to my mom's for dinner."

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**

SIDELINES

Weekend D-1 football

Saturday's regional Division 1 football game between Canton and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central took place after this issue of the *Observer* went to press. Please go to www.hometownlife.com for the game story.

Steelers in Super Bowl

With a record of 11-0, it's on to the WSJFL Super Bowl for the Plymouth-Canton Steelers freshman football team, after its 26-6 win over the Rochester Redskins in the second round of the playoffs. The Steelers will face the Lakes Area Hawks at 11 a.m. Sunday, with the contest hosted by the Dearborn Redskins.

In the win over Rochester, the "Steelers Black" offense was anchored by Matthew Poet, who opened huge holes for the running backs, like Dylan Stackhouse (three TDs). Evan Good and Billy Flohr both did an excellent job blocking on the O-line.

Defensively, Vinny Convertino had great cornerback play, making numerous tackles and intercepting a pass. Aaron Garbarino did a fantastic job defensively all day long and recovered a fumble late in the game to secure the win.

Precision Baseball clinic

Baseball players take note: Precision Baseball in Canton recently announced an eight-week Progression Clinic on pitching, catching and hitting, to feature members of Eastern Michigan University's coaching staff.

Those coaches include assistant coach Aaron Hepner and assistant coach/recruiting coordinator Andrew Maki.

Areas where pitchers can expect improvement include:

Please see **SIDELINES, B2**

Eagles' bid for D-4 regional title falls short

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kristin Malcolm and her Plymouth Christian Academy volleyball teammates had no answer for a pumped up opponent trying to turn the tables on them.

On Thursday at the Division 4 regional final at Hillsdale High School, the Eagles were swept by the team that they knocked out of the 2008 regionals — Hillsdale Academy. The Colts won 25-18, 25-22, 25-21, led by the strong play of 5-foot-10 senior middle blocker Grace Leutheuser (18 kills).

"She (Leutheuser) was quick and she always knew where to put it where our defense wasn't," Malcolm said. "She never hit it to us, she hit it to the holes and around the blocks."

Leutheuser smiled when asked if the Colts (36-12-1) had extra incentive entering the match to get back at PCA for last year. "Of course, that's a big motivation to know we lost it last year and this was the team we lost to," Leutheuser said. "Yeah, we definitely wanted to beat them."

THEY'LL BE BACK

According to Malcolm, a sophomore middle blocker who tallied 14 kills, losing in the regional final for a second straight

PREP VOLLEYBALL

'We just needed to keep staying aggressive, stay focused in every game and make them make mistakes. We had to do that and we did it. They (Eagles) played really well, but we just stayed on them.'

KATHERINE JONES, Hillsdale first-year coach

season left a bitter taste. But virtually the entire roster will return in 2010.

"We're really excited to have the whole team back and this makes us even more motivated to win next year," Malcolm said.

Eagles head coach Kelly Blackney concurred that there is some consolation in knowing most of her players (except for senior Ariel Rock) will have another chance to win a regional.

"But they really wanted it tonight," Blackney said.

The lack of consistency in all aspects hurt the Eagles, who finished with a 29-11-3 record.

"We made a lot of unforced errors, a lot of serving errors," Blackney said. "We weren't

as strong on serve-reception as we've been before. I wish we would have played our game and not given them so many points."

NO ANSWER

Leutheuser was a major reason why. "We just couldn't put a block on her," Blackney said. "If we would have been smarter and put a block on her, we would have played better defense."

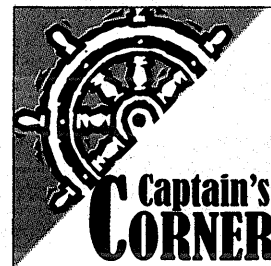
On the other hand, Leutheuser, senior Laura Wonders (nine kills) and sophomore Emily Pewe prevented PCA's front-row players from picking their spots.

"We just needed to keep staying aggressive, stay focused in every game and make them make mistakes," Hillsdale first-year coach Katherine Jones said. "We had to do that and we did it. They (Eagles) played really well, but we just stayed on them."

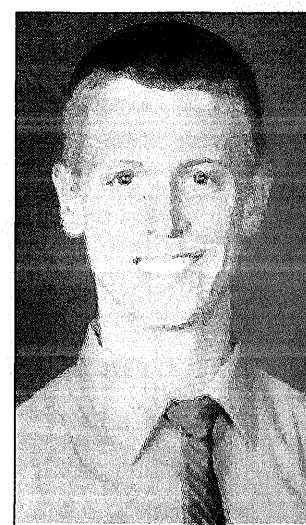
Before Game 1 of the final, the PCA student section cheered boisterously from the bleachers, but it didn't take long for the Colts to quiet the group, building a 16-9 lead.

Junior Grae Barber (10 kills, 10 digs) registered three aces among a four-point run to get the Colts rolling.

Please see **EAGLES, B4**



MATT ZANDEE



Who: Matt Zandee, Plymouth Christian Academy senior, boys soccer co-captain.

Miscellany: Zandee, 17, carries a 4.0 grade-point average. His parents are Jim and Joyce Zandee. He helped his team reach the Division 4 district finals this season.

Captain's job: "As captain, I lead the team in prayer before each game as well as being a vocal leader on and off the field. My role is to get the team fired up, giving it their all, as well as making sure we don't lose our cool."

Leadership style: "As a defenseman, I may not lead the team in points, but my job is to read the field and communicate with my teammates. I'm not usually a

loud person, but once the game starts, I'm yelling as well as encouraging the team."

Why him?: "I think my team looks up to me as a leader and valuable component in our game style and it's my responsibility to keep my attitude and actions in check."



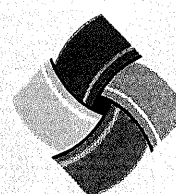
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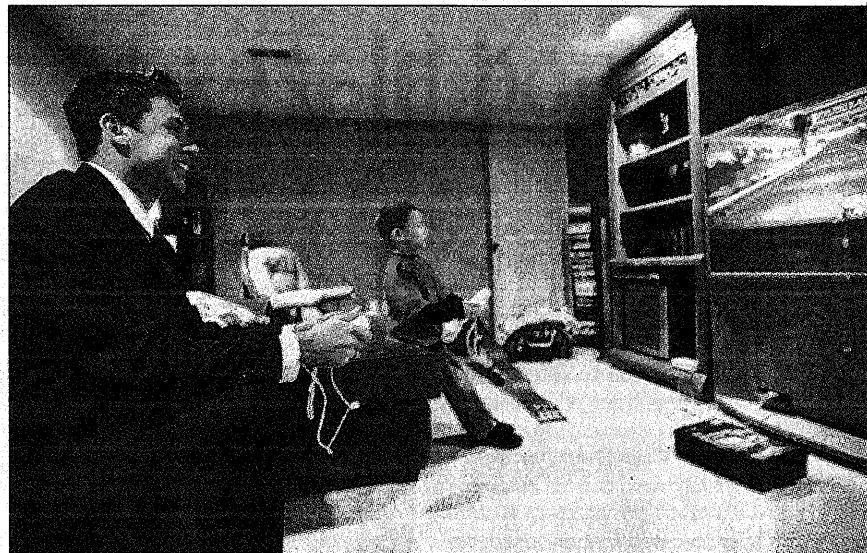
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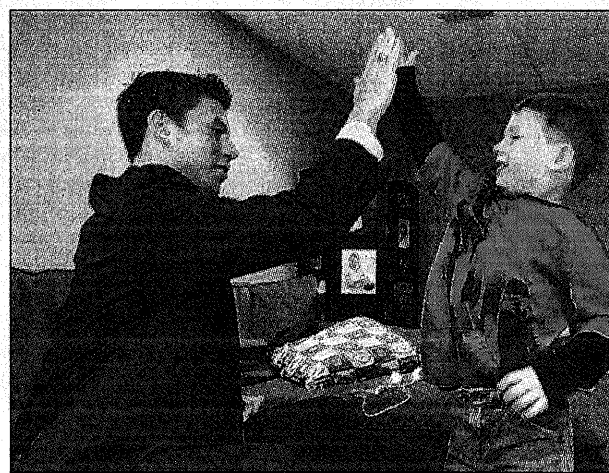
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Kicking it up to another gear during a recent game is Tyler G. Brown of the Plymouth Whalers. He has scored two game-winning goals in overtime this season, including Nov. 7 against Sault Ste. Marie at Compuware Arena.



Playing Mario Kart on a Wii console in the basement of Mark and Lindsay Hill's Canton home are Tyler G. Brown and 5-year-old Trevor Hill. They treat each other as if they were actual brothers.



It's high-five time for Tyler G. Brown and Trevor after they finished their video game.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

JUST LIKE BROTHERS

Trevor also considers Brown an older brother. On this particular Saturday afternoon, they found the time to go downstairs and play the Wii video game "Mario Kart."

Other times, they'll play ball hockey. Or Brown might take the youngster over to Compuware for some open public skating. Trevor also is a hockey player, on a Mini Mite team at the Beck Road complex.

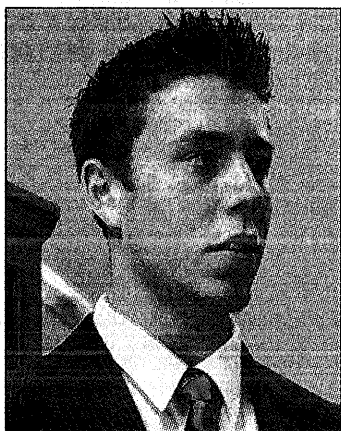
The relationship these days is more like an older brother or son coming home on weekends from college, because of the demanding game and practice schedule the Whalers have.

Make that a very hungry brother or son, because Brown eats, eats and eats.

For example, he and teammates might grab breakfast in downtown Plymouth at the Waffle & Omelette Cafe. After coming back to the Hill compound, it's time for a hearty pregame meal, which usually features pasta and chicken (no veggies, please).

This time around, it was a big bowl of spaghetti.

Lindsay said it's not uncommon to have to double the amount of food she prepares when Brown is home: "I'll make two casseroles, one for Tyler and the other for the family."



'If you're wearing anything with the Whalers symbol on it, the kids will notice.'

TYLER G. BROWN, Plymouth Whalers

Since Brown arrived on the scene in 2007, he's a bit more picky.

"Before, he'd scarf it down because he thought he had to (to be polite)," Mark said. "Now, he won't eat something if he doesn't want to."

TIME TO CHILL

Saturdays are when Brown actually has the chance to relax with the family for a while before games.

"During the week, we'll go in for (a morning) workout, ride the bike a little bit. But on the weekends, like today, we just sleep in a little bit, rest up and we have to be at the rink by (5 p.m.)," Tyler said. "I've got to go pick up some of the guys. (Goalie Matt) Hackett wants to go to the rink early all the time to prepare for the game, so I've got to pick him up

around four."

Hackett is another Canadian living with a host family in Canton — not far from Compuware and Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, where younger Whalers attend high school.

There might be time to grab a takeout coffee at the Haggerty-Ford Tim Horton's on the way to the rink.

"Ty should have stock in Tim Horton's," joked 31-year-old Mark, a recreation league goaltender. "He's always there."

On game nights, the Hills often watch Brown (not to be confused with Westland native Tyler J. Brown of the Whalers) from seats at the top of Section 115 with other billets.

"We live at Compuware," Lindsay said.

What they're seeing from 115 is good stuff, since Brown is enjoying some on-ice success this season with the Whalers. After 19 games, he has tallied three goals (including the OT winner Nov. 7 against Sault Ste. Marie) and seven assists.

For part of the year he has skated on the top line with hot NHL prospect Tyler Seguin (one of the players who attends PCEP).

"I can utilize my speed playing with him (Seguin) since he's quick, too," Brown said. "He'll hit you anywhere you're open" with a slick pass.

HOW IT STARTED

Hockey itself isn't all that's going well where Brown is concerned.

In fact, the Hills couldn't

be happier with how hosting Brown has worked out, right from the beginning.

In 2007, they signed up with the Whalers to host a player after finding out from friends Christian and Bill Baker that the experience is a positive one for families and players alike — as long as compatibility isn't an issue.

One thing the Whalers do is to make sure the players are matched well with billets, Mark and Lindsay emphasized. In Brown, they got a well-mannered, level-headed kid who is driven to succeed in hockey and life.

Meanwhile, Lindsay said the OHL team entrusts those players to their host families, even making curfew calls. "It's our responsibility to make sure he's home, fed and gets to practice on time," she said.

The transportation situation is a key component, although for the Hills and Brown it's changed since 2007.

"The first year Tyler was in high school (Plymouth High) and he didn't have a car," Mark said. "So I was pretty much picking him up for the Whalers, dropping him off at high school and then I'd go to work."

"Now, Tyler is out of high school and has his own car, so he's off taking the other guys places. Besides that, it's really neat. He comes and goes as he needs to, and has his own life."

"Now, Tyler is out of high school and has his own car, so he's off taking the other guys places. Besides that, it's really neat. He comes and goes as he needs to, and has his own life."

CRASH COURSE

Mark shook his head when asked what players such as Brown would do without families to look after them.

"I don't know. They would have to find somewhere where there's supervision," he said. "But I don't know what they'd do without billets."

"A lot of the kids are still really young and they're away from home. They look to their billets to help them out

through school and personal things other than hockey."

Of course, playing for a high-profile team is like speed reading the manual on growing up.

Brown attends mandatory meetings, watches tape on upcoming opponents, helps out with community service endeavors (as do all Whalers) and even wears a suit and tie to games.

He also has to learn how to be a celebrity.

"If you're wearing anything with the Whalers symbol on it, the kids will notice," Brown said. "I've taken Trevor out to free skate, and I'll have my Whalers track suit on. One kid will come up to me and say, 'Do you play for the Whalers?'"

"I'll say yeah and a bunch of kids come up to me. It's nice to have kids looking up to you."

Grownups look up to him, too. Just ask the Hills.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Guelph goalie frustrates Whalers

The brilliant goalkeeping of Guelph's Cody St. Jacques frustrated host Plymouth time and time again on Friday night as the Storm eked out a 2-1 Ontario Hockey League victory at Compuware Arena.

St. Jacques outdueled Plymouth's Matt Hackett, turning aside 46 shots — with 17 of his saves in the third period when the Whalers held an 18-4 shot advantage. It was 2-0 before Plymouth finally found the back of the goal as left wing Josh Brittain scored at 16:10 on assists from Tyler G. Brown and Garrett Meurs.

But despite furious pressure, the Whalers could not score the equalizer.

It was an evenly played opening period, with the Whalers outshooting Guelph 17-16. But the game remained scoreless entering the middle stanza.

Plymouth's Hackett (36 saves) thrilled the Compuware crowd by stopping a penalty shot by Cody McNaughton with 2:44 to play in the frame.

Finally scoring the game's first goal was Guelph's Carter Sandlak, at 15:38 in the second period. Setting up the goal was Conor O'Donnell.

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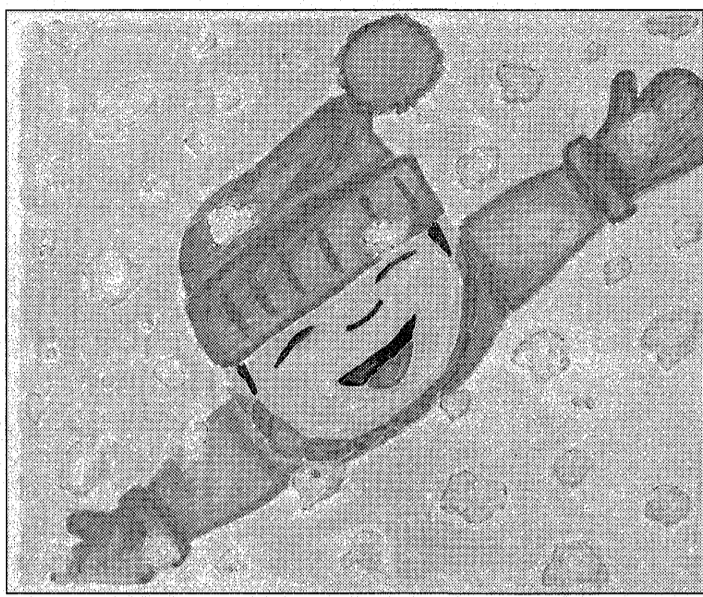
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- FRI, NOV. 27 8:00 PM** Pistons Schedule Mouspad to first 5,000 fans courtesy of Cavalier.
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NEIGHBORS



Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary offers this colorful holiday card with the greeting 'Capture the Joy this holiday season.'

Cards for a cause

Send holiday wishes and benefit a local charity

You can help spread the mission of your favorite charity by buying and sending holiday greeting cards this year.

The card designs run the gamut — from children's art to photography — and support missions that involve health, pets, food assistance, and more.

Here's a list of some of the organizations offering greetings this season:

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION-GREATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER

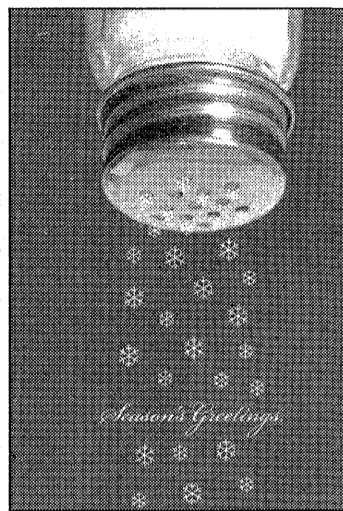
The organization has a variety of holiday card designs, with 45 percent of the proceeds benefitting Alzheimer's research and support. Most cards cost \$27 for a box of 25; some are \$31. Designs range from a whimsical polar bear clutching a candy cane to a manger scene. For all designs, you can select a verse, font and text color. To view all designs and order, visit www.alz.org/gmc. For more information, call (248) 351-0280.

BAND OF ANGELS

A set of 12 holiday cards and envelopes cost \$12 and feature a photo of a girl planting a holiday kiss on a boy in front of a Christmas tree. The greeting reads "May your Holiday's be filled with life's simple gifts." Buy them through the organization's Web site, www.bandofangels.com. Band of Angels advocates and educates on behalf of people with Down syndrome, autism and other disabilities. (248) 377-9308

BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

Beaumont Hospital's Integrative Medicine program is selling a card that will benefit programs for cancer patients at the hospital. The card, showing an angel holding a candle, is available in packs of 10 for \$15.90 (\$15 for the cards plus 90 cents

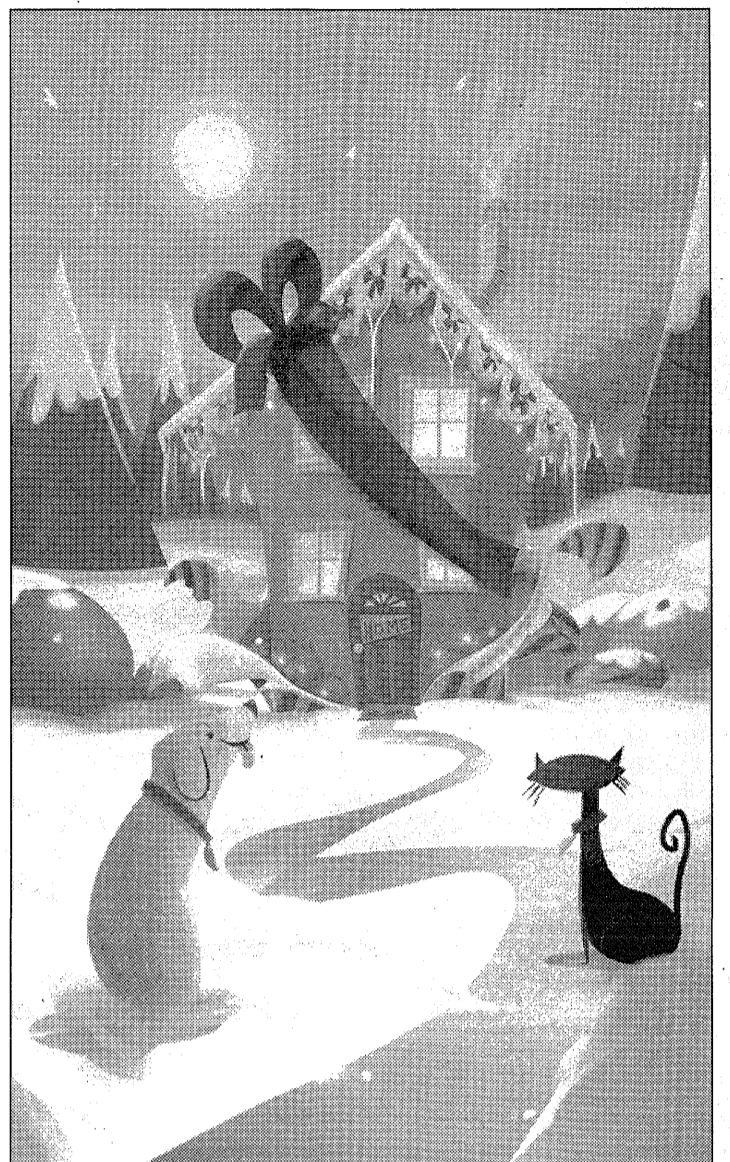


Spice up your holiday greetings with this card from the Forgotten Harvest collection.

tax). All proceeds from the cards, minus printing costs, will benefit programs for Beaumont cancer patients. To order, call (248) 551-9990 or visit the Integrative Medicine program, suite 304 of the Beaumont Cancer Center, at Beaumont Hospital, in Royal Oak. Beaumont's Integrative Medicine program offers treatment to supplement standard therapy. Services include clinical massage, medical acupuncture, naturopathy, Reiki, healing touch, guided imagery, yoga and meditation.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF MICHIGAN

The Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary holiday card, featuring a colorful picture of a child with open arms in the snow, is available in packs of 20 for \$20. The greeting reads "Capture the Joy this holiday season." Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary holiday cards can be personalized with the sender's name for an additional cost. The cards are available online at www.childrensdmc.org/giftshop. Donation cards also



The Michigan Humane Society card offers the greeting 'May all your wishes come true this holiday season.'



Beaumont Hospital's Integrative Medicine program offers this card with art by a 17-year cancer survivor.



This is one of the 11 holiday card designs available through Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

are available to remember someone special. For a minimum donation of \$5 per card, the donor will receive a card. Please see **CARDS, B7**

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THE APPEARANCE AND THE PAIN

In arthritis, there is no relation between the amount of fluid and the amount of pain. A person with arthritis of the hands, shoulder, knee or ankles may be experiencing pain, but may have no fluid in its accompanying swelling as evidence of an impaired joint. The same problem occurs with sore muscles. If the overlying skin is not red or the arm and leg does not look swollen, an observer could comment that "you look alright, when in fact "you" were far from well.

Doctors take this discrepancy into account when learning about the arthritic problem and then examining the areas of pain. How a person moves a joint is as important as what the individual says about the place and intensity of the pain.

At times, but not always, laboratory work and x-rays may provide information that reveals what questioning and examination did not bring out. However, doctors are wary of laboratory and imaging results as the findings are often irrelevant. An x-ray may show a change in a knee or ankle, but the doctor often knows that the abnormal finding on the image has little to do with patient's present pain. The same possible disconnect can occur between laboratory findings and the problem confronting doctor and patient.

When a patient has pain and nothing shows, the doctor is challenged in both diagnosis and treatment. Patients are also challenged to keep their composure and maintain a good outlook while time and investigation takes it course to a solution.

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Livonia Franklin Annual Craft Show

Saturday, November 21st
10 am - 4 pm

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HOME DECOR • CLOTHING
and
SO MUCH MORE!

\$1.00 Admission
NO STROLLERS PLEASE

Livonia Franklin High School
31000 Joy Road, Livonia

CARDS

FROM PAGE B6

acknowledging the gift. For more information, contact the Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary at (313) 745-0962.

Founded in 1949, the Auxiliary raises funds to assist various departments and programs at the Children's Hospital of Michigan.

FORGOTTEN HARVEST

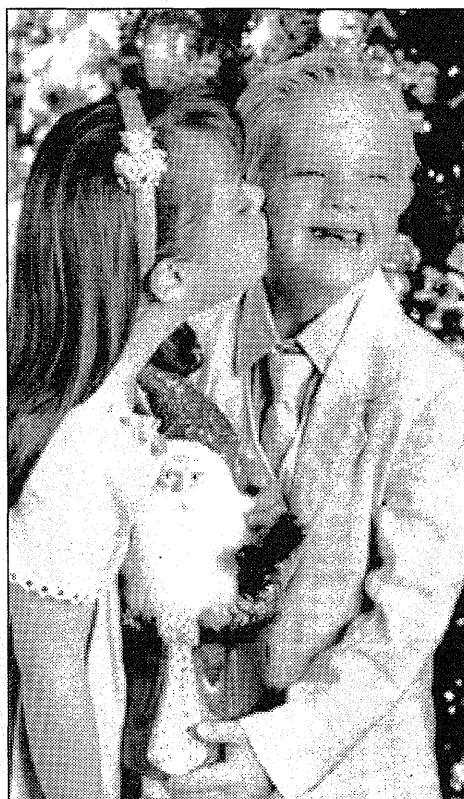
The organization's holiday cards feature whimsical food-related designs that help relate Forgotten Harvest's mission to collect and distribute prepared and perishable foods to emergency food providers in metro Detroit. In addition to its Season's Greetings design showing a salt shaker filled with snow flakes, Forgotten Harvest also is selling "Peas on Earth" and "Berry Christmas" cards. Cards and envelopes are sold in packs of 25 for \$23, with 100 percent of the purchase benefitting Forgotten Harvest. Single cards are available for \$1. Place orders at (248) 967-1500 or visit www.forgottenharvest.org.

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

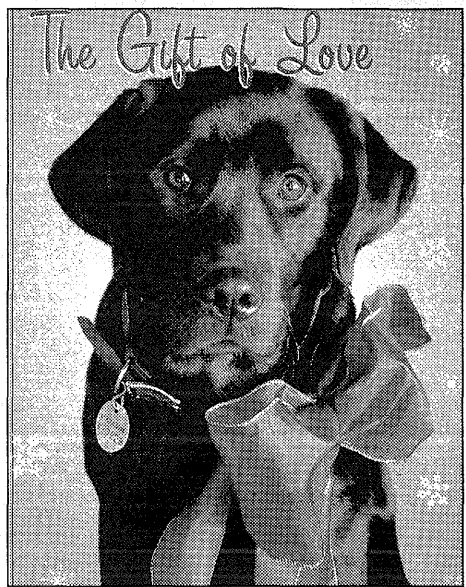
The cards, showing a photo of a Leader Dog pup, include greetings in print and Braille. They sell for \$20 for 20 cards/22 envelopes. Buy them with a credit card through the organization's Web site at www.leaderdog.org or in person from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the lobby of Leader Dogs' administration building, located at Avon and Rochester Roads in Rochester Hills. Leader Dogs provides dog guides to people who are blind and visually impaired to enhance their mobility, independence and quality of life. Each year, more than 270 students attend a 26-day residential training program to be paired with a dog guide. It also offers Trekker training and orientation and mobility training. (248) 651-9011.

MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY

MHS 2009 holiday cards are available in one style. The cover illustration, donated by Skidmore Studio, features a dog and cat who excitedly receive the best holiday gift of all — a warm, safe, loving home. Each box of 15 cards and 16 envelopes costs \$12.95. Proceeds will benefit the more than 100,000 animals MHS cares for each year. Buy the cards through the MHS online store at www.shopmichiganhumane.org or by calling the MHS Shop Line at (800) 866-9189, 24 hours a day. The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is a private, nonprofit organization that's working to end companion animal homelessness. For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.



Band of Angels offers support for families of individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other disabilities. Its 2009 holiday card offers the greeting 'May your holidays be filled with life's simple gifts.'



Leader Dogs for the Blind is selling this holiday card with the photo of 'Blackjack,' taken by a Wisconsin woman who raised him through the organization's puppy program. The inside of the card includes a message about the dog, as well as a greeting in both print and Braille.

NEW HOPE CENTER FOR GRIEF SUPPORT

Two designs are available, both done by "artists" from the organization's KIDZ

program. The cards will be available in packages of 20 cards and envelopes for \$20 each and \$13 will be tax deductible. One is a manger scene and the other is a Christmas tree. Have them shipped at an additional charge or stop by the office at 315 Griswold, Northville and pick them up. To order, call (248) 348-0115. Proceeds to benefit grief support programs throughout southeast Michigan.

RIGHT TO LIFE-LIFESPAN

Christmas cards are available in two designs. The Baby King is a watercolor rendition of the first Christmas in blue and gold, showing the Infant Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the Three Kings. A gold foil-lined envelope is included. Cost is \$16 per box of 20. The other design, Mother and Child, depicts Mary holding the baby Jesus in her arms and is framed with an embossed foil border. Mary's robe and the background colors are shades of blue and beige. Cost is \$16 per box of 20. Other cards from previous years are available in packs of 10. Call (248) 478-8878 or visit the office at 29200 Vassar St., Suite 545, Livonia. The organization was established in 1970, and is the largest and oldest pro-life organization in southeastern Michigan, serving Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston Counties.

SEEDLINGS BRAILLE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

The Livonia-based nonprofit organization offers holiday greeting cards in 11 designs. New this year, Seedlings is offering two sizes of holiday cards — favorites from past years and a new smaller size. Once again, the holiday cards are created by Pumpernickel Press and priced at \$16 per box of 16 large cards and \$10 per box of 10 smaller cards. All designs are fine art embossed cards, made from premium grade, environment-friendly recycled paper, printed with soy inks and made in the USA — including the packing material. The cards are also packaged by occupational training workshop patrons. Buy cards from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Seedlings' office, 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-8552 for directions and more information. Visit its Web site, www.seedlings.org/donate.php, for a look at some of its new card designs. Seedlings Braille Books for Children is dedicated to increasing the opportunity for braille literacy by providing high quality, low cost children's literature in braille bringing the gift of literacy to blind children locally and around the world.

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

ADULT STORYTIME

Listen to a few good tales at TELLABRATION 2009, a world-wide storytelling event with a session Friday, Nov. 20, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Storytellers from all around the world across six continents, in 44 states and 14 foreign countries will get together on this same weekend and invite the public to listen to their tales.

The Detroit Story League and the Livonia Civic Center Library sponsor the Livonia TELLABRATION 2009 gathering from 7-9 p.m., at the library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road.

This year's performers are Detroit Story League members Carolyn Graves, Margaret Lockard, Mary Masson and Barbara Shapiro. Dorenn Lawton is the Maestro and will introduce the storytellers.

Tickets are \$5.00 at the door and include storytelling, refreshments and door prizes.

HONOR SOCIETY GATHERS

More than 130 Michigan

women educators of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International convened last month in Livonia for a fall conference.

Delta Kappa

Gamma is a professional honor society for women educators. It's established in 50 states, 17 countries and has more than 110,000 members. Its mission is promoting professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Members participated in a variety of professional development and personal growth activities ranging from technology training at Schoolcraft College's state of the art computer lab to a neuroscience session designed to help teachers teach more effectively. Many sessions offered the women the opportunity to earn SB-CEUs (State Board of Education Continuing Education Units). Tom Grace, a former Livonia resident and author of five thrillers, including *The Secret Cardinal*, was the keynote speaker.



Mary Masson is one of the featured storytellers at TELLABRATION 2009.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

At English Gardens

Holiday "how to" weekends will be held noon to 4 p.m., Nov. 15 and Nov. 21-22. Experts will conduct 15 minute demonstrations on a variety of topics, including: Make a bow, magnifi-

cent mantles, holiday lights, holiday wreaths, top 10 tips for lifelike trees, decorating a Christmas tree, holiday light tips and decorating an entrance.

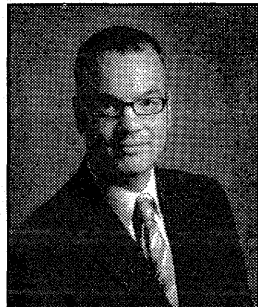
Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

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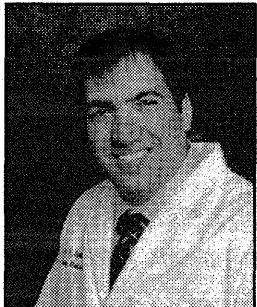
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Fellowship trained in bariatric surgery at University Medical Center at Princeton and performing bariatric and general surgery since 2005, Dr. Sabir offers a full range of surgery services to his patients. His special interest is bariatric surgery which he offers as part of St. John Weight Loss, a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence.

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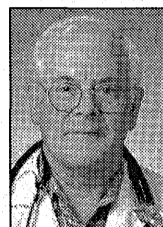
Dedicated to providing optimal, state of the art and progressive care for cancer and hematologic conditions. Combines vast research and clinical experience to provide maximal benefit for her patients while focusing on quality of life.



PROVIDENCE

Do your research before hiring air duct cleaners

The writing of this column is very dear to my heart and so are the questions I receive from the readers. The following is a very common one asked whenever I am in front of the public and it deserves a very candid response.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

Larry writes: "Hello Joe, I am writing for some recommendations regarding furnace duct cleaning companies. I have been researching them and am a bit confused about all the price differences. I have

researched two of them online and one company is saying \$250 for their premium service and the other is saying \$550 for their premium service. One is registered with the BBB and has not had a complaint ever. The other one I can't find anything on. Of course the lower price company is the one that has no information on them.

"I am trying to make an educated decision on a good thorough cleaning of all my homes ducts. Our home was built in 2000 and we purchased it from the original owner in 2002. Since this is our seventh year in the home we have decided that it is about time to get a good duct cleaning. Do you have a company that you have worked with in the past that you can refer? Thank you, Larry."

Well Larry, let me first off praise you for doing some very necessary research on an industry that employs some very unscrupulous characters. There are thousands of these companies across America that rip off consumers right and left and they prosper

because not everyone goes to the trouble of checking them out like you're doing. You most likely get coupons in the mail or hear advertising and see the low bottom price which tends to capture most homeowners. The most common route for these companies is the phone call which touts their special low price — which I get every few weeks at my home. They're aggressive and they know just what to say to frighten most people. These sorts of air duct cleaning companies that I refer to will not do the job properly and may stir up some real problems in the quality of the air you breathe.

It takes three to four hours for a quality air duct company to do the job properly and the cost is usually from \$350-\$450 for the standard home. These companies can take a camera and send it down the air ducts to show you the before and after appearance and believe me, what you see will make you wonder why you didn't get it done sooner.

You should also go to the Internet and look up air duct cleaning associations such as nadca.com. Most of the good guys in this business are a member of such groups who monitor complaints very closely. As a member they must follow stringent policy to keep their membership and as for the crooks in this industry, they do nothing but tarnish the image of a great industry that does so much good for homeowners. As for whom I know and trust you can drop me a note at the e-mail address listed and I will be more than happy to give you a name that you can trust.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

Pet lovers can help military, attend animal expo at the same time

Mutts & Mutts Rescue League of Redford is holding its third annual collection for military men and women who are serving overseas.

The organization also needs items for its K-9 Off Base Program that takes care of pets while their owners serve abroad.

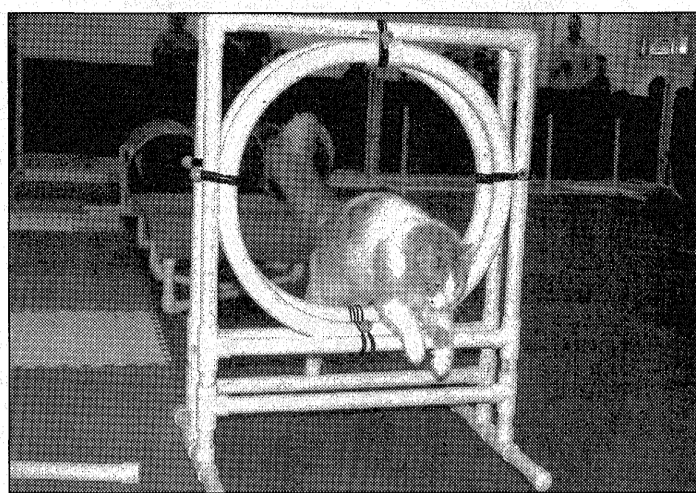
The collection drive is continuing through December at Flagstar Bank, 3233 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, (313) 271-6653; National Storage Center, 9120 N. Telegraph, Redford, (313) 537-5378; and Wheat and Rye Bar and Grill, 8120 N. Telegraph, Dearborn Heights, (313) 908-1424.

Donna Law, of Mutts and Mutts Rescue League, suggests these items for overseas military: travel size hand sanitizer, tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, gum, deodorant for both men and women, pre-packaged vitamins, lip balm, baby wipes, playing cards, hard candy, AT&T calling cards, powdered drink mixes, Tums, sunscreen, eye drops, topical ointment, cough drops, zip-lock style baggies in medium and large sizes.

Law also welcomes handwritten letters and drawn pictures from youngsters for service men and women.

The K-9 Off Base Program needs 13-gallon garbage bags, paper towels, bleach, Pedigree small bites dog food, Pedigree chopped beef can food, Pro plan chicken & rice dog food, Pro plan lamb & rice dog food, used and new collars and leashes, blankets, sheets, rugs, squeaky toys for cats or dogs, dog and cat bowls, newspapers and dog pillows.

The organization currently



Dogs aren't the only agility athletes. Cats compete in the sport, too. They'll demonstrate their abilities at the Michigan Family Pet Expo, Friday-Sunday, Nov. 20-22, at the Rock Financial Showplace.



has three dogs in its K-9 Off Base Program.

Mutts & Mutts Rescue League, founded in 1997, aims to provide a safe haven for unwanted animals, which are fostered in members' homes until they are adopted. It also has a wish list of items: blankets, rugs, towels, dog kennels, dog houses and hay for its outreach program, used wood privacy fence panels, dog and cat crates, dog and cat canned and dry food, leashes and collars of all sizes, a digital camera for

taking photos of the animals, bleach, phone cards and Costco or Sam's Club gift certificates.

All donations are tax deductible. Monetary donations may be sent to Mutts & Mutts, P.O. Box 40386, Redford, MI 48240. For more information, call Law at (313) 778-2262 or e-mail dmuttermutts@aol.com.

TRAINED FELINES AND MORE

Yes, cats can jump through hoops and walk over ladders just as easily as their canine counterparts. The Great Lakes Area Cat Enthusiasts (G.L.A.C.E.) will show off its trained feline athletes during the International Cat Agility tournament, Michigan Family Pet Expo, Friday-Sunday, Nov. 20-22 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

Expo visitors will see dozens of felines finessing their way through an obstacle course of tunnels, fences, hoops and ladders as their owners encourage them on

with toy birds and dragonflies dangling from the end of small wooden poles.

G.L.A.C.E., based in Okemos, awards cash prizes to owners of cats that demonstrate the fastest times with the least number of mistakes. Some cats may qualify for international agility titles and certificates. "People are always amazed when we talk about training cats," stated G.L.A.C.E. President Susan Lee. "Actually, cats are more like horses than dogs on the agility course. They look ahead to the next obstacle much like a horse will look ahead to the next jump."

In addition to cat agility, the Michigan Family Pet Expo will offer entertainment by Johnny Peers and his 14 trained dogs, demonstrations by the Rick-N-Roll K-9s Performance Team with Frisbee catching, doggie limbo and other athletic feats, dock jumping by Ultimate Air Dogs, pet adoptions, a farm animal petting zoo, Paws With a Cause demonstrations, and more.

Show hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 20, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Nov. 21, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 22. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 3-12). Parking is \$5. Get \$1 off regular adult admission by visiting www.PetMichigan.com or by bringing a can or bag of pet food to the show. Food donations benefit local shelters and rescue groups. (One discount offer per adult, offers cannot be combined.)

Rock Financial Showplace is at 46100 Grand River Ave., south of the I-696 Expressway, in Novi. For more information, go to www.petmichigan.com.

Discover A New You!

Free Weight Loss Surgery Seminar



Dr. Mubashir Sabir of Providence Hospital and St. John Weight Loss presents the health benefits of bariatric surgery



Topics Include

- Are you a candidate for bariatric surgery?
- How do the various types of bariatric surgery work?
- Benefits and risks of surgery.
- Diet and lifestyle changes as a result of bariatric surgery.
- What to expect from a physician consultation.
- Question and answer session.

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Providence Hospital – Southfield Medical Building Room 8C

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Providence Park Outpatient Center (SE entrance) Room A

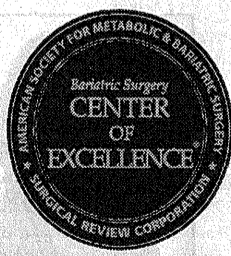
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Farmington Hills Medical Center Conference Room

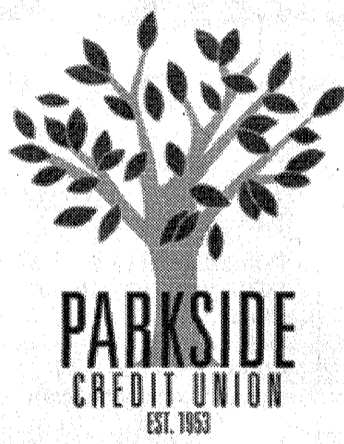
All seminars are from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Pre-Registration is required.

Call 1-866-823-4458 or go to www.stjohnweightloss.com to register



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Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226...

advance; \$14 each at the door; \$10 each for groups of 10 or more. Go to SeatYourself.biz/stmathewslivonia or call (734) 422-6038 to purchase tickets or for more information.

NOV. 15-18

Concert

The premiere of a new work, "Wild a Dream" is scheduled for 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. The music is by local composer Carmen Cavallero.

Food drive

Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia, is taking reservations for its Thanksgiving food distribution. Interested parties should call the church (248) 476-8222 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday to set up a reservation and time to pick up food on Nov. 21.

Mass for widowed

Widowed Friends invites widowed men and women to celebrate Mass together and stay for refreshments and fellowship on Sunday, Nov. 15, at St. Thomas a Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, just south of Cherry Hill, in Canton.

NOV. 19-25

Chili cook-off

11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gilt, Farmington Hills. This is a fund-raiser to support the church's "Rebuilding Together Oakland County" effort.

Concert

2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, at Monastery of the Sacred Heart, 29575 Middlebelt, north of I-3 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Hear sacred music featuring Lisa Agazzi, soprano, performing such favorites as "Pie Jesu," "The Lord's prayer," and "Ave Maria."

Drop and shop

6-8 p.m., Dec. 8 and 15 at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Mothers and Grandmothers will take care of children while their parents are out doing last minute errands for Christmas.

Swedish Christmas Shop

5-8 p.m., Friday Dec. 4 and 8 a.m.-1p.m. Sat. Dec. 5 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, corner of Drake, in Farmington Hills.

DEC. 10-16

Advent celebration

Traditions of Christmas will be presented at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church which will present "Traditions of Christmas," 4:30-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 9601 W. Hubbard, Livonia.

Christmas craft

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia will host a Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12 for grades kindergarten through 6th.

Christmas musical

"The Name Jesus," a Christmas musical, runs at 7 p.m., Dec. 11; 10:45 a.m., Dec. 13; 7 p.m., Dec. 18 and 6 p.m., Dec. 20, at First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill, Canton.

Cookie walk

10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 15, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia.

ONGOING

AWANA

Every Wednesday night Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade at Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

Classes/study

Antioch Preschool, an academic program complemented by Christian education, is enrolling 3- and 4-year-old children for the 2009-2010 school year. A new toddler class is offered Thursdays from 1-3 p.m.

NOV. 26-DEC. 2

Lessons and Carols

Candlelight service, 7 p.m., Nov. 29, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Join the chancel choir, ensembles, instrumentalists for this time of calm reflection.

Thanksgiving Day service

10 a.m., Nov. 26 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. This service will be a wonderful celebration of heritage of freedom.

DEC. 3-9

Concert

Christmas concert featuring the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia.

Scripture studies, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

Learner's Bible study, 7 p.m., Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions - at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Classes include: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.

Bible talks, 4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class the second Monday of the month at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia.

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study from

9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials.

A study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith, at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy.

Seeds of Mercy Mission Home, 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Call ct: Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234 for more information.

Celebrate Recovery Bible Study, noon and 7 p.m., Wednesday, at United Methodist Church of Wayne, at 3 Townsquare, Wayne.

Clothing Bank

The Clothing Bank has moved to a new location west of Canton Christian Fellowship. Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need is available 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday of each month,

at 41711 Joy Rd. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org for information.

Concerts

Rush Hour concert series continues every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m., concert 5:30-6 p.m., featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Free. Visit www.metroumc.org.

Fellowship dinner

Dinners are at 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert.

Films

10 a.m. Wednesday Kids Matinees and 4 p.m., Saturday family movie, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia.

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-

3660.

St. James Presbyterian, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. For information call the church at (313) 534-7730

Moms

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meets 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

MOPS, 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays, Dunning Park Bible Chapel, 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford. MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Prayer

Music, singing, prayer at 7 p.m. Thursdays at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through entrance #2, at the back of the church. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.

7 p.m. Wednesday, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests. Call (248) 476-8860.

HOBBY LOBBY advertisement featuring various craft supplies, Christmas decorations, and seasonal items with numerous discounts and offers. The ad is organized into a grid of categories such as Scrapbooking, Christmas Decor, Christmas Lights, and more.

HOBBY LOBBY Canton advertisement with a large 40% OFF coupon and contact information for the store located at Ford Road at Lilley, west of Ikea.

Young people come together to talk about epilepsy

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Kristen Pohutsky knew something was wrong when she started to black out a couple of years ago but didn't have health insurance to investigate the cause. Then the 25-year-old Farmington Hills woman wrote a paper on epilepsy for a class at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. The pieces of the puzzle, the lost seconds of time, suddenly formed a clear picture. She was diagnosed with epilepsy in September 2009 after going to the emergency room in July.

Today, Pohutsky is among a growing number of young adults dedicated to spreading the word about the neurological disorder caused by a misfire in electrical functions of the brain. When uncontrolled epilepsy changes every aspect of a person's life from the ability to hold a job to driving a car.

"I was telling myself I was sleepy or tired," said Pohutsky, a graduate of Harrison High School. "I was doing research, seeing a lot of similarities. In the middle of all this I got married. My husband, Mike, noticed I'd stop talking and stare into space.

"Everyone knows about breast cancer but a lot of people don't understand what epilepsy is. That's why I want to create an awareness about epilepsy and the need for a cure."

Staff at the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan in Southfield have been working for 61 years towards the same goal. President Arlene Gorelick's observed a lot of progress over the 20 years she's been there. On Friday, Nov. 20, the foundation presents its Epilepsy Today Conference 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. for individuals with the disorder, their families and profes-

sionals at Doubletree Hotel Detroit/Dearborn. For details, call (800) 377-6226 or (248) 351-7979.

AT THE CONFERENCE

Speakers include Dr. Brien Smith, a neurologist at Henry Ford Medical Center; Dr. Gregory Barclay, associate professor of neurology at Wayne State University and founding director of Henry Ford Hospital's Comprehensive Epilepsy Program; Dr. Michael Nigro, pediatric neurologist with Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders (MIND); Charles Spinazola, a psychologist who's practiced biofeedback over 30 years; and registered dietitian Rebecca Sparks of Children's Hospital of Michigan. Sparks talks about the ketogenic diet as a viable option for seizure control.

Gorelick is especially excited about the performance of "In Their Own Words" during which individuals share their epilepsy stories.

"It was the Epilepsy Center of Michigan 61 years ago. There was a stigma of epilepsy, people were ashamed to talk



Kristen Pohutsky and her dog, Suzy. The lab/rottweiler mix helps Pohutsky get into a sitting position when she is about to experience a seizure.

about it and because they were ashamed always didn't get the best treatment," said Gorelick. "The Metro Conference is open for anybody. It's an opportunity to learn some of the latest facts about epilepsy and

meet people struggling with epilepsy, or parents of children with epilepsy, to know you're not alone."

REACHING YOUTH

Tyler MacEachran, foundation vice president, believes it's essential to reach young people to get the word out about epilepsy. He's heading up a program that reaches onto college campuses and recruits students. The first was held Nov. 11 at Ferris State. In March, Eastern Michigan University focuses on women in history with epilepsy during Women's History Month. The programs came out of the foundation's Young Adult Leadership Council for those age 18-25 who have epilepsy or a passion for the cause.

"We're working on improving employment prospects for young adults with epilepsy, making the college experience a lot more positive," said MacEachran. "We're trying to work with freshmen with a peer to peer packet that gives tips on getting the right amount of meds, taking meds, not mixing with alcohol, and they're also available as men-

tors. We educate campus safety personnel to recognize and respond to seizures. We're getting tailored to organize at each campus.

"I'm excited young adults are taking it upon themselves to change their campuses. We're going to start there and move further into the community."

For information, call (248) 351-7979 option 1, Ext. 211, or look him up on Facebook www.facebook.com/tyler.maceachran.

Pohutsky is doing her part by studying molecular biotechnology. She hopes someday to help find a cure. In the meantime her lab/rottweiler mix, Suzy, is by her side providing an early warning.

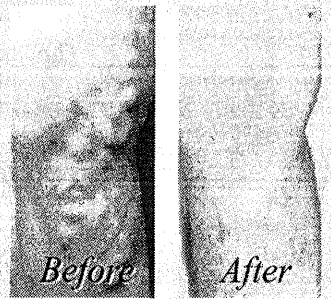
"I'm struggling to find the medication that's right for me," said Pohutsky. "Thirty percent of people with epilepsy have depression. With medication I've been through every range of emotion and was definitely feeling depressed after taking medication. My dog's been the best help. She knows when they're about to happen. When it happens out on a walk, she helped get me into sitting position."

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BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan is asking for the public's help to help those struggling with the neurological disorder. Frequently individuals with epilepsy try medication after medication until finding the one that's right for them. Two years ago bills were introduced into the Michigan Senate and House by state Sen. John Gleason, D-Flushing, and state Rep. John Espinoza, D-Crosswell, to prevent pharmacists from

switching medications without the consent of the patient and physician. Today, the numbers have been changed on the bills and reintroduced (SB 318 and HB 4408) and the foundation is still fighting to provide this protection for patients.

"It's very important in general because people struggle to get the medication that helps them. A change can lead to adverse events," said Arlene Gorelick, president of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. "In 25 to 40 percent, it's not controlled."

That's why fund-raisers like Talk About It @ Dinner, are important to create an awareness about epilepsy. Anyone wishing to help is asked to host a gathering to let others know about the disorder and raise money for the nonprofit.

The foundation supplies the educational DVD and materials for the event.

"We're hoping to have as many dinners as possible this month because it's Epilepsy Awareness Month," said Gorelick. "It doesn't have to be a dinner — have people over to watch the game, in the summer a barbecue. It can be anything you want. People can be creative, have a tea."

In the meantime, Gorelick wants to educate the public about First Aid for those having a seizure.

"If someone's having a seizure, lying on the ground, take everything out of the area that could harm them and do not put anything in their mouth. It's an old wives tale that people could swallow their tongue," she said.

"Instead, turn the person on their side, loosen their collar, wait for the seizure to run its course. If it looks like it's going around three minutes, call for help. Seizures usually only last a minute. Partial seizures, they may or may not lose consciousness. Just watch them so they don't wander into the street."

In Michigan, about 100,000 individuals, including 30,000 children, have epilepsy.

"We are about closing the gap to what can be done. Call us. There are a lot of new medications and surgeries, devices that work on the neuro system."

To contact the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, call (800) 377-6226, (248) 351-7979 or visit www.epilepsymichigan.org.

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