Savings spurred extra work around district – Education, A6

BSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Holiday shopping:

Check out local ads, coupons, gift guides and inserts in your Thursday Plymouth Observer



PIPELINE

Send memories

The holiday season is upon us and, through the hustle and bustle, we're asking our readers to let us be a part of their celebration.

We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the Observer for the special holiday edition we're planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright?

Share those memories with your neighbors through us. Send your items - be sure to include a photo, if you can - to Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@ hometownlife.com

It is our intention to make that issue a "keeper," something our readers will savor - and save.

Santa letters

Santa Claus has started to make his list, although sources tell the Observer that, while he's far from check it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters.

The Observer wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole.

The letters should be sent by email and include a snapshot of the child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Ol' Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have.

Send Santa correspondence to bkadrich@hometownlife.com and be sure to put "Letter to Santa" in the subject line. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Santa arrives

The community welcomes Santa, Mrs. Claus and Christmas Carol back to Plymouth when they arrive by fire truck 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27.

Entertainment takes place around the downtown area from 1-6 p.m., featuring Michigan-born Gia Warner, The Troubadours and Kris Kurzawa and Friends. The Salvation Army share some hot chocolate.

Once the ceremony is finished, Santa will be welcoming all to his house in Kellogg Park until 8 p.m. and stores and restaurants will be open for shopping and dinner.

'Awful' books land librarians on 'Kimmel' show

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

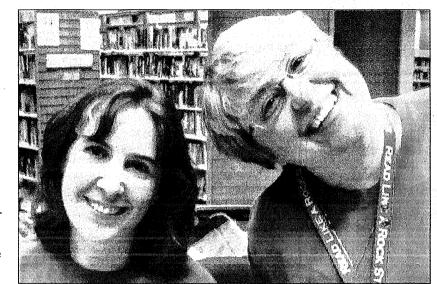
A library career isn't a typical path to Hollywood, but it worked for Holly Hibner and Mary Kelly.

Local librarians who worked together for more than 10 years, Hibner and Kelly flew out to Los Angeles earlier this month for an

appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live! Their claim to fame? Hibner and Kelly in April founded the Web site Awful Library Books (www.awfullibrarybooks.info), in which they display and discuss quaint, corny and hopelessly outdated library texts.

"Over the course of a decade, some really funny books have crossed our desk for one reason or another," said Hibner, who works at the Plymouth District Library. "Librarians think this stuff is funny."

The two discussed some of those $books-titles\ like\ \textit{Knitting}\ \textit{With}$ Dog Hair, A Passion for Donkeys and What's Wrong With My Snake?



Their Web site about awful library books landed local librarians Holly Hibner and Mary Kelly on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!'

- in a segment toward the end of Kimmel's Nov. 11 show.

"He is so easy to talk to, we were not nervous at all," Hibner said. "His staff was wonderful. They really went out of their way to make us comfortable."

The "loud librarians" — Hibner's

words — got laughs from Kimmel and the audience - and 17,000 hits on their Web site the day after the show, up from a few thousand a day before that. Hibner said the site recently got its millionth hit.

Kimmel's show wasn't the first mass-media attention Hibner, Kelly and Awful Library Books has received. They've been featured in newspapers, on radio shows and other Web sites, but Jimmy Kimmel Live! was their first television appearance.

Hibner is quick to point out the books their site features aren't necessarily awful in and of themselves. but only in the context of time and place. An up-to-date public library, for example, wouldn't help a cancer patient by keeping a 20-year-old book on cancer treatment on its shelves, because cancer research is constantly progressing, Hibner said. But such a volume might have

Please see LIBRARIANS, A3

Back at home

Plymouth's briefcase team set for 21st Detroit parade

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team is coming home.

A year after their appearance in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, the 17 suit-wearing, satchel-toting "businessmen" have a return engagement in Thursday's Detroit parade officially called America's Thanksgiving Parade.

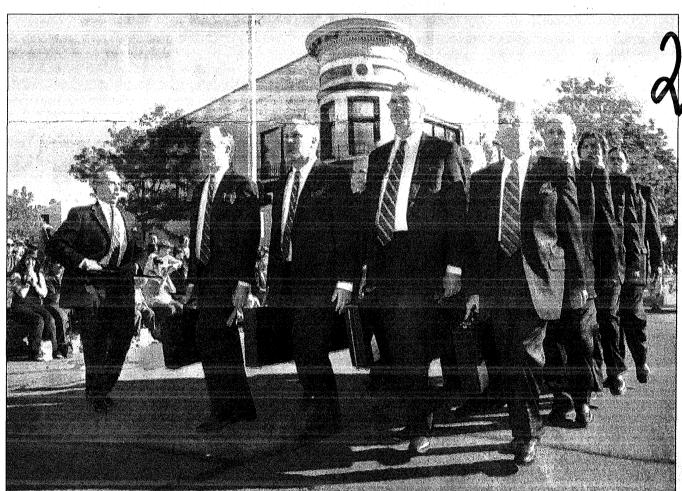
A Plymouth-based crowd favorite, the Fred Hill team made 20 consecutive appearances in the Detroit parade, through 2007. And members have strutted their stuff in the past at the Indianapolis 500, at football halftime shows and at other events at venues all over the

"We're like big deals," said Fred Hill, the drillmaster, who owned a clothing store in Plymouth for 24 years. "Can you imagine?"

Whereas most parade entries are designed to appeal to children, the Fred Hill team has a decidedly grownup appeal, Hill said.

"I always thought we probably have a significant social statement we're making. I don't know what it is yet," he joked.

Hill said the idea came from a parade he saw in his home town of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, in which an



Fred Hill and the Briefcase Drill Team make their 21st appearance in Detroit's Thanksgiving parade Thursday.

entry from the local hardware store consisted of a half-dozen men pushing lawn mowers.

His team's first time out was during Plymouth's Fourth of July Parade in

1985. "We thought we'd just do it one time, but the crowd reaction was so strong we said, 'We'll do it twice," he

The team has a routine it calls the Businessman

Shuffle, and is inspired by some of the marching from the 1981 Bill Murray comedy Stripes, Hill said.

"We have to pattern the maneuvers to the marching and dancing ability of the

group I'm working with," Hill said.

While there are 17 marchers for parades — 16 in four four-man rows and Hill in

Please see PARADE, A3

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Diners cheesed over pizzeria closing

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Fans of "the world's best pizza" are hungering for it after the recent closure of Gino's Italian Pizza in Plymouth Township.

A sign in the window of the takeout pizzeria on Ann Arbor Trail east of Haggerty promised an Oct. 16 "grand reopening," said Val Jones, who lives nearby, but the reopening never occurred. Now, a "For Rent" sign hangs in the window.

"Everybody here was devastated that he closed," said Jones, who knew the owner as Jerry Hill.

Gino's had been in that location for more than 40 years, Jones said. The pizzeria had been closed for nearly three weeks prior to the scheduled "grand reopening," she said.

Jones said Hill was part of the fabric of the neighborhood and knew his regulars well - some of them so well he knew their orders before they placed them.

"He had the world's best pizza,"

said Jones. "It was nice to go in there. He was part of the community." Gino's had another owner until about 10 years ago, when Hill, an employee, bought the place with a partner, she said.

Jones said she bought pizza from Gino's about once a month on average.

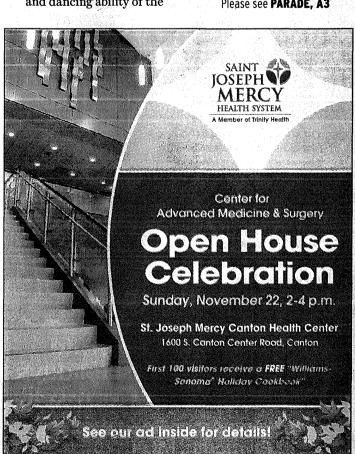
"I'm wishing somebody could help him and bring him back to the neighborhood," she said.

The phone number at Gino's was not working on Friday and Hill could not be located.

Thanksgiving holiday rearranges trash pickup schedule

There will be no trash collection in Plymouth Township on Thursday because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, and collections for Thursday and Friday will be delayed by one day. Residents with a normal collection day of Thursday will have their trash and recyclables picked up on Friday, while Friday collections will be done on Saturday. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday collections will not be affected.

Trash and recycling pickup in the city of Plymouth will not be affected by the holiday, as the city normally has collections on only Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.





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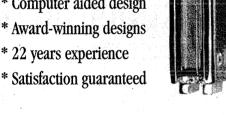
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"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Kiwanis nuts

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth supports the agencies and organizations that provide assistance to many people in need as well as helping folks directly. To be able to fund these various projects, the club has many fundraising activities. One of them is the Annual Gourmet Nut Fundraiser being held now

There are 1-pound and 3pound cans of gourmet nuts for purchase by the can, case and pallet. They are great gifts for family, employees and clients. Please consider the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts as your gift of choice this year and assist in allowing Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth to continue serving those in need in our community and around the world.

The gourmet nuts can be purchased by the can at Papa Romano's, 555 W. Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth, (734) 459-2930, or by the case or pallet at Fitness Things, 1160 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (734) 455-8790. Many other Plymouth businesses will also have the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts available for purchase at their location.

9 to 9pm

Thanksgiving Eve

9 to 11am

Thanksgiving

Businesses interested in participating, or anyone who needs more information, can contact Gary Walley, (734) 455-8790.

Corriveau coffee

AROUND PLYMOUTH

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.

Career seminar

REMERICA HOMETOWN of Plymouth is inviting anyone out of a job or contemplating a career change to become a real estate agent and be ready for what they say is the upcoming real estate boom.

REMERICA HOMETOWN presents a pre-license training class beginning Nov. 30. Real **Estate Professional Education** Group, LLC at: 44025 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Total class cost is \$50 and includes all materials. Call Chris or Judy, (734) 459-6222, or e-mail info@remericahometown.com for a reservation or a private interview.

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FRESH HOT

Plymouth Community United Way, are sponsoring a Food Drive Saturday, Nov. 28, before their game against Kingston at Compuware

Arena in Plymouth Township. Fans are asked to bring nonperishable food items, paper or toiletry products to the game. A voucher for a discount on a future Whalers admission

who donate. Saturday @ the Penn

ticket will be given to those

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society are presenting a series of family variety shows in downtown Plymouth. These shows are offered at 11:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at the Penn Theater. Cost is \$4 per person.

The next performance, scheduled for Dec. 5, features special musical host Guy Louis and the Chautauqua Express with special guest performers Joe Reilly. The announcer for this performance is Tammy Trudelle.

The Penn Theater is located at 760 Penniman in Plymouth. Tickets may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:05 a.m. Show runs 11:30-1:00 p.m.

These shows are sponsored by a grant from the Wilcox Foundation, as well as by several local businesses and individuals: Quixworks, Signature Audio, Kelly & Tom Doneth, Optimist Club of Plymouth and Steve & Renee Alexandrowski.

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-

Doctor documentary

Audiences across the country will get a rare inside look into the Nobel Peace Prize-winning **Doctors Without Borders at** the Goodrich Quality Theater-Canton Cinema, 43555 Ford Rd, Canton, 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14.

"Living in Emergency: Stories of Doctors Without Borders LIVE with Elizabeth Vargas" is an exclusive, onenight only event, which will be broadcast via satellite from New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts to thousands of Americans seated in nearly 450 movie theaters across the country.

Doctors Without Borders gave a documentary crew unlimited and uncensored access to its field operations in war-torn Congo and postconflict Liberia. The critically acclaimed documentary, "Living in Emergency," interweaves the stories of four doctors who are forced to confront the limits of their idealism in the face of overwhelming medical needs.

Following the documentary, Elizabeth Vargas, anchor of ABC News 20/20, will moderate a LIVE town-hall discussion with frontline aid workers and award-winning journalists, including Sebastian Junger, best-selling author of The Perfect Storm and Vanity Fair contributing editor.

To purchase tickets, visit www.FathomEvents.com/doctorswithoutborders



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tuition rates, even for the next few years. This can make planning ahead difficult and frustrating. However, the Michigan Education Trust (MET) makes it possible for parents, grandparents, businesses and others to pre-purchase tomorrow's undergraduate tuition at today's cost.

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C46186

Chicken donation helps feed area's needy LIBRARIANS

BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Area agencies scrambling to feed a growing number of hungry, recession-ravaged families received a much-needed boost Thursday morning when a truck hauling 40,000 pounds of frozen chicken rolled up to a Canton distribution center.

In all, 21 agencies shared the gift from a nonprofit foundation called HEAR (Health, Education And Relief), a Chicago-based volunteer group also helping families in the Detroit area.

"We timed it for the holidays," said local HEAR director Mark McManus Sr., a Novi resident and chairman of Livonia-based **New Horizons Computer** Learning Centers.

HEAR bought the frozen chicken for a reduced cost from Tyson Foods and had it trucked in from the company's Springdale, Ark., headquarters to Norquick, a cold-storage, warehouse and distribution center in Canton.

"We're amazed by the generosity," said Ann Kalass, CEO for Inkster-based Starfish Family Services, which offers a wide array of family services in Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Westland and other metro Detroit communities.

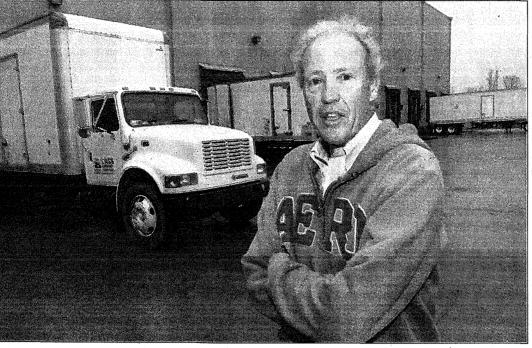
Starfish, alone, received 2,800 pounds of boxed, frozen chicken.

"It couldn't come at a better time than the holidays," Kalass said. "So many families are in crisis and struggling to find resources."

Kalass came to Norquick with Westland single mom Chelsea Cloutier, a Starfish client and Starfish Head Start executive board member whose 3-year-old son attends a full-day preschool program while she works and studies for a bachelor's degree she expects to receive in August.

"The holidays can be so stressful," said Cloutier, 25, studying business administration and

Ed Hingelberg, a Plymouth City Commission member and operations director of Detroitbased Cass Community Social Services, said the 3,200 pounds of frozen chicken CCSS received



Mark McManus Sr., owner of Livonia-based New Horizons Computer Learning Centers, is director for a nonprofit group that donated 40,000 pounds of frozen chicken for distribution to local social service agencies.



Ed Hingelberg of Cass Community Social Services says the 3,200 pounds of chicken CCSS received will feed lots of hungry people. CCSS' truck, driven by Michael Mason and Robert Dixon, is loaded and ready to go.

will be stretched to feed as many needy families as possible by using it in soup, chicken salad and other meals.

"I can't tell you how much this helps us," Hingelberg said, standing with McManus outside Norquick on a gray, drizzly Thursday morning that somehow seemed a little less bleak after HEAR's food shipment arrived on Canton's north side.

"When the economy is down," Hingelberg said, "the need goes

Allie Brothers

through the roof."

Cass Community Social Services provides help ranging from meals for the homeless to emergency shelter to vocational opportunities.

McManus said HEAR worked with another nonprofit organization, Northville Civic Concern, to seek out agencies needing food to help their clients. McManus helped oversee the frozen chicken distribution mere hours after he returned from a relief effort in Guatemala.

He said 100 percent of HEAR's donations are used to help people in need. Much more about the organization can be learned — and donations can be made — online at www.hearfoundation.org.

HEAR's shipment of frozen chicken came in 10-pound bags. Agencies received as little as 200 pounds and as much as 3,200

McManus released a list of 21 recipients that included Active Faith food pantry of South Lyon; Blessed Hope Mission of Lincoln Park; Cass Community Social Services; Central Detroit CDC; Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi; Forgotten Harvest of Oak Park; Fort Street Presbyterian of Detroit; Friendship House of

carhartt

Hamtramck; Grace Centers of Hope of Pontiac, Help's On Avenue Presbyterian Church of Detroit; Northville Civic Center; The Salvation Army in Farmington, Plymouth, Westland and Macomb; St.

The Way of Dearborn; Military Christine's Soup Kitchen & Outreach of Detroit; St. James Catholic Church of Novi: Starfish; the Wayne County Family Center of Westland; and Western Oakland Meals on Wheels.

a place in an archives or a historical library, she added.

"Different libraries have different missions," she said. Beyond its humorous value, their site is "not a criticism," but "a nudge," she said, designed to get libraries to "weed" their shelves.

The titles are posted on the site without reference to the libraries they were found in, so no individual libraries are embarrassed.

A librarian's job is to evaluate information and teach others to do the same and "point people to the good stuff,"

Hibner said. "This is why libraries are still so relevant." Kelly works at the Salem-South Lvon District Library, where Hibner also worked until she arrived in Plymouth nearly three months ago. They've done other projects and presentations together and are currently writing a textbook together, Hibner said.

Lately, most of the titles posted on Awful Library Books have been submitted by fans of the site from around the world, Hibner said. And the "awful" has been de-emphasized some-

"We do postings that are just plain funny," she said.

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

the lead — Hill has 21 or 22 men trained to march. "I have a few extras in case someone can't make it for some reason."

Sisters Kristen Szymanski of Plymouth and Rachelle Lohrer of Hazel Park will be carrying the drill team's banner Thursday. It was an honor purchased for them for \$600 by their parents. Elise and Garv Walley, during the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's recent auction fund-raiser. The Walleys own Fitness Things in Plymouth, which sells exercise equipment, and Lohrer and Szymanski both work at the store.

"I'm really excited. I think it's the best Thanksgiving present ever," Lohrer said.

"It's the only thing that I remember in the parade besides Santa," Szymanski said. "They're Plymouth legends."

The sisters plan to dress up for the event — perhaps as secretaries - but their outfit selections might depend on Thursday's weather, they

Hill said his team is in the seventh position in the parade, which is fairly early. The parade along Woodward Avenue between Mack and Congress kicks off at 9:20 a.m. and will be broadcast locally by television station WDIV-TV (Channel 4).

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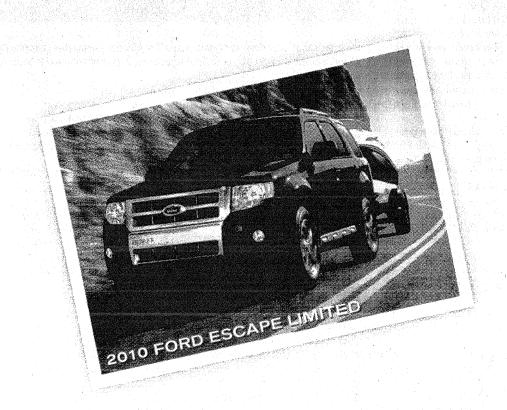
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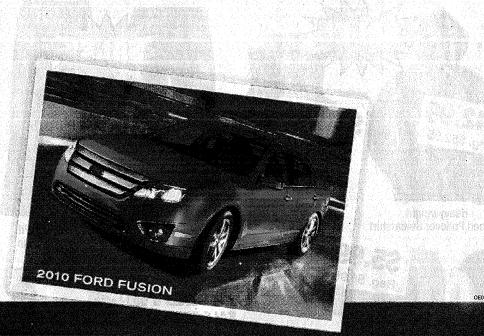


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Allison Doroshewitz reacts to the lights being turned on.

Annual Hines Park holiday display opens with a bang

BY SUE MASON OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Slauter likes the poinsettias, her 4-year-old daughter Emily likes the flying reindeer school and her husband Jason likes the car with the presents falling off.

It seems everyone has a favorite spot along the 4½-mile long Wayne County Lighfest which opened for the holiday season Thursday evening.

This is our first time coming to the opening ceremony, but we always go through it, it's how we start our holiday season," said Slauter, a Dearborn Heights resident. "I love Christmas and this is something different to do. It's fun to see how the displays change each year."

Another newbie was Annette Feuerstein of Ann Arbor, who was at the event with Joy Barr of Westland.

"I work with Joy in Plymouth, she brought me to show me what it's all about,"

she said. Barr has been coming every year since it opened. Her husband works for Wayne County Parks

and helps set up the display. "It's kind of a hidden treasure in Wayne County," she said. "Nobody seems to know about it, but it's a nice tradition."

The 2009 Lightfest opened with a throwing of the switch by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and children and the bang and boom of fireworks that lit up the nighttime sky. Also joining Ficano on stage were several Wayne County commissioners, including Joan Gebhardt of Livonia, and Dianne Webb of Garden City.

There's one million lights in the display and over 35 displays," Ficano told the crowd gathered for the opening ceremony, carried live on Fox-2 TV. Weatherman Rich Luterman helped with the countdown.

"Everybody ready for snow?" he asked as he waited to do a live weather report. "Everyone ready for Christmas? Everyone ready for Thanksgiving?"

His first question was answered with a resounding "No!" while the other two earned shouts of "yes!"

The Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. nightly, except Christmas Day, through Jan. 1. It starts at Merriman Hollow on Hines Drive at Merriman in Westland and ends at the Warrendale area east

of Telegraph in Dearborn Heights. A walk-through display area, Santa's Workshop, refreshments and gift shopping has been set up at the end of the drive. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23.

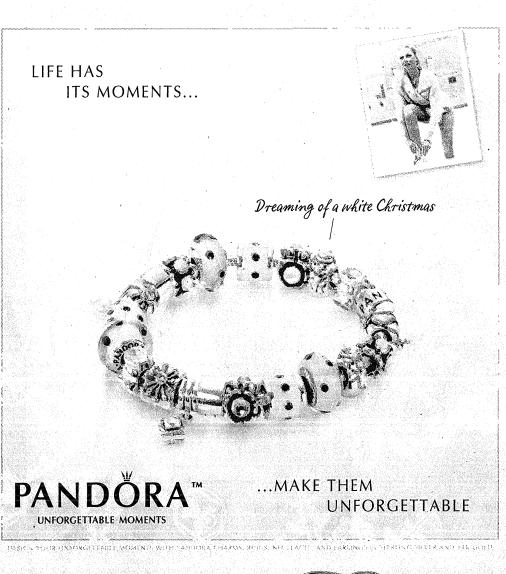
In between, guests will see the sledding hill transformed into a ski run complete with a chalet and skiers, a Nativity scene and Hannukah display. There's also a tunnel of lighted red, white and green arches and snowflakes and an eyepopping white one sponsored by DTE Energy.

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16, will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to make sure all children have a bright holiday by inviting the community to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee. Visitors also can contribute the recommended donation.

For more information on the Wayne County Lightfest, please call (734) 261-1990 or visit the parks' Web site at

www.waynecountyparks.org. Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly.





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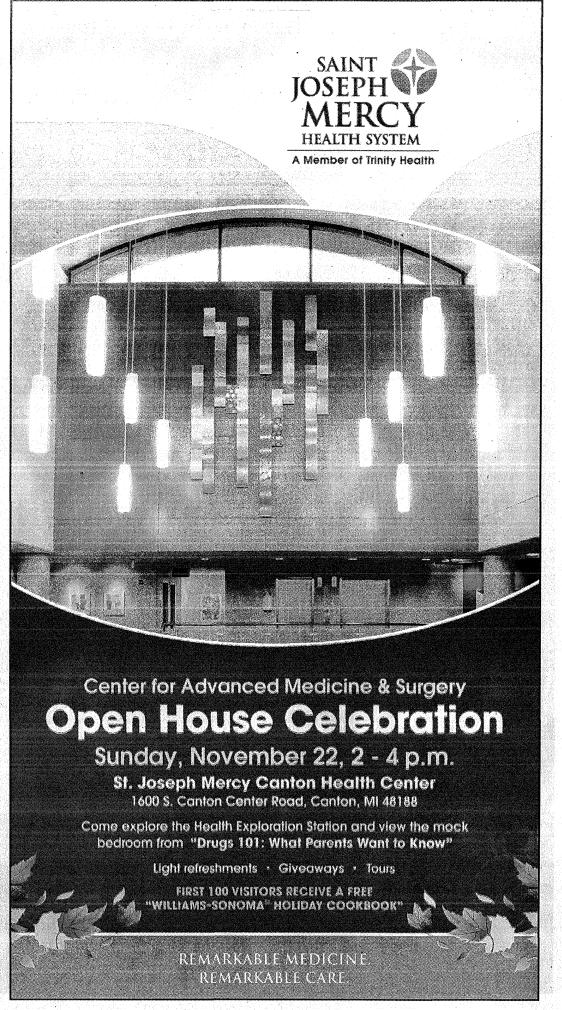
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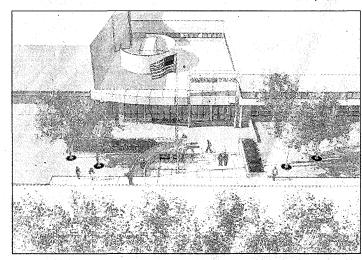
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EDUCATION



An artist's rendering of what the entrance to Salem High School may look like when construction is complete.

Salem High School remodel will add new classrooms

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By this time next year, the 2004 bond should be but a memory.

A renovation of the entrance to Salem High School, the final major project under the \$109 million bond passed by voters five years ago, is underway and should be completed shortly after school starts in 2010.

The \$4.1 million project which wasn't on the original list - will renovate Salem High School to add 10 classrooms by moving upstairs office space to a rebuilt courtyard near the existing entrance.

"We need the classrooms to accommodate growth," said Ken Jacobs, Plymouth-Canton assistant superintendent. "The high schools have been what's carrying us for enrollment the last few years."

The project, which officials say is not an addition to the building but rather a remodeling of the existing courtyard, moves the upper-floor administrative area downstairs, and adds the extra classrooms upstairs.

It also creates a distinctive main entrance to the school, something the building had lacked before.

"This project creates a legitimate front door for the school, which it's never had," said John Reibe of TMP, the district's architect.

The front of the building has been closed off, forcing people to find other entries and parking spaces. Getting the work done while school is in session presents the biggest challenge, according to construction offi-

"The biggest challenge is working at the main entrance," said Doug Underwood of McCarthy & Smith. "Student drop-off and visitor parking had to be moved. We've made accommodations for that,"

Construction is expected to be complete by September

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

Bond bears fruit

Savings spurred extra work around district

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

As the bids for project after project included in the \$109 million bond issue approved by voters in 2004 went out, then came in on time and under budget, Plymouth-Canton school officials saw they were saving millions of dollars.

Faced with a quandary - a shrinking revenue stream tightening the budget vs. significant infrastucture needs around the district - administrators and school board members made the decision to pour the savings back into the schools, making renovations on every district building constructed before 2000.

As a result, district officials believe they've positioned the district for a solid foundation for the next 15-20 years.

'We've been fortunate ... we've been able to take advantage of some favorable bidding," said assistant superintendent Ken Jacobs, who estimated the bond work was done some 18 months early and some \$8 or \$9 million under budget. "We commit very few dollars from the general fund budget to infrastructure ... we wanted to address all our infrastructure needs."

Jacobs believes the district has done that. Every building in the district built before 2000 had some sort of work done. Not all of it - mechanical work, doors, roofs, windows, boilers, paving, plumbing - was sexy, but all of it was necessary, he said.

Workman Elementary School was the only new building constructed with the bond proceeds. And enrollment at the school, located at Cherry Hill and Denton in Canton, has proven that was a need more than a

"We put the building where the enrollment was coming,"



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Among projects completed under the 2004 bond was a new bus turnaround at Gallimore Elementary, which was done in time for the first day of school in September.

Jacobs said. "It's worked out that way in that there are 700 stu-

While Jacobs has shepherded the projects from the district's end, he spreads the credit for the success of the bond projects around. The credit goes largely, according to Jacobs, to the district's construction manager, McCarthy & Smith, and its architect, TMP.

dents in that building."

McCarthy & Smith was brought on board in September 1998 to build Discovery Middle School. As the district began to assess its needs, TMP was brought in in 2000. Both firms do substantial work with school districts, an expertise Plymouth-Canton officials have found

"They have a unique way of developing a following of construction crews," Jacbos said of McCarthy & Smith. "The contractors who have bid on the work have been very good."

The team has run into a few problems. There were problems with concrete being used at West Middle School, and with the materials used to resurface

the administration building on Harvey.

The weather hasn't always cooperated, either. As crews were building the new bus turnaround at Gallimore Elementary, heavy rains turned the site into what officials not-so-lovingly called "Lake Gallimore."

"We've been able to report primarily good news," McCarthy & Smith president Bill McCarthy said. "Many of the projects had some site related issues. Throw in a wet August, and it got a little exciting."

The team's relationship with the district's Board of Education also helped facilitate a lot of the effort. McCarthy, senior project manager Doug Underwood and TMP's John Reibe made frequent presentations to the board throughout the process, which has seen some 25 bid packages that included as many as 100 separate projects.

"We've kept all the good and not-so-good news out in front of the board was important," McCarthy said. "We need to be accountable for the work."

In addition to getting the work

done on time and under budget, the 2004 bond projects have had an effect on the economy. According to numbers put together by McCarthy & Smith, 2004 bond projects generated more than 70,000 mand-days and more than 563,000 hours of work between April 2005 and October 2009. The work kept nearly 60 people per day work-

While it's tough to say how much money such work generated, McCarthy & Smith officials say it was a lot.

"It's kind of hard to put a number on it," McCarthy & Smith's Underwood said. "But you'd come up with a significant dollar

As the projects continued to get done under budget, administrators began struggling with the question of whether to put the savings toward alleviating the budget problems or fixing things they felt needed fixing.

Jacobs said ultimately the decision came down to balancing the two.

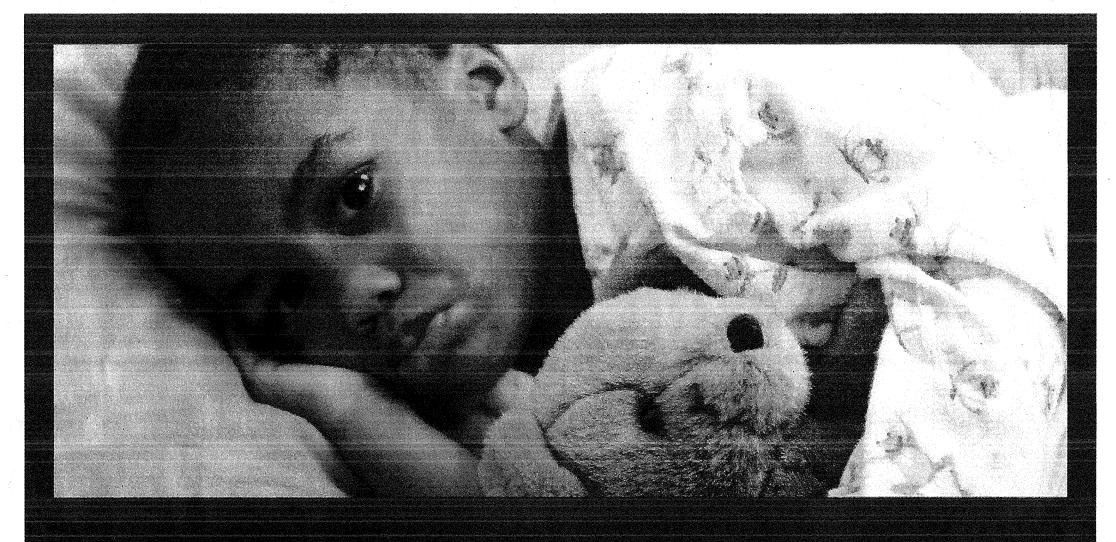
The intent of the bond was to do infrastructure work ... we took care of needs that should take us 15-20 years out," Jacobs said. "We know, given the economy, we're not going to go out for (another) bond for quite awhile. It was important to carve out some funds.'

To a board that has cut some \$20 million from its budget over the last eight years, it was important to get that work done under the bond, saving general fund balances for actual education.

"It's everything to us as a struggling district," said Board of Education President Steven Sneideman. "Anything we could save under the bond leaves that much more we can put into the classroom."

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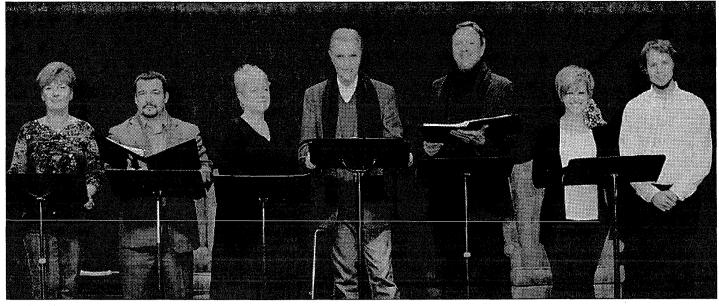
Barefoot does Dickens to raise cash, toys

Barefoot Productions announces a very merry holiday celebration fund-raiser, showcasing a narrative reading of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol.

In partnership with area merchants Sweets 21, Tranquilitea and Vintner's Cellar Winery, Barefoot's 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11 event seeks to raise the necessary funds to support Barefoot's two remaining season shows, Rope (February 2010) and Steel Magnolias (May 2010).

The event will harken back to a warm, nostalgic holiday ambience, replete with mulled wines, Victorian-styled pastries and fragrant teas, provided by Vintner's Cellar Winery (Canton), Sweets 21 and Tranquilitea (both of Plymouth). The fund-raiser is \$50 in advance and \$65 at the door, culminating in the presentation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol in an intimate setting.

Christmas Carol, was, first and foremost, a novella," explained Craig A. Hane, Barefoot Productions' founder and artistic director. "We are



Barefoot Productions of Plymouth presents a reading of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11.

story - the way it was meant to be presented - as a narrative reading. A Christmas Carol was never intended by Dickens to be a musical, a stage production or an opera. In fact, part of the reason there is no singular stage adaptation of

(Dearborn), Nathan Corliss (Livonia), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), Jonathon Wennstrom (Livonia), Elizabeth Whitcomb (Livonia) and Steve White (Plymouth). In a fresh 'twist' on Dickens, **Barefoot Productions has** chosen to cast the lead voice as a woman, despite the fact Dickens' story is predomi-

gobarefoot.com or by calling (734) 560-1493. Barefoot Productions' fund-raiser, A Holiday Celebration, will be held in the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main in Plymouth. Donations are taxdeductible.

Barefoot Productions also

and prevent domestic and sexual violence while providing services to individuals affected by these crimes. First Step maintains an ongoing toy wish list to supplement recreational activities as well as to enhance the shelter offered to those in need. For more information about First Step, visit www. firststep-mi.org.

Christmas in Action

Elderly or disabled homeowners may apply this month to receive free home repairs from Christmas in Action of Wayne County, Inc.

Volunteers for this non-profit agency work to preserve and revitalize houses in an effort to assure that low-income elderly and disabled homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence.

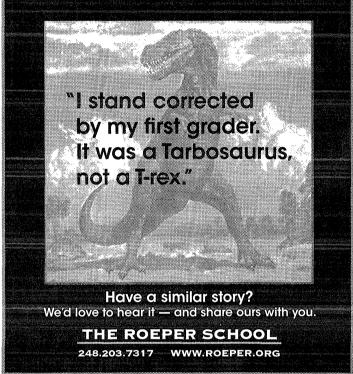
Eligible applicants must live in Canton and own a single family home or condominium. They must also be over the age 55 or disabled, need repairs to the home, and be unable to afford or perform the repairs themselves.

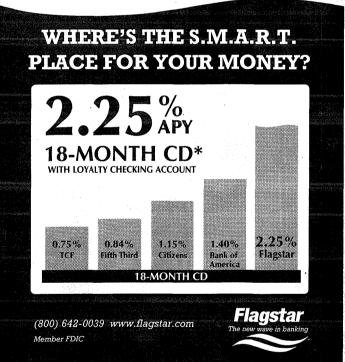
The event date for repairs to be made is April 25. For more information, contact Paula at (734) 394-5191 or e-mail pkosbe@canton-mi.org for an application. Applications are also available at the Senior Center at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, as well as the Township Administration Building, located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Application deadline is Thursday, Dec. 31.





:Holiday Sale!





*Stated Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) are accurate as of 11/18/09. Minimum opening balance requirement is \$500 and maximum deposit is \$250,000. Deposits are allowed only on the maturity date or during the grace period. Account fees could reduce earnings. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Not available for public units. Customers must maintain their primary checking account at Flagstar Bank and conduct an average of 15 monthly transactions or at least \$250 in recurring ACH transactions per month to qualify for the Loyalty (O account rate. Loyalty CO account rate offers cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers. Rates are effective for a limited time only and subject to channer. without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. Con on minimum deposit level for each institution.







Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 22, 2009



The Canton Varsity Chiefettes took second place statewide in the large group Varsity division competition at the Mid-American Pom Pon High Kick Competition at Eastern Michigan University, using the theme 'Bollywood.' The Junior

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A special meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission

Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to

All interested persons are invited to attend.

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

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Salem grad hosts fund-raiser for village

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem High School graduate James Leddy has spent the last couple of years serving in the Peace Corps in El Salvador.

He was looking forward to a visit home recently when his village, Santiago De Chile, which has become his "home away from home," was ravaged

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by mudslides and devastation. So instead of spending his break at home vacationing, Leddy, who also attended Michigan State University, decided he'd rather do something to help his village. He enlisted the help of longtime friend Erin Williams, a fellow member of Salem's Class of 2003, to host a fund-raiser to benefit the village.

The fund-raiser to benefit Santiago De Chile takes place Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the Crow's Nest in Canton. The fundraiser starts at 6:30 p.m. and features appetizers and a cash Cash donations will be collected, with a \$10 donation suggested at the door. The

> appetizers. 'That's his home, and he has become very close and connected to this village," said

Salem High School Class of

2003 council is donating the

Williams, who was vice president of the student council at Salem. "They need help, so we're going to help.'

Leddy will be on hand to talk about his work with the Peace Corps, as well as the recent tragedy and what needs to be done for the villagers.

The Crow's nest is located at 6166 Canton Center Road in Canton. For more information on the fund-raiser, call Williams at (734) 775-0795.

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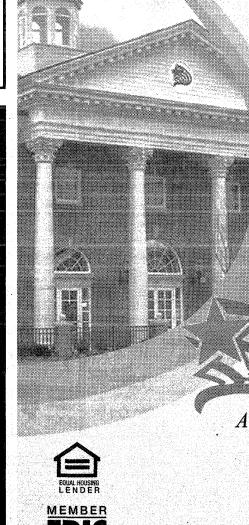
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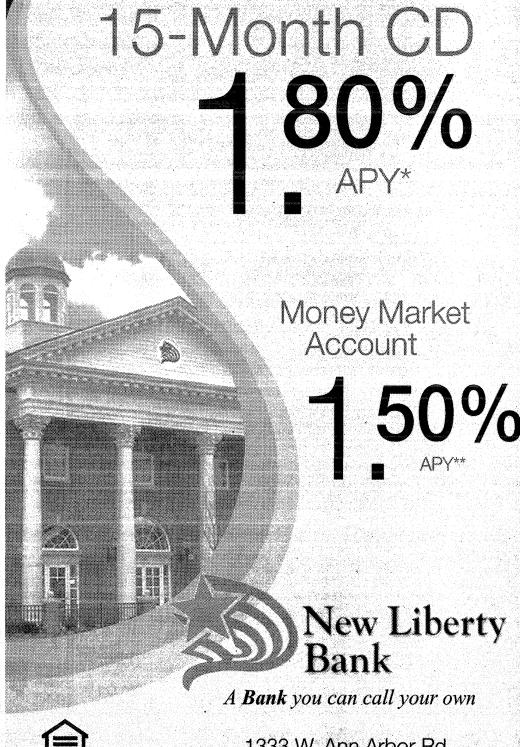
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A: I love that you received a competitive bid on your auto insurance. I think more people



Rick Bloom dealing with a reputable insurance company, I see no problem with buying online.

For all its faults, the Internet has become a great tool for consumers. Whether or not vou buy insurance online, the Internet is a great tool to use to receive competitive bids. You can take the bid to your current insurance company and ask them to match it. Even if they cannot, it definitely makes a statement to your agent that you are costconscious.

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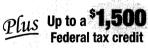
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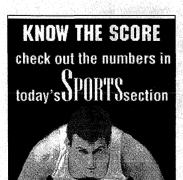
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have a claim, you don't have a personal relationship with an agent who will go to bat for you. My thought is you shouldn't need anyone to go to bat for you because, if you are dealing with a reputable insurance company, they should not make it difficult to receive a claim. However, reality is somewhat different. I recognize that insurance companies are subject to fraudulent claims and, therefore, cannot just pay any claim. That being said, the unfortunate truth is that some insurance agents don't assist you with claims. They want to sell the policy and let you deal with the company when it comes to claims. A good agent, however, will make sure the policy fits your individual situation and

assist you when claims arise. Therefore, in making a decision whether to use an online company, take into consideration your relationship with your agent.

Lastly, when you buy auto or homeowners insurance, one question to ask your agent (if you deal with one) or to consider when you deal with an online company is, what type

of discounts are available? You'd be surprised to know the different discounts that are offered. For example, if one of your children is on your automobile insurance, many companies offer discounts if they have good grades. There are also a variety of discounts if you belong to certain organizations. Insurance discount programs change at a rapid

pace. Therefore, every time you get a renewal, make sure you ask what discounts are available.

. Good luck!

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



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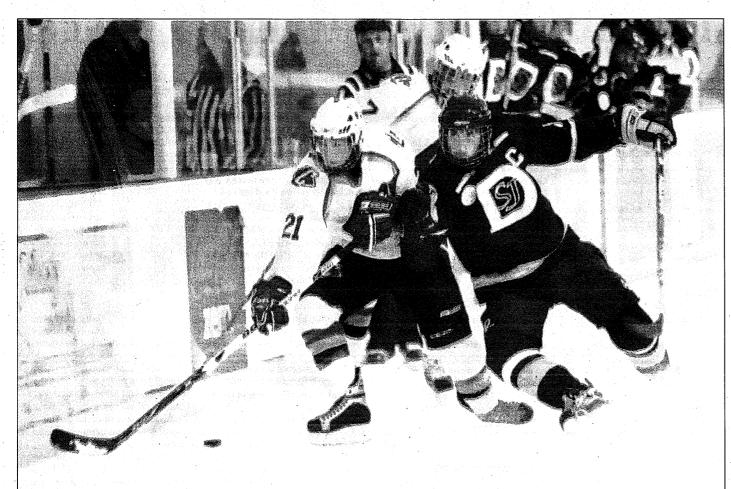
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2009-10 BOYS HOCKEY



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Battling to maintain position against DeWitt-St. Johns defenseman Connor Peterson is Canton senior defenseman Rohn Gaudi (No. 21) during Friday's season opener at Canton's Arctic Edge.

Chiefs could jell into contender

5-4 overtime win gets season off to good start

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Before Friday's season opener, Canton's new varsity boys hockey coach, Jeremy Majszak, talked about "systems" and playing ultimate team hockey the kind Majszak himself did as a Chiefs forward and captain in the late 1990s.

"Our main motto is '22 guys, one direction,' no one putting themselves in front of the team," Majszak said. "And

having a very, very strong work

Once the non-league tilt against DeWitt-St. Johns got under way at Canton's Arctic Edge, the talented duo of returning junior forward AJ Rosales and junior forward Riley Hoernschmeyer got to work putting the puck behind DeWitt junior goalkeeper Alex

Rosales roofed a feed from Hoernschmeyer at 3:28 to put the Chiefs up 1-0. By the time the game was seven minutes old, it was 4-0 following another goal from Rosales and two from Hoernschmeyer.

To the dismay of Majszak, however, the early lead perhaps resulted in Canton players not sticking to the game plan. All of a sudden, they couldn't get another puck past Zuker (who played very well after the early onslaught with 36 saves).

And DeWitt-St. Johns' forechecking caused plenty of turnovers, leading to four consecutive goals. The last by Lance Rademacher at 11:38 of the third made it 4-4.

In overtime, however, the "Rosales-Hoernschmeyer" Show" returned. Following a giveaway, Hoernschmeyer (two goals, two assists) pounced on a puck in the slot and sent a backhander that Zuker sticked

But Rosales (three goals, one

Please see CHIEFS, B3

Wildcats on the prowl

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Under the watch of third-year head coach Paul Fassbender, Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team is becoming well-schooled in learning the game and what it takes to become an elite team.

Fassbender, in his third year at the Plymouth helm after a dozen seasons coaching at Eastern Michigan University, likes the work ethic, skill and physicality the players are bringing to practices at Compuware Arena.

Will that translate into wins against the Catholic Centrals of the world and postseason glory? Who knows, but Fassbender is prepared to see

where the chips land. We should be able to put the puck in the net," said Fassbender following a practice last week at Compuware. "(But) we're going to be a little different defensively, we lost a couple big bodies on defense. We're replacing them with very young guys." Plymouth (12-10-3 last year

in the KLAA South) opened the 2009-10 season with a Saturday contest at East Kentwood. The home opener is 6:40 p.m. Tuesday against Monroe at Compuware. The nonconference schedule is packed with big challenges, too.

"We had a really good tryout. we had to make very difficult decisions," Fassbender said. "We had a lot of kids come out for the team based on our success the last couple years.

Please see WILDCATS, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth varsity boys hockey team hopes to again have these kinds of on-ice celebrations during 2009-10.

Rocks won't be easy to play against

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

With time running down during Thursday's practice at Plymouth Cultural Center, Salem varsity hockey players battled it out in the corner.

Against each other. But that's by design as Rocks head coach Ryan Ossenmacher is keen on amping up the team's intensity level and ability to take the heat in traffic at both ends of the ice during the 2009-10 sea-

That's bad news for KLAA South rivals, because Salem was no slouch last year. The Rocks went 14-9-2 overall and won the division with a 5-1-1 mark. Twelve players from that team - led by senior captain and defenseman Ryan Blakey — are returning.

"We do a lot of intensity-type drills," said Ossenmacher, whose third season with the team begins Wednesday at Southgate Anderson. "With a 24-game. high school season, each game is pretty important, so these guys really know that every shift they have to be 100 percent.

"So we do a lot of things to raise the intensity in practice."

In one drill, the goal was turned



toward the boards in the corner, guarded by a goalie. The defenseman and forward then battled hard for possession in front, resulting in either a

"Most of the time, any goals that you score are going to come within five feet of the net," Ossenmacher said. "So guys who are going to win those battles with the defensemen are probably going to have the greatest opportunity to score goals."

Defensemen also learn how to fight off pressure down low and clear the zone. "So it works both parts of the game for us," he said.

BUILDING A WINNING CULTURE

The fast-skating Rocks also go into the new season with confidence they can hang with always-tough Livonia Churchill. Last year, Salem defeated Churchill (and then Livonia Franklin) in the final two games to clinch the South.

"It was probably one of the biggest games the program's had," Ossenmacher

Salem's worst-to-first renaissance last

season shouldn't be a one-timer, with 12 guys back from that positive experience.

"It should (carry over) because winning is part of an attitude," he said. "The first year and a half that was something we had to break, the condition that maybe you can compete and if you lost it wasn't a big deal. It just happened.

"Now we go into every game expecting to win as opposed to just expecting to compete."

Filling the schedule with non-leaguers against top-notch teams such as Grosse Pointe South, Bloomfield Hills United and Detroit Country Day also should make Salem tougher to play against come districts.

"Everybody makes it to the playoffs," Ossenmacher said. "So you're used to playing those tough games on a daily basis and when you get to the state tournament, it's not a shock."

It wouldn't be a shock to see Salem's top two lines buzzing around the ice and piling up goals, either.

Intact from '08-09 is the top line, which includes senior center and assistant captain Mario Macari, senior forward Josh Jarvela and fourth-year player Kurt Driscoll.

Please see ROCKS, B3



LAUREN SEROKA

Who: Lauren Seroka, Salem sophomore, girls swimming co-

Miscellany: Seroka, 15, carries a 4.0 grade-point average. Her parents are Todd and Lisa Seroka. As a freshman, she took All-State honors in two swim events and capped off the year by being named to the 2008 All-KLAA and All-Observerland first teams. She competed this weekend in her second Division 1 state meet. Captain's job: "The role of a captain includes many things, such as setting team expectations, promoting team spirit, settling any team disputes, being a positive role model and leading by example. We also lead team meetings, and work with the coach to

make sure everyone is doing what



they are supposed to." Leadership style: "I would say my style of leadership to lead by example. I have a strong work ethic and try to be a positive leader."

Why her?: "Actually our coach selects the team captains. I feel honored that he chose me to be a captain as a sophomore."



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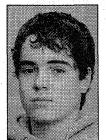
Nimantha Herath **Farmington**



Zack Spreitzer Canton



Keith Zech



Mitch Clinton

All-Observer team features plenty of Wildcats, Chiefs

FIRST TEAM

JOE PORCARI, JR., PLYMOUTH: In just his third season, Porcari is already on the path to school greatness - he is the fourth best runner in Plymouth

His personal record for the season was 16-minutes, 15-seconds. The 4.0 student also placed third at the Division 1 regional and 26th at the state meet, earning him all-state honors.

"Joe was the number one runner on the team this year from the first race to the last race," said Plymouth head coach Jon Mikosz. "He will be one of the top returnees next year and has the potential to be the best runner in school history."

MILES FELTON, SOPH., CANTON: The Chiefs' 2008 Rookie of the Year had quite an encore season, earning him Co-MVP honors as well as All-Region, All-League (second Team)

second year in a row. Felton's best time of the season $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ was an impressive 16:23.

and All-Observerland honors for the

"Miles holds the records for fastest sophomore and fastest freshman in school history," said Canton head coach Bill Boyd. "After only two years, he is already one of the best runners the school has ever seen.'

MATT NEUMANN, SR., PLYMOUTH: The senior co-captain is the eighth-best runner in school history, and he added to his legacy in 2009 with a fourth-place finish at the KLAA Kensington Conference meet (with a PR of 16:36).

During his four years with the Wildcats varsity, Neumann helped

2009 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

FIRST TEAM

Joe Porcari, Jr., Plymouth Miles Felton, Soph., Canton Matt Neumann, Sr., Plymouth Derek Gielarowski, Soph., Plymouth Paul Rakovitis, Sr., Canton Warren Buzzard, Sr., Plymouth Nimantha Herath, Soph., Farmington Zack Spreitzer, Sr. Canton Keith Zech, Sr., Canton Mitch Clinton, Soph., Canton **COACH OF THE YEAR** Jon Mikosz, Plymouth

SECOND TEAM

Jimmy Maciag, Jr., Plymouth Nik Gherardini, Sr. Franklin Tim Windle, Jr., Churchill Quinn Osgood, Sr., Churchill Cody Larsen, Jr., Farmington David Hong, Jr., Farmington Mike Charara, Sr., Salem Joe Urso, Jr., Stevenson Bradon Conley, Soph., Canton Matt Williams, Jr., Stevenson Garrett Neumann, Soph., Plymouth Steve McEvilly, Fr., Salem

part of two division titles, one con-

ference title and teams that finished

"Derek had a great season and

showed that he can run with the top

PAUL RAKOVITIS, SR., CANTON: Rakovitis

had another solid season in his third

year with the varsity, with selection

Teammates honored him with

the Hardest Worker Award and his

"Paul was the team's most consis-

season's best time was 16:45.

to the All-KLAA (second team), All Region and All-Observerland

runners in the area," Mikosz said.

... He has a lot of potential and I

hope he can reach all of it."

squads.

12th and 11th at the state meet

HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Josh Osinski, Andrew Stephens, Steve Watts; Churchill: Ryan Wise, Cody Rossler: Garden City: Alex Boyd: Farmington: Kevin Pitt, Drew Lindman: Franklin: Bobby Wilson, Joe Steckel, Mike Witt, Ryan Derry; Harrison: Dan Leeb, Jalen Graves; John Glenn: Ruben Maya, Jason Suarez; Lutheran Westland: Daniel Bunge; North Farmington: Michael Lett, Anthony Williams; Plymouth: Jimmy Eiben; Justin Heck; Redford Union: Justin Faur, Zack VandenToorn; Salem: Jimmy Daniels; Stevenson: John Lynch; Wayne: Tyler Gendron.

the team win three division titles, two conference championships and be part of a team that finished 12th, 12th and 11th at the Division 1 state

"Matt is not only a great runner but also a team leader," Mikosz saïd. "He capped off a great four years of cross country and will be hard to

DEREK GIELAROWSKI, SOPH., PLYM.: At the D1 state meet, Gielarowski was the seventh-fastest sophomore, another example of how quickly he has become a cog for the Wildcats.

In just two years, he has become the 10th-best runner in plymouth

history (PR of 16:44) and has been

tent runner," Boyd said. WARREN BUZZARD, SR., PLYMOUTH: Cocaptain Buzzard is tied for sixth place all-time at the school and has a career PR of 16:34.

A top student (4.0 GPA), he also is a big reason the Wildcats have won three KLAA South divisions, two conference titles and finished 12th, 12th and 11th at the DI state meet during his four years with the

NIMANTHA HERATH, SOPH., FARMINGTON: The sophomore led the Falcons to the OAA White Division championship with a fourth-place finish and 17:09 time in the division meet at Royal Oak High School. Herath saved his best race for last, running 16:50 and earning 28th place in the Division 1 regional at Brighton. He is a two-time individual co-champion in the Farmington city meet, too.

"Nimantha is a competitive, consistent runner with good race instincts," coach Charlie Stamboulian said. "He steadily improved as the season progressed and had his best races at the conference and regional meets. The future is bright for him."
ZACK SPREITZER, SR. CANTON: Canton's

Co-MVP ran his PR 16:33 at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational, which coach Boyd said was "one of the best runs in school history."

The fourth-year varsity runner and 500 Mile Club member added to his long list of honors this fall. Besides being selected to the All-Observerland, and All-KLAA teams for the third time, he was named a 2009 KLAA Scholar Athlete.

Spreitzer started his Canton

career with top rookie honors in 2006 and he never stopped excelling. According to Boyd, the senior

simply has been "one of the best

runners in school history." KEITH ZECH, SR., CANTON: The senior only ran cross country as a senior,

switching over from football. But his only year as a harrier was such a success that Boyd praised him as "one of the toughest runners Canton has seen."

Zech, whose personal best was 16:43, made the All-KLAA third team and was 18th at the D1 regionals despite being sick for the final two weeks of the season. MITCH CLINTON, SOPH., CANTON: With

two outstanding seasons under his belt, Clinton already is the 24thfastest runner in school history and the fifth-fastest Canton sophomore

The KLAA Scholar Athlete ran 16:48 for his personal best, and earned Unsung Hero honors from his teammates.

Besides again making the All-Observerland team, Clinton was a third-team selection to the All-KLAA squad.

"He runs through injuries and works hard every day," Boyd said.

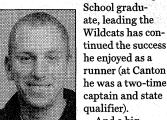
COACH OF THE YEAR

JON MIKOSZ, PLYMOUTH: Under the watchful eye of sixth-year coach Mikosz, the Wildcats enjoyed a stellar 2009 season - including a second-place finish at the D1 regional for the highest finish the team has ever had.

Plymouth took first overall in

October at the Wayne County Meet at Willow Metropark (where the regional took place), and went 5-0 in regular season dual meets to win the KLAA South for a second straight year — going 10-0 over that two-year span.

For Mikosz, a 2001 Canton High



Jon Mikosz Plymouth coach

runner (at Canton he was a two-time captain and state qualifier). And a big reason for the

continuing success is Mikosz,

who expects a lot out of his runners while being very supportive as well. "I think our program is so suc-

cessful because the guys truly love running," said Mikosz, who lives in Canton. "They are not just running to stay in shape or to make friends but they are truly competitive and want to win.

"I expect a lot out of my athletes and they know that. With all that being said we still probably have more fun then any other team around."

They also see how much Mikosz still loves the sport and want to emulate someone who not only excelled at the prep level but ran cross country and track at Eastern Michigan University. "The key is to make sure that every-

one is having a good time," he said. "If you an make that happen the improvements and winning will come."

FROM PAGE B1

"We're much, much stronger than we were last year, faster, bigger and have more skill, especially on the forward side. We have a lot of skill up front."

Last year, the Wildcats started fast (8-3-0) and faded down the stretch as younger players wore down from the

With a year of experience and knowledge, and understanding what kind of physical and mental commitment it takes to excel in high school hockey, the Wildcats very well might avoid that kind of pitfall again.

hockey that a lot of people don't realize is we're on the ice every day," he emphasized. "So from November until March, we have games every Saturday so we're on the ice six days a week."

ing the players are to soak up get from their coach. "I came from Eastern, I was

there 12 years, not as much teaching, more talent, they

understand the game a little bit more," Fassbender said. "But here, a lot of kids really are under instruction for the first time."

PLENTY OF PLAYERS

The Wildcats also have a lot of kids who know opportunity

everyone can take almost everyone's job on any given night," Fassbender said. "So they have to work a little hard-

always helps, but so does being a program on the rise that is being noticed outside of prep circles.

better teams, and competing with them, we're starting to lure better player," the coach stressed. "We picked up a couple AAA players (centers Cody Hunt, Ryan Brown) which hasn't happened for a while ... We're starting to get some interest" from USHL and NAHL Jr. A teams.

and a great shot" while Hunt is "tenacious, he's all over the ice" making nifty plays to line-

probably will be last season's top scorers, senior wingers. Ryan Renault (31 points in 2008-09) and Pat Smiatacz (30 points).

presence who can boom shots while Smiatacz is "similar to Cody, more of a playmaker. He's very gifted with the

Teaming up with Ryan Brown will be sophomore Zach Gambrell (10 goals) and junior Tyler Sanders (14

best friends who have excellent rapport on and off the ice. which doesn't hurt.

and we've kept them together," the coach said. Two other intriguing new-

and he can shoot the puck extremely well," Fassbender said. "Ryan is an all-around team player and great posi-

a solid three lines. It's going to be hard (for opponents) to match up one line against another."

Freshman winger Nick Schultz will see plenty of ice time, even as he learns the prep style (after playing travel hockey).

on the fundamentals of the game," Fassbender said. "He's one of those type of players that the puck seems to find a way to his stick and he can bury it."

LOOKING FOR DEPTH

Leading the blueliners - and the power play — will be 6-3 senior captain Evan Swieczkowski, a savvy player

upstairs (near the blue line)," the coach said. "He tries to move it down low, set guys up for one-timers or re-directs. He moves it quick." Even taller is 6-7 junior

play in 1-on-1 battles and win them." Junior defenseman Justin Bauer is another solid skater who can move the puck well.

play in the top two pairings as he starts his third season with the varsity. Meanwhile, Fassbender

is looking for other defensemen (such as junior Kevin Matusiak) to emerge and help make up for the graduation of 6-5 Chris Merrill and Mitch

Back in goal will be last season's Plymouth MVP, 6-2 junior Mike Justus (2.70 goals against average), who is fresh off a stint playing in the Michigan Developmental Hockey League (an All-Star program for high school players).

"He's a solid goaltender, solid all the way around," Fassbender added. "... There's a few guys with good potential and Justus is one of them." According to the coach,

"This will be a big year for him as a junior for teams to look at him with a solid team in front of him to see how he can play." The backup netminder will

be senior newcomer Zach Vojcek, who played Bantam AA last winter. "He relies on his reflexes. If we need him, he'll be solid."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Coaches, please call

It's getting close to the winter season of high school sports, believe it or not. Coaches or their assistants

are asked to supply recaps of games, meets and matches (win or lose, home or away) to help spotlight the accomplishments of deserving student-athletes at Canton, Plymouth, Salem and Plymouth Christian Academy.

To do so, please e-mail Observer sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife. com) or leave him detailed messages at (313) 222-2637. Deadlines are Tuesday nights for the Thursday paper and Friday nights for the Sunday edition.

YMCA leagues, classes

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering plenty of leagues and instructional classes this winter:

■ YMCA Fall and Winter Basketball leagues are forming for children, ages 4-11. The fall session will take place through Dec. 18 with the winter session slated from Jan. 19-to-March 26, 2010. There will be one practice and one game (Friday nights) per week. All participants need a YMCA Youth Sports Reversible Jersey (\$15).

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when they see it. "We have three or four lines,

er to keep their spot." Friendly competition

"By competing against the

The 6-5 Brown "has size

Teaming up with Hunt

Renault (6-2) is a physical

puck."

Gambrell and Sanders are

"They are on the same line

comers up front include seniors Colin Wright and Ryan "Colin is just flat-out fast

"With all those guys, that's

"He just needs to work

with good puck skills. "He controls the puck

Tyler Lazorka, who is getting stronger on his skates and with the puck. "He's able to knock guys off the puck and

He also is a power-play candi-

Senior Ryan Cigile (6-2) will

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Salem forward Ryan Quigley (No. 7), shown battling against Livonia Churchill's Mike Woynick last season, is one of the players who could make a big impact in 2009-10.

FROM PAGE B1

"Offensively, we would put them against any other team's top line and we expect them to hold their own," Ossenmacher said. "All three of them were in the top four in points on our team."

BIG-TIME POTENTIAL

Both Macari and secondline center Ryan Quigley (junior assistant captain) spent two months "playing against some of the best kids in the state" in the Michigan **Developmental Hockey** League.

The Quigley line won't be any slouch. He will team up with 6-3 right winger Steve Haburne (a third-year player who can hit and score) and first-year player Mark McGee, a "tremendously talented" sophomore left wing who has a hard, heavy shot.

According to Ossenmacher, "the sky's the limit" for Quigley between now and the end of his senior season. Being considered for the all-state team

might be in his future, too. "Ryan is probably one of fastest kids around," the coach

said. "He's been with us for three years and each year he's developed another level.

"We're hoping by the end of the season that he becomes the caliber player we really think he can be with his skills. And in his senior year ... we should be looking at a kid that's competing for an all-state level."

BLAKEY'S BACK THERE

Another key forward could be sophomore center Austin Sartorius, starting his first varsity season. "We feel the ceiling on him is as high as anybody," Ossenmahcer said. "As a sophomore, he's already 6-3 and one of our better skaters.'

On defense, the Rocks return rock-solid Blakev and junior Mike Hochkins with 6-2 first-year senior Matt Hull coming over from a travel hockey team.

"This is Ryan's second year on D and we really expect him to take charge back there," Ossenmacher said. "He's pretty well-rounded, he's probably one of the better skaters on our team and one of our most physical defensemen.

Hochkins, in his third varsity season, probably has the most offensive ability he said "He's a pretty gifted kid."

Hull is expected to bring consistency to the Salem table.

Other defensemen who might step up include junior Max Coral, sophomore Jake Leib and freshman Kyle

Sharing netminding duties will be senior returnee Eric Fiorentino (a backup last year) and senior Steven Manser, who comes over from the Midget A Canton Crush. Both are competing for the No. 1 spot on the pecking order.

"Whoever ends up performing better throughout the course of the season will be that guy," Ossenmacher said.

With the combination of speed, heavy hitting and intensity, a style Ossenmacher said the players have bought into, it very well could be a fun, successful season for the Rocks.

Canned food drive

After the season opener, the Rocks will host Canton at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at Plymouth Cultural Center. The game will also be a canned food drive, with fans asked to bring non-perishable canned or boxed food to the

There will be a raffle for two gas cards during the game.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

assist) swooped in and lifted the rebound high into the cage at 54 seconds to result in the 5-4 OT victory.

Their winning goal probably took some players off the hook after a sloppy game.

"There was a lot of individual play tonight, which caused turnovers," Majszak said. "Which caused (goals against), instead of playing like we did the past couple scrimmage games where we were playing a system and everyone was playing together."

READY TO WIN

The winning goal showed what Canton's top forwards might be able to bring this winter, particularly when they're needed to step it up.

If they can, they will chip in plenty of goals for the Chiefs, 16-8-1 last season under former coach Dan Abraham.

"AJ can score, he has a good shot, good vision," the coach

Hoernschmeyer, one of several new players making the jump from travel hockey, can skate, shoot and make things happen. On Friday, he scored on a breakaway and by banging away at a rebound.

With the graduation of 14 players from that team, and with a new coaching staff (Majszak brought in his former Eastern Michigan teammate, PJ Pinkerton and 2007 Canton grad Brad Barath), it could be a season of transition.

But Majszak won't have any of that. He thinks he has the horses to compete in the KLAA South and in Division 2 postseason play (the Chiefs moved down to D-2 this sea-

"We'll come out flying," he said. "We'll take the body." Canton will need others to

score, however. A couple of forwards who might surprise offensively include junior Jordan Smith

and sophomore Duggan Tear. Smith "brings a lot of speed and enthusiasm to the team

and he has a great shot.'

Watching from behind the bench during his first game as Canton varsity head boys hockey coach is Jeremy Majszak.

Tear, meanwhile, impressed plete package." the coaches during preseason Goalkeepers include former play. "He's stepped it up and put the puck in the net.

strength at the blue line, led by divide playing time. senior returnee Rohn Gaudi. "We know the can all play," "He's just a fast, nitty-gritty defenseman who plays the

body," the coach said. "Nothing special, he just gets the job Majszak knows it will take time for the team to mesh. Another big body is 6-3 junior blueliner Jimmy

assist on Friday's game winner. Senior defenseman Kyle Korte isn't as big as LaFontaine, but he plays just as tough.

LaFontaine, who drew an

Canton will have size and

"He's bringing everything," Majszak said. "He's not huge, but he plays big. He's the comtravel players Bazner, Spencer Craig and Max Sexton. The trio of sophomores will likely

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Majszak said. "They're all capable goaltenders." With so many new players,

"We have the potential to be a great team," he said. "It's going to come down to these guys becoming a team. With talent, desire, speed and size

they have all the tools."

Next up for Canton is a game at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Novi.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Varsity recap

On Nov. 1, the Plymouth-Canton Steelers' varsity football team lost 34-19 to host Rochester in the first round of the Western Suburban Junior Football League playoffs to end the season on a

disappointing note. Coaches were proud of the way the Steelers battled until the final whistle of the day.

JV teams

The cross-town rivalry between the Plymouth-Canton Steelers and Canton Lions culminated Nov. 1 in a first-round WSJFL playoff contest at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Lions prevailed 14-6 to advance to the semifinals.

In a rematch of the previous week, the Lions controlled the line of scrimmage and jumped out 14-0 on TDs by Charlie Turfe and Daniel Kilgore. Quarterback Robert Guajardo and lineman Allante Wheeler also stood out.

The defense made some big plays on the day - none bigger than DaMarcus Kaigler's crushing hit that made a Steeler receiver drop a sure touchdown. Kilgore added an interception while other contributors were Jacob Stropes, Jakob Wickens, Jackson Austin. Isaac Jackson, Everett Czarnota and "Big Ski."

Despite the loss, it was a successful season for the 31player Steelers, who played tough all year.

Freshman teams

Lions: The squad on Nov. 1 avenged an earlier loss to the Brighton Bulldogs with a 19-0 win in the WSJFL playoffs, advancing to the semifinals.

Strong defense carried the day, with Noah Brown, Joey Glunt, Myles Beverly, Brad

Tyszkiewicz, Devin Farmer, Spencer Brown, Evan Voyles, Rubin Williams, and Cody Tapp all strong in the tackle department.

Offensively, the Lions controlled the line of scrimmage and the game clock. Offensive line standouts were Ethan Balogh, David Mason, Julius Crouch, Trevor LaPere, and Alan Farmer, opening big holes all day for strong running of Victor Abraham and Jason Arnold. Abraham scored the two first half touchdown runs for the Lions on runs

of 35 and 60 yards. Arnold

recorded the second half touchdown run of 30 yards, putting the game away for good.

Steelers: A 40-12 playoff win on Nov. 1 against the Farmington Rockets improved the Plymouth-Canton Steelers' record to 9-0.

Sparking the offense were Isaac Emminger (2 TDs behind the blocking of Scott Gregor and Ben Kandah), Rashawn Allen (TD) and quarterback Kyle Burnett.

Linebacker Mason Phillips in particular had a hard-hitting game for the defense.

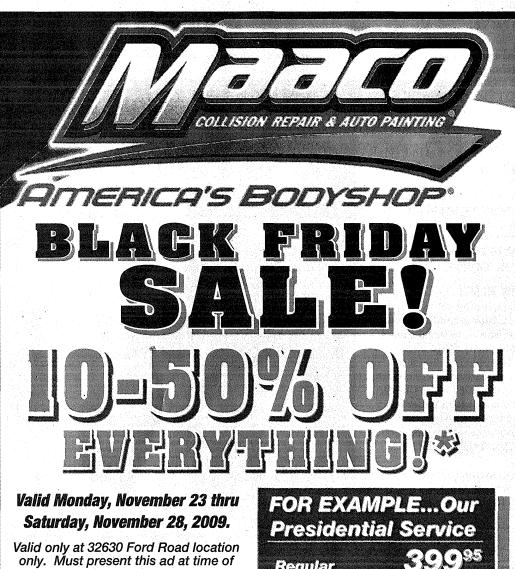




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Hear electronic music at Schoolcraft College Dec. 3

You know what an orchestra is. You know what a choir is. Find out what an electronic music ensemble is at the Electronic Music Summit, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Admission is \$5.

Michigan's three higher education electronic music groups will perform. Wayne State University's group has created a piece based on the seasons and associated colors. The University of Michigan's group is creating a performance artwork incorporating musical furniture. They also will perform a composition by Pauline Oliveras incorporating color wheels and Mylar.

Schoolcraft's group will perform original student compositions and holiday music with 3D animation. Everyone in the audience will receive commemorative 3D glasses.

Electronic music is barely a century old, and the technology that defines it is in constant flux. It has no core repertoire, no pedagogy, no traditions. Electronic music ensembles in higher education vary widely in style and substance, and are usually defined by the vision of their individual directors.

Thomas Court, who leads WSU's electronic music group, has been involved in electronic music since 1974 when his **Electronic Music Laboratories**

introduced modular synthesis to the world of music producers. An active composer and sound designer, Court has been at WSU

Stephen Rush of the U-M is a versatile composer and jazz musician. His music has premiered on five continents, he has recorded more than 20 CDs, and he's written a book on jazz theology.

Barton Polot of Schoolcraft College is a pianist, composer and software developer. He has been director and a guiding force of the annual Michigan Music Technology Conference in Grand Rapids.

For more information call Schoolcraft College at (734) 462-

A smart senior's guide to flu season

Those over 50 need to be immunized against seasonal flu. That's the most important step most older people can take to get safely through the flu season, says Karen Hall, M.D., Ph.D., a University of Michigan Geriatrics Center specialist.

And here's a lesser known fact: Older people who come down with flu-like symptoms should stay home, but promptly contact their primary care physician to carefully monitor their symptoms. They may be priority candidates for antiviral drugs, usually best started within 48 hours of the flu's onset, to make their flu less severe and complications less

"If you have a high fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches, don't wait. Call your health care provider and describe vour symptoms," says Hall, a U-M associate professor of geriatric medicine.

"Anyone with shortness of breath or chest pain should go to an emergency room."

Hall says the first step in getting seasonal flu or H1N1 vaccinations is to contact your primary care doctor to arrange for the vaccinations recommended for you. If you

are a candidate for one or both types of flu vaccine but your doctor has none available, ask to be put on a waiting list.

Some stores, including Meijer, Kroger and Target, offer flu vaccinations, except when vaccines are in short supply as they have been recently. Check to be sure a store has vaccine available.

"It's important to get vaccinated against seasonal flu now, or as soon as possible,' says Hall. Seasonal flu is already circulating in the com-

For those middle-aged and older, advice on who should be vaccinated for each type of flu depends on your health status and your age. Here's a breakdown about who should get which vaccinations:

■ Seasonal flu vaccine: All people 50 or older are more likely to be severely affected and should get vaccinated.

■ Pneumonia vaccine: if you are over 65, or are under age 65 and have a health condition that puts you at higher risk, ask your doctor about getting a pneumonia vaccination. This vaccine is widely available and protects against the most common form of pneumonia. Booster pneumonia vaccinations are needed every five to seven years.

■ H1N1 vaccine: If you are age 49-64 and have certain health conditions that put you at greater risk, ask your doctor about an H1N1 flu shot. Conditions include chronic lung conditions such as emphysema and asthma, immune disorders, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, lung and liver disorders, neurological disorders and kidney disorders.

People over 64 aren't eligible for H1N1 vaccine, because they are the most likely to already have some immunity due to earlier exposure to a similar flu strain.

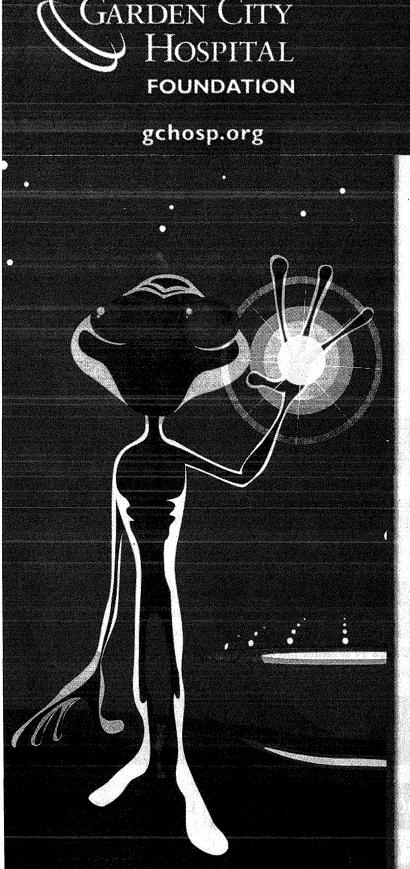
Tips to avoid catching the flu:

■ Wash hands or use a hand sanitizer frequently.

Avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth.

■ Practice good health habits: Get plenty of sleep, eat nutritiously, drink fluids and exercise.

Avoid crowds and contact with people who are sick. If grandchildren or other children in your life have a flu-like illness, avoid seeing them until about 72 hours after they've stopped having symptoms.



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NEIGHBORS

Alumni to gather for tribute to choir director

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN CORRESPONDENT

In less than an hour Jerry Smith was expecting the wonderful aura of excitement to return to the music room at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth.

On Oct. 4, the Livonia resident had been amazed by the number of former students eager to attend the first rehearsal for the Homecoming Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Concert Choir at Bentley High School in Livonia. Smith never imagined that nearly 600 of his students would respond to an invitation to sing at the event when sonin-law Ron Moon put out the call on classmates.com nearly two years ago.

Close to 150 showed up for the second rehearsal Nov. 1, sending Smith's spirits soaring. His face beamed with pride that so many would pay tribute to him at the Nov. 28 event which not only celebrates the 50th anniversary but his 75th birthday, as well. The festivities will include a strolling dinner, performances and recording of an alumni CD and DVD at Burton Manor in Livonia.

Smith founded and directed the choirs from 1959 until the school closed in 1985. He incorporated several of the traditions from his days singing with the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club into the Bentley vocal music program including a series of concerts in Europe. At U-M he learned the best ensembles were highly disciplined and held to practices that built camaraderie. Smith incorporated the rehearsal parties,



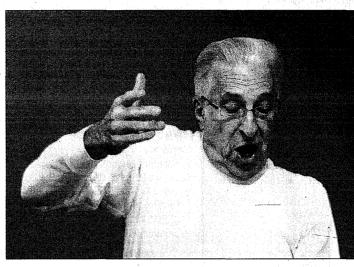
PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINOZA

Sharon and Jerry Smith share a passion for music.

initiations, formal ceremonies, banquets and awards into the high school's choir experience along with a grading system that required voice and music reading tests for every marking period. He also envisioned an elite ensemble that students could aspire to: the Concert

COMMON INTEREST

Smith's wife Sharon observed the growth of the vocal music department nearly from the beginning. Shortly after moving to Livonia a fellow student encouraged her to try out on piano for the variety show. She did and the rest is history, says Jerry. He asked



Jerry Smith rehearses with his former Bentley choir students.



Jerry Smith rehearses with former students while his wife, Sharon, accompanies on piano.

her to accompany the choir. From January 1960 for the next 2 1/2 years she joined the choir on stage with the man who would become her hus-

"I played Deep Purple. I didn't know what an encore was so I played the same song again," said Sharon (Hubbs) Smith laughing.

It's obvious that after 45 vears of marriage the couple is still in love. The choir for many years was their common denominator. Even though she went away to Belmont College in Nashville, a fire continued to burn brightly between them. Sharon wrote to Jerry and to his surprise he wrote back. He'd received letters from former students before but never had time with his busy school schedule to answer them.

"We're both Christians and loved music, both of our families were from the south," said Sharon. "When I came home for Christmas we went on a hayride with the choir. During spring break he proposed.'

HARMONIOUS MARRIAGE

The couple was married June 27, 1964 in Friendship Baptist Church in Lincoln Park, the only church large enough to hold the 800 guests. A choir of his former students sang along with friends espousing the couple's love in the songs they wrote to each other. In 1973, they moved to Livonia where he founded the Creative and Performing Arts Program at Churchill High School and annually directs the music for the Livonia Prayer Breakfast.

"It was easy to fall in love with her because I respected her, "said Jerry. "It has been wonderful. We're an unusual couple. I'm nine years older than Sharon and was driven. We had enough differences so we were never bored."

Before they married however Sharon wanted to know who would be number one - her or Bentley's vocal music department. Sharon had witnessed firsthand his overwhelming dedication to students resulting in countless hours spent away from home.

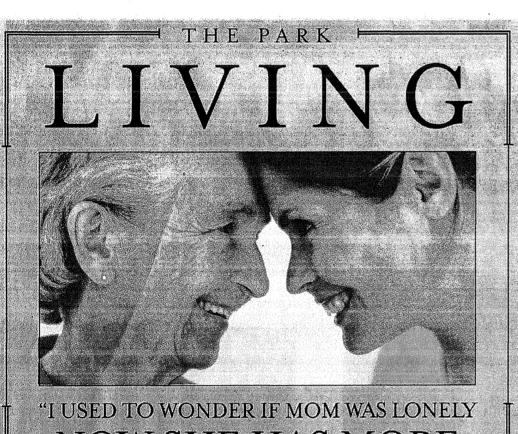
"He changed," said Sharon. "There were no surprises. He's a planner, organized. He's a good dad. Our son and him go to U of M games together. He does stuff with his daughters. He made time for family. The kids were part of everything we did."

ACTIVE IN CHURCH

The three Smith children sang in choirs, at church and school, under the direction of their father. Jerry was choir director at Ward Presbyterian Church, first in Livonia then Northville for nearly three decades. Sharon was the accompanist.

"We were a team, toured with Ward Youth Choir," said Sharon. "He always tried to get

Please see **ELEMENTS**, **B7**



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Sleep Well This Holiday-And All Year Long:

Yes. You Can Buy a Good Night's Sleep at the New Pure Sleep Store in Canton.

By Elena Diverno

It sounds too good to be true: spend 30 minutes at Pure Sleep and you'll sleep better every night. But hundreds of people have already discovered the great benefits of the unique sleep diagnostic system' offered at the new Art Van Pure Sleep store on Ford Road in

This first of its kind, standalone store offers a unique diagnostic system that fits the right "sleep system" to each individual person. The sleep system is a three-part solution that includes the proper mattress and foundation for proper support and comfort, the correct pillow to ensure correct spinal alignment, and a mattress protector to provide a clean and healthy sleeping

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The National Sleep Foundation reports that 60% of us have sleep disturbance two or more nights each week, and 40% struggle with poor performance at work and drowsiness during the day because of sleep problems. In addition issues caused by weight gain, heart disease, arthritis, back pain and more can be lessened by having a good night's sleep along with proper diet and exercise.

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The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@

hometownlife.com. Got a photo of your graduating class? Maybe a prom photo or some other special moment? Send it along, too, as a jpg attachment.

Cody High School

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 22, 2009



PROPOSED ACTION:

DATE OF HEARING: TIME OF HEARING: PLACE OF HEARING:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL LAND USE

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N.

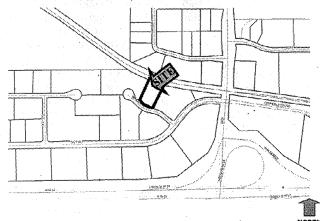
Haggerty Road Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received a petition from Rainbow

Rehabilitation Centers requesting Special Land Use Approval for a

physical therapy center in a TAR, Technology and 'Research District, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 18.2.1, on R-78-008-01-0002-302. The property is located at 14328 Genoa

Court.

Application 2019 Applicant, Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-008-01-0002-302. The property is located 14328 Genoa Court.

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

> KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY PLANNING COMMISSION

REUNION CALENDAR

Classes of 1955-58 Holiday lunch, 1 p.m. Dec. 21, at Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. Contact: Vera at (734) 591-1305 or Irene at (248) 489-0415.

Detroit Pershing Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Farmington High School Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion, Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblehn@aol.

Fordson High School Class of 1984

25-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 28, Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$65 per person and includes dinner, dancing/DJ, and full bar. A photographer will be on-site taking

and selling group and individual photos. Invitations will be mailed out in October. E-mail Michele (Tonna) Belczak at michelebel@sbcglobal.net or Melanie (Monaghan) Scharboneau at mscharboneau@yahoo.com to

provide current mailing address. Garden City High School Class of 1960

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

Garden City West Class of 1970

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the

classes of 1968-1972 also cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Dearborn Heights Haston High Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com

Ladywood Class of 1984

25th reunion, Dec. 26; for information e-mail to Sara Czarnecki Levitsky at saralevitsky@com-

cast.net Livonia Bentley

Classes of 1968-1970 Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, 1-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit www. bentley686970.org to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of 1968 at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of 1969 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembor class of 1970 at (734) 455-1395

Classes of '78, '79, '80 Combo-Class Reunion Friday,

Nov. 27, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100, Livonia, Tickets are \$50 before Nov. 1 and \$60 after. Doors open at 6 p.m. The event includes food, live music and an open bar.

Visit www.bentleyclassof1979. com. Contact bentlevclassof78@ yahoo.com or call John at (734) 358-3272.

Livonia Franklin Class of 1979

30-year reunion, 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 28, at the Radisson Hotel, Livonia. For information call Sharon at (734) 261-3264 or e-mail to Mary Porretta Loveley at porreml@kellyservices.com

Livonia Stevenson Class of 1979

30th reunion, 6 p.m., Nov. 28, at Station 885, 995 Starkweather, Plymouth. Tickets cost \$35 per person before Nov. 14 and \$50 per person after the date and at the door. Contact Lisa Falk at lisannefalk@comcast.net

Oak Park High School Class of 1980

30th reunion, July 2-4, 2010; for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@vahoo.com

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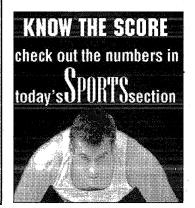


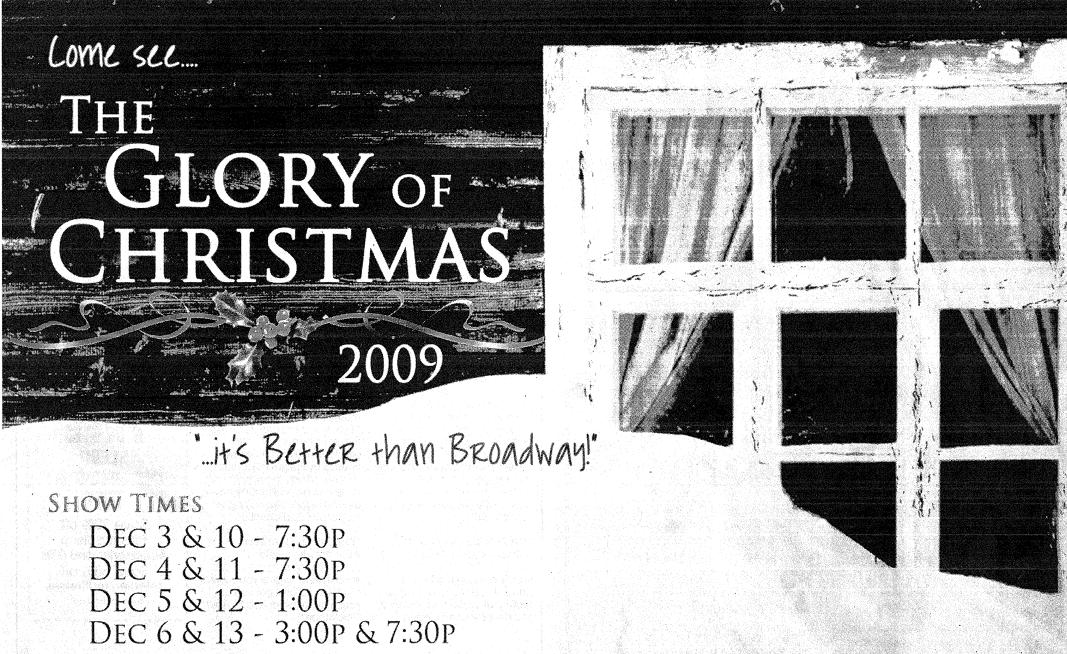
@ Center Court Sports • 7171 N. Haggerty • Canton, MI For More Information Call 248-987-4107

Support Canton Goodfellows

The Canton Public Library will accept nonperishable food items noon to 6 p.m. today (Sunday) to help the Canton Goodfellows collect holiday food for local families in need.

Items may be dropped off in the library's community room.





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NorthRidge Church



PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINO7A

Members of the soprano section rehearse for the reunion concert on Nov. 28.

Homecoming sure to be grandest Bentley party

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN CORRESPONDENT

All around the room, all that could be heard was Dr. Smith this and Dr. Smith that. The chatter seemed naturally to focus on the man who shaped their lives.

For 26 years, except for one when he went on sabbatical to earn a doctorate, Jerry Smith instilled discipline in Bentley High School choir students. On Nov. 28, they'll reunite and pay tribute to Smith at the Homecoming Celebration at Burton Manor in Livonia.

In the meantime they were about to rehearse Christmas songs they'd come to know so well during their time with him in Concert Choir, the elite ensemble for vocal students at Bentley High School in Livonia from 1960 to 1985.

Dian Segal carried the lessons with her into the business world as human resources director for UPS for 20 years. The Livonia woman retired only when her kidneys started failing. She's worked on the committee for the Nov. 28 event for nearly two years and plans to be there as she awaits a transplant.

SEASONAL FAVORITES

Along with enjoying a strolling dinner and silent auction of memorabilia, nearly 600 former Concert Choir members will rehearse then record favorites such as the It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Silver Bells, Do You Hear What I Hear?, Johnny Mathis's "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" (The Christmas Song), Mary Had a Baby, Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, O Holy Night, and The Prayer, an original by Smith.

The 16-member committee has rented a 9-foot grand piano for special alumni guests, such as concert pianist and composer Clifford Smith. Several professional musicians will be performing including Heidi Hepler who's sung everything from opera to jazz and now lives in New York.

"It's a chance to reunite with old friends and do something we all believe in (the Bentley vocal music department)," said Segal. "Dr. Smith taught me structure and organization. I don't want to say he was strict but he had rules and we followed those rules. If you were late, you were docked, chewing gum, docked, not sitting up straight, docked, but rules

paid off and made us successful. Imagine 100 people trying to sing together without rules."

RECORDING THE MUSIC

Committee member Lawrence Zanes says he's on the phone almost daily with former students who want to come and pay tribute to Smith for the impact he made on their lives. On Nov. 28, they'll assemble to rehearse before recording a CD. They've hired a DVD editor and are using four cameras to capture the performance.

"We'll have memorable music with Christmas trees and collage posters of every choir on display, separate tables for years, videos of past years," said Smith.

Kurt Meyer, a 1982 graduate sang in the Concert Choir of 1981-82. His sister Kim Alderman sang with Smith as well.

"It's an opportunity to revisit with some old classmates, to sing with excellent voices," said Meyer, a Livonia resident. "My sister and I sing with the Livonia Civic Chorus that my dad started in 1969 and I sang with Dr. Smith in church choir also

Alumni from as far away as Austria and the Virgin Islands are coming for the Nov. 28 Homecoming Celebration.

Dream and Jill are the featured adoptable greyhounds from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption this week.

Here's what volunteers say about these graceful dogs:

Dream is a 2 1/2-yearold brindle colored female greyhound. She is a little shy and would love to be adopted into a somewhat quiet home. She currently is living in a foster home with a couple of cats and two greyhounds. She loves playing with toys. She never owned a toy before and has discovered how much fun it is to toss them in the air and play. Take a look at the organization's Web site (www. greyheart.org) for another adorable picture of Dream.

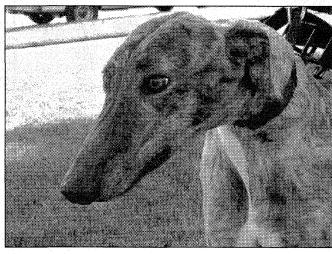
Jill recently left the racetrack for the good life and is looking for a family to call her own. She's stunningly beautiful, with a black shiny coat and the most soulful eyes that will just draw you in. She's 3 years old and is very curious about her new life in a real home. She's very energetic and learning the in's and out's of living with a family. She's also very affectionate and loves to give kisses.

"Greyhounds are an alluring breed with a gentle personality that tends to draw a crowd wherever they go," says Jackie Bowen,

ADOPT A GREYHOUND



Jill is a former racing dog.



Dream is a little shy.

Greyheart member. If you're interested in meeting Dream or Jill, call Greyheart Greyhound

Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 and check out the Web site at www. greyheart.org.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WIDOWS, WIDOWERS

Widowed Friends invites widows and widowers to an Italian buffet dinner Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 Seven Mile, three blocks west of Inkster, Livonia.

A social hour will start at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Enjoy conversation, cards, games, and meet new friends until 9:30 p.m.. Cost is \$12 cash only payable at the door. It includes the buffet, dessert, beverages, tax and tip. Cash bar. RSVP by Dec. 6 to Chet at (734) 459-4316 or Pat at (248) 545-8348.

PLAY BASKETBALL

The Livonia Recreation Department is registering teams now for a Men's Basketball League that will start play in early January 2010. Cost is \$400 per team plus nonresident and officials fees per game.

To sign up or for more information, call (734) 466-2410.

BENEFIT DINNER

Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen is teaming up with Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington to help raise money for its athletic committee.

The restaurant, 17107

Haggerty, Northville, will donate 10 percent of dining checks generated from 4-10 p.m., Monday, Nov. 23, to Our Lady of Sorrows. To be eligible, the check must be accompanied by a copy of the "Papa's Partners" event voucher. Reservations are recommended.

To find out more or to obtain a Papa's Partners event voucher. call Carolyn Malzone at (248) 408-7387.

Our Lady of Sorrows is at 24040 Raphael, Farmington. Our Lady of Sorrows school provides preschool, half-day and full-day kindergarten and grades one through eight.

Soprano Rachelle (Beaupre) Vick sings.

an accompanist, but when he couldn't I would fill in. I would take whatever child was home with me and set them down next to the piano with a coloring book and crayons.

Jerry is now in music ministry at First Presbyterian in Plymouth where daughter Carole Moon directs the children's choir and Sharon is the assistant organist/accompanist. Daughter Kimberly Swan is a professional musician. Son Darrell is a builder who loves

The Smiths have five grandchildren. Together as a family they will sing the Concert

Need Help?

Not sure where to turn for answers regarding:

Loan Modification

Credit Repair

Property Tax Appeals Property Short Sale

Choir theme song, We Have This Moment Today. A portion of the Nov. 28 program features former students who've gone on to sing professionally like Heidi Hepler, a vocalist/lyricist with the ability to perform everything from opera to jazz. Sharon's women's ensemble, The Fifth Season, with members from several area churches, also will take to the stage at Burton Manor in Livonia.

"It's going to be so nostalgic," said Sharon with tears in her eyes.

The Homecoming Celebration takes place 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Tickets are \$50. Call Tommi Mozier West at (734) 421-5795 or Lawrence Zane (734) 347-8810. www.bentleychoirs.com.

Unique glasses help vision impaired see better

Low vision doctors **Sheldon Smith and Donald Haiderer** prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.

Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for

reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we make glasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. "They can be taken anywhere, unlike electronic table-top magnifiers. And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."



David Welch with driving glasses

"We prescribe surgical quality telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity

of use so your eyes see the best they can. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

Urgency is critical to success. Prompt treatment gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in waiting to get worse. Whether reading or driving, the best time to start is early, with milder devices. If necessary, using stronger devices comes easier after mastering mild ones.

We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes start from \$1800.

Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

TOLL FREE: 877-677-2020

Refinancing I help responsible homeowners, undergoing serious hardships in this recession, keep their

homes, save on their property taxes and repair their credit. Call Sam at 313-378-0484 or feel free to email any questions to me at Sam@theassessorgroup.com

The Assessor Group-Livonia www.theassessorgroup.com

Low Vision of Michigan

Located throughout Michigan: Livonia, Warren, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Port Huron, Okemos, Fenton, Burton, Lambertville

Dr. Sheldon Smith and Dr. Don Haiderer low vision optometrists www.suburbaneyecare.com

ENGAGEMENT

Thompson-Koziol

Dennis and Sandy Thompson of Northville, Janet Whitson of Redford Township and Walter and Jeannie Koziol of Highland Township announce the engagement of Laura Thompson and Andrew

The bride-to-be attended Northville High School and Eastern Michigan University.

The groom-elect attended Detroit Catholic Central High School and Michigan State University.

The couple plans a May 2010 wedding in Northville.



Laura Thompson and Andrew Koziol

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 22, 2009



RAE HAFNER **BALLENTINE**

There will be a memorial service celebrating the life of Rae Hafner Ballentine on Saturday Nov. 28 at 1:00PM at St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham, MI. There will be a reception at the church immediately following the service.



Born November 25, 1916 Passed November 20, 2009

Frances Bramblett slipped gracefully into heaven with her loving children by her side at Hospice of Beaumont Hospital following a stroke, just five days shy of her 93rd birthday. Frances was born and raised in Marietta, Georgia, daughter of Eli Wesley and Margaret Giles Garrison. She attended Marietta High School and Georgia State college for Women, after which she taught school for two years.

She was most happily married to Earl R. Bramblett on June 25, 1937, and they had a long and loving marriage and life after moving to Michigan, where Earl rose to become Vice President of Personnel for General Motors corporation. Frances was active in her children's Brownie, Cub and Girl Scouting activities for many

Both Frances and Earl were very active in the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan, where they served on the Board of Deacons and The Board of Trustees. Earl also taught the Christian Forum adult Bible study class for twenty-five years before passing away in 1976. They spent their winters in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii for thirty years and were active in their local church

Frances and Earl both loved to play bridge and golf. Earl was an extremely accomplished golfer, with seven holes in-one to his credit, and a handicap of seven when he passed. They were proud members of the Augusta National Golf Club. Frances played golf into her 80's and continued to play bridge several times each week right

up until her passing.

The bases of Frances' life were her love and relationship with Earl, and her deep and abiding Christian faith in god and her personal Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. She lived according to the ten commandments plus Jesus' two commandments that one love God with all thier heart, mind and strength, and that one love one's neighbor as

After Earl's passing in 1976, Frances was very lonely and missed him tremendously, but kept her faith and was a shining example of it. She insisted on being addressed as "Mrs. Earl" and we soon discovered that the reason was; Mrs. Earl misses Earl. Frances kept in close, regular touch with her children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren as well as her many friends and relatives across the county. Frances was greatly loved for her generous spirt and friendly manner, always ready to help her family, friends and neighbors in any way she could. She was always colorfully and stylishly dressed and brought a ray of sunshine into each room she entered. She was preceded in death by her par-

ents, her husband, Earl, her brothers E.W. Garrison and Robert T. Garrison, and her sister Willie Mae Bramblett, who was married to Earl's brother.

She is survived by her children Bonnie Swift (James Langbehn, dec.) of Fairfax, CA, Billy Bramblett (Alicia Keshishian) of Petaluma, CA; grand-children Josh Swift (Lori) of Erie, CO, Melissa Ohara (Mike) of Petaluma, CA, Sarah Swift-Langbehn of San Anselmo, CA, and Simone Swift-Langbelm of San Francisco, CA; and great-grandchildren Cade and Donovan Swift, and Ryan, Kylenand Brady Ohara. Also surviving are her sisters-in law, Lorene Garrison, and Jenny Senning, along with dozens of cousins, nieces and nephews

A service celebrating Frances' life will be held at the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, MI at 200 Bates (At Willets) on Tuesday, November 24, at 11 AM. A reception will follow in the church parlor. Frances will be buried next to Earl in the Garrison family plot at the Marietta City Cemetery in Marietta, GA.

In Lieu of flowers, the family asks donations to the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan.



DORIS HAMMOND FEDUS Age 98 of Petoskey, MI and formerly of Livonia, died November 13, 2009 at the home. A memorial celebration was held on Friday November 20th from 1-4pm at the Stafford's Bay View Inn in Petoskey with the service being held at 2:30pm. Arrangements are in the care of the Stone Funeral Home of Petoskey.

EMIL MAKILA

Age 87, of Livonia, passed away November 17, 2009. Arrangements THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI.



JOE E. HALL JR.

Age 75 passed away November 10, 2009. Born June 27, 1934 in Detroit, MI. Preceded in death by his wife, Barbara C. (Williams) Hall, son Joe E. Hall III and survived by his sister Elva Hall of Homosassa, FL, son Tad Hall Grass Lake, granddaughter Jacquelyn and grandson Joshua and caring family and friends throughout the country. Joe worked as a tool and die maker and retired from Detroit Diesel in 1999. He enjoyed mechanical work and could practically create a lawn mower for a friend from spare parts in his garage. Thanks to the Belle Oakes Living Center staff in Lake City for taking care of Joe and allowing our jokester to carry on with hiding vacuum cleaners and other such schemes A memorial will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hartland Hospice, P.O. Box 667, West Branch, MI, 48661 In Remembrance of Joe Hall.



SUSAN L. WELLS

Age 57, November 19, 2009. Beloved wife of Bill. Loving mother of Dan & Brett (Amanda). Devoted grand mother of Isabella. Visitation at the R G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday 2-9 pm and Monday from 1 pm until Funeral Service at 3 pm Memorial contributions may be directed to American Cancer Society Please share a memory of Susan at:

www.rggrharris.com

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday will be placed in the next available issue

e-mail your obit to

oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968 For more information call: **Char Wilson** 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355

ask for Char or Liz

OE08658429

MILESTONES



Five generationsGreat-great-grandma Maryanne Galutira of Garden City holds Wednesday Yuchasz. Next to Maryanne is great-grandma Janet Yuchasz, followed by the baby's mother. Kayla Yuchasz, and grandma Diane Schnider.

65TH ANNIVERSARY

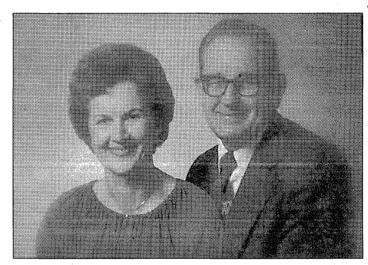
James "Jim" and Helen Willey of Livonia will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Dec. 1.

The couple met in Columbus, Ohio, in December 1942 while Jim was in the Navy and Helen was in training to become a registered nurse. Helen graduated in October 1944 from Toledo State Hospital and James was commissioned at the Coast Guard Academy in November that same year.

During their marriage they raised one son, while Jim worked for the U.S. government both stateside and internationally before and after World War ll. Jim also finished his formal education through the Washington International College and received his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. Later, Jim continued advanced studies at Wayne State University.

Over the years Jim worked for several design/build engineering firms as well as consulting engineering firms. He was the project manager on two of the largest local projects. The first was the Detroit Newsprint Plant in Sterling Heights and the second was the *Detroit Free Fress* plant on the Detroit River. Jim retired in 1985.

Helen worked in nursing in Columbus, Ohio, until their son was born, when she became a stay-at-home mom. She occasionally traveled with her son and husband while Jim was



James and Helen Willey of Livonia

on various extended assignments. During their son's teen years, Helen returned to work in 1961 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where she was the head nurse in the plastic surgery clinic. She retired because of medical reasons in 1982.

Their family continues on with four generations, with the majority living in the area. Michael, their son, lives with Delores, their daughter-in-law, in Garden City. Rachel, their granddaughter, is an emergency medicai technician and lives in Westland with their two greatgrandchildren, Zachery and Zoey. James M., their grandson, who has served in the military as a U.S. Army Ranger Medic, is now working for the U.S. government in Fairfax, Va., as a civilian instructor.



Jim and Helen Willey of Livonia on their wedding day 65 years ago.

WEDDING



Cpl. Jesse Stevens and Heather Ann Rudowski

Rudowski-Stevens

Cpl. Jesse Stevens, USMC, formerly of Livonia, and Heather Ann Rudowski, also of Livonia, were married Oct. 17, 2009, at Our Master Lutheran Church in Inkster.

The bride is the daughter of David Rudowski of Westland, and Deborah Rudowski of Livonia. She is pursuing a nursing degree in Alexandria,

Va., where the couple resides. The groom is the son of Anthony Stevens of Columbus, ind., and Shereen Janisse of Livonia. He is a USMC corporal stationed at Ft. Belvoir in Alexandria, Va.

Heather graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School in 2006 and Jesse is a 2005 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School.

Zoo offers abundance of holiday gift ideas

When the shopping mall becomes a zoo this holiday season, shoppers can make the Detroit Zoo their "mall."

A Detroit Zoo gift card can be loaded with any amount \$5 and up and used for admission and parking as well as tickets for the new Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater, Wild Adventure Ride, Tauber Family Railroad and Giraffe Encounter feeding station.

The reloadable gift cards are also good at gift shops and food concessions. The gift cards are available for purchase at the admission gates daily during regular zoo hours. For more information, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750.

The Detroit Zoological Society also offers many gift ideas that allow the giver to give twice. Proceeds will help support the animals at the Detroit Zoo and preserve the world's wildlife.

• Opt to Adopt. "Adopt" an adorable aardvark or a ravishing red panda. Gift package includes a plush animal, fact sheet and personalized photo certificate. The cost is

\$90 for the aardvark (regular price \$100) and \$45 for the red panda (regular price \$50) when purchased before Jan. 1,

 Membership Has Its Privileges. Members receive unlimited admission to the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo, free parking, discounts at gift shops and many other benefits. Prices range from \$45 to \$150. Residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties receive \$10 off all categories and can purchase up to four gift memberships at the

discounted rate.

• Pave the Way. Make a lasting impression with a 4by-8-inch brick tribute paver engraved with a loved one's name or message. The brick will be installed in 2010. Cost is \$90 (regular price \$100) before Jan. 1, 2010.

 Close Encounters of the Animal Kind. Breakfast with the Butterflies (\$300 per group of four), Breakfast with the Giraffes (\$500 per group of four) and Mingle with the Macaronis (\$500 per group of four) allow visitors age 7 and older to get up close and personal with residents.

• Buy a Butterfly. A brassfinished laser-etched butterfly can be purchased for \$500.

 Best Seat in the House. Dedicate a seat in the Ford Education Center's Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater in the name of an individual or family. Seats cost \$500 and \$750 and a brass plaque will be placed on the seat.

 Leave Your Mark in the Park. A zoo bench donated in a special someone's honor leaves a lasting legacy. The bench will be placed at the Detroit Zoo or Belle Isle Nature Zoo and includes a brass recognition plaque. New benches are \$5,000; existing benches are \$2,000.

• The Gift That Keeps On Growing. Have a tree planted at the zoo. Trees are \$5,000 and include a brass recognition plaque. To order holiday gifts, click on www.detroitzoo. org, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750, or visit the Membership Office at the front of the zoo in Royal Oak.



a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at \$15.00 for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th

...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Thursday, Dec. 24th ...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th



Call: 800-579-7355 Fax: 313-496-4968 Email: oeads@hometownlife.com

Avoid high-calorie holidays with sensible eating

For many people, food is an important part of the holiday season. Family gatherings feature meals consisting of high-fat, high-calorie temptations that can sabotage even the most dedicated of otherwise healthy eaters. TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, recommends strategies that will allow you to navigate common food-centered traps while still enjoying festive celebrations without regret. Consider the following "smart swapping" tips to ensure that the turkey is the only one stuffed this season:

 Choose two slices of skinless turkey breast over a drumstick to save calories and reduce fat and cholesterol.

 Avoid using boxed stuffing mix and, instead, make your own with whole grain bread and turkey or chicken sausage. Increase the nutritional value by incorporating fruits, such as apples, pears, and cranberries, or almonds and

TOPS promotes successful weight management with a philosophy that combines healthy eating, regular exercise, wellness education, and support from others at weekly chapter meetings. TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, and several chapters in Europe.

walnuts.

· Canned cranberry sauce often contains excess amounts of highfructose corn syrup. Make your own cranberry sauce by pureeing dried cranberries in orange juice and water, or substitute the sauce with fruit-flavored gelatin.

• Replace candied sweet potatoes with mashed or baked sweet potatoes. Replace heavy cream in the mashed potatoes with low-fat

buttermilk and add a vegetable that can be easily mashed, such as turnips or green onion. Olive oil and dried or fresh herbs liven up roasted red potatoes with minimal calories.

· Commonly known as "cocktail franks" or "pigs in a blanket," bite-sized hot dogs are always a popular appetizer but laden with sodium and fat. Instead, snack on mini quiches for a tasty dose of protein that keeps you full.

· Steer clear of crab cakes, which are typically breaded and deep-fried. Enjoy pieces of steamed or boiled shrimp dipped in cocktail sauce for a calorie-light alternative.

 Swap potato chips and dip for the equally satisfying crunch of veggies. Dip into hummus or salsa for a low-calorie, flavorful top-

• For a sweet snack, enjoy an apple baked with cinnamon and nutmeg instead of an overly-indulgent caramel apple.

• Pecan pie contains high

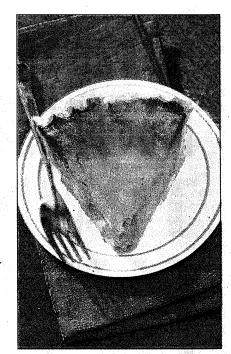
amounts of sugar and fat - up to 800 calories per slice. Choose pumpkin pie for a rich, creamy dessert, and make it even healthier by using evaporated skim milk and egg substitute.

· Consisting of heavy cream, eggs, milk, and sugar, egg nog is a classic holiday beverage. But even without the addition of alcohol, this drink can still spell disaster for those who are watching their weight. Try homemade hot chocolate and leave off the whipped cream to partake sensibly.

With these simple trade-offs and a bit of discipline, you will be able to celebrate the season without feeling deprived - but just as satisfied.

TOPS Club Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the original, nonprofit weight-loss education and support organization, was established more than 61 years ago to champion weight-loss support and success. Founded and headquartered in Milwaukee.

Wis., TOPS promotes successful Europe.



weight management with a philosophy that combines healthy eating, regular exercise, wellness education, and support from others at weekly chapter meetings. TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, and several chapters in

Support groups help you keep weight off

Here's a sampling of local

TOPS groups: Canton

St. Thomas A'Becket, 555 S.. Lilley; meetings at 7 p.m., Thursday

Farmington Hills

Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile; meetings at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday

Tapiola Village, 35150 W. Eight Mile, in the clubhouse; meetings at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Garden city

The Harrison Center, 6701 Harrison, room 7; meetings at 10 a.m., Thursday

Livonia

Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail; meetings at

6 p.m., Tuesday Church of the Holy Spirit,

Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile; meetings at 7:15 p.m., Monday

Redford

South Redford Christian Church, 26505 W. Chicago Road; meetings at 7:30 p.m., Thursday

Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway; meetings at noon, Wednesday

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly; meetings at 7 p.m., Tuesday

Westland

Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road;

meetings at 7 p.m., Monday St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road; 7:30 p.m., Wednesday

Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley; meetings at 6:45 p.m. Monday

Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. To find a complete list of TOPS chapters in southeastern Michigan, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-

Healthy Legs, Healthy You!

"I thought it was normal for my legs to ache at the end of the day."

You may have a medical condition covered by insurance known as Venous Insufficiency if you experience any of these leg symptoms:

- -Pain/aching/throbbing
- -Heaviness or fatigue -Swelling of feet/ankles
- -Restless legs
- -Night cramps
- -Itchy veins
- -Varicose veins -Non-healing ulcers



Studies have demonstrated that there is a significant deterioration in the quality of life for persons with chronic venous insufficiency and this can be severe. Don't wait to get

You're never too old or young to jumpstart your health and fitness program with healthy legs! Have your legs treated in under an hour with no-downtime, no scarring and NO STRIPPING using the latest technology.

Rosacea & Facial veins with Veinwave™ Advanced Vein Therapies is the only location in Michigan with this technology

New, safe & effective treatment for

Please visit our website and see how we have helped others at www.AVtherapies.com or call now for consultation.



ADVANCED VEIN

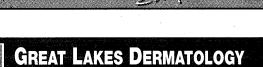
Jeffrey H. Miller, MD is Metro Detroit's foremost board-

certified authority on varicose and spider vein care, specializing in treating venous diseases for nearly fifteen years.

248.344.9110 www.AVtherapies.com 46325 W. 12 Mile Road Suite 335 Novi West of Novi Road Near 1-96

9083 Newburgh; meetings at 9:30 a.m., Thursday





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

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



A doctor bases a patient's return visit on a combination of instinct and experience. No physician would argue over a patient returning earlier for an arthritis problem if the improvement anticipated did not occur.

The question arises of how long one should wait for that anticipated improvement. For example, the doctor takes fluid off a swollen and painful knee and injects a steroid preparation. The doctor usually will tell the patient that the knee rould feel better that evening or certainly by the next day

The doctor cannot say how much better or how long the improvement will last that determination is the patient's to make. However, the patient can use several guidelines. One is that as long as the involved joint is improving, it is reasonable to wait. The improvement may be slower than anticipated, but the key point is that the improvement is ongoing. The second guide is function. If sleep is not disrupted by joint pain, and the ability to function during the day remains, then waiting is still in

What if the doctor schedules a return appointment for a joint problem, but the joint feels fine? Should the patient cancel the appointment? That question is not readily answered. My practice is that if the patient feels good there is no need to see me. However, other doctors may differ, feeling that they, by examination, will decide

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com





appenings ai flie...

Monday-Sunday, November 23-29 FREE WEEK GUEST PASS

Includes Wellness Center, lap and family swims, water exercise and men's basketball.

Wednesday, November 25 • 7-8:00 pm FREE SEMINAR

"Healthy Eating During the Holidays"

Thursday, November 26 • 8-10:00 am *Thanksgiving day* TURKEY BUSTER CLASS

Includes 4 half-hour classes, Hi Impact, Core, Boot Camp, Yoga. Open to everyone - Register in advance. Only \$5.00.

Friday, November 27 • 5:45 am- 6:00 pm Y CAMP FOR SHOPPER MOMS!

Leave your children at the Y while you shop. They'll enjoy movies, swimming and crafts. Only \$4.00 an hour.

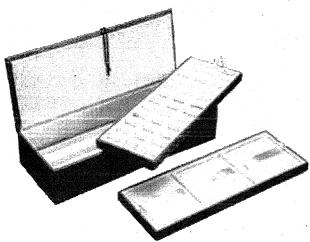
Ask about SPECIAL COLLEGE STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS good for over the holidays!

14255 Stark Road • Livonia • 734-261-2161 www.ymcadetroit.org

Christmas Holiday TRUNK **SHOW** EVENT 2 DAYS

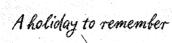
Fri., Nov. 27th • 7am-10pm Sat., Nov. 28th • 8am-10pm

Preshow Starts Sun., Nov. 22nd Thru Wed., Nov. 25th Come in early to reserve your beads for purchase during the trunk show.



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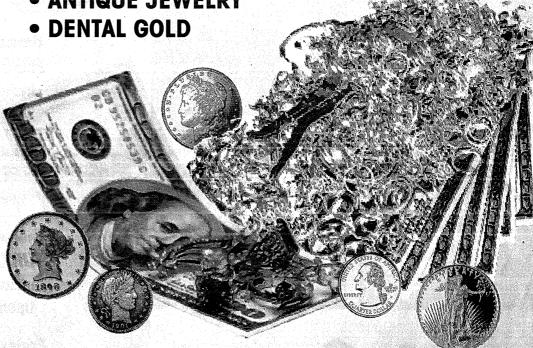
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Deadlines: Sunday edition 4:30 p.m. Friday Thursday edition 2:00 p.m. Tuesday

Eccentric office: 6200 Metro Pkwy., Sterling Heights, MI 48312 Observer office: 41304 Concept Dr., Plymouth, MI 48170 Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

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We're looking for customer -centric, energetic, aggressive account executives

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Position Wanted

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> program. Apply by 5:00 p.m.12/11/2009 at:

ability to learn dedicated financial

City of Southfield HR Dept. 26000 Evergreen Road Southfield, MI 48076

Applications may also be downloaded from www.cityofsouthfield.com

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Fax to: (248) 573-5025 South Lyon area.



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Help Wanted-General 5000

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Observer and Eccentric

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Early Deadlines for

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Please be advised due to holiday, the Observer

and Eccentric Newspapers Classified Section

will have early deadlines for the issue of

Thursday, November 26th. Please make a note

of these early deadlines, so your advertising will

Publications of: Wayne County/South Oakland Eccentric/ **Birmingham Eccentric**

Deadline for Issue of Thursday, November 26th:

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Or online at: www.hometownlife.com

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Monday, November 23rd at 2:30 pm

Monday, November 23rd at noon

Tuesday, November 24th at 10 am

not miss this "well read" issue!

Display

Obituaries

Help Wanted-General

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Email:

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Millennium Centre Director Cornerstone **Development Center**

This position provides leadership for the performing arts presenting facility serving Southfield, MI and the reater Metro Detroit area. Contractual- pay rate of \$41,000-\$45,000

Depending on experience plus benefits. Requires Bachelor's Degree with a major in Theatre Management and/or Marketing would be necessary. A Masters Degree would be a plus. 3-5 years of exp in event management, theatre facility management, or marketing related to event or theater management. Proficiency in Microsoft software and the ability to learn dedicated financial

Apply by 5:00 p.m. 12/11/2009 at:

City of Southfield HR Dept. 26000 Evergreen Rd. Southfield, MI 48076

Applications may also be downloaded from www.cityofsouthfield.com

(Southfield

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Snowplow Driver Westland company, minimum 3 vrs. experience, clean driv ing record, chauffeur licensed

required. 734-891-8994 VET TECHNICIAN/ASSISTANT Experienced. Canton Animal Hospital Fax: 734-397-7860 or Email:

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RECEPTIONIST/ DENTAL ASSISTANT Experienced req'd. Friendly office. Livonia area. 734-525-3150 or fax: 734-525-6432

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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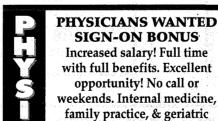


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home and community. \$8.39/hr. plus good benefits. Fax to: 248-946-4426 248-960-9658 Visit us at:

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Please fax your resume and letters of recommendations to: 586-774-6283 or e-mail: employment@ michiganurology.com Please fill out our website application.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT Exp'd. with receptionist skills Livonia office. Email resume: docasbahi@yahoo.com

MEDICAL ASSISTANT, Expd Very busy Internal Medicine office in Livonia. Fax resume Attn: Christian or April (734) 779-2121 MEDICAL ASSISTANT

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Don's Drink & Drive Celebrate Safett

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers along with these area businesses would like to wish everyone a SAFE Thanksgiving! Remember to drink wisely and have a designated driver!



(248) 684-8965 Be safe this Holiday Season!

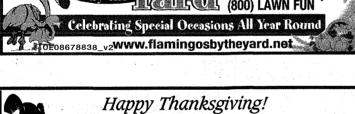












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Happy Thanksgiving!

Northville Collision 700 Doheny • Northville (248) 349-1090

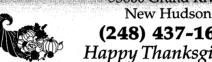


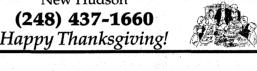
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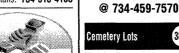
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60 Elvis recording 65 Society column word

57 Call in sick 58 Puffy hairstyles

14 Covered with water 66 Biological double 15 Beauty aid 16 Tempe coll. 17 Sure-footed 67 Dingbat 68 NNW opposite

ACROSS

1 Big celebrations 6 More competent

11 Whale school

35 Last bugle call 39 Wish you were

Belfry or minaret lizard 18 Common phrase 19 Forty winks 70 Fend off 20 Neon and ozone DOWN

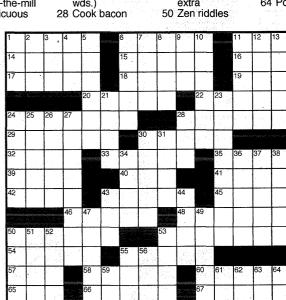
22 Identical Choke or joke 2 Dazzle 24 Hard to see 28 Brawl Shellac resin 29 Tomorrow. 4 Invite

Ninja's leader amigo 30 Quick pulls Crop up Be an omen of 32 Petri-dish con-8 Director tents 33 Small and shiny Bunuel 9 Jung topic 10 Comment

11 Wild fear 40 Estuary 12 Port near Kyoto 13 Tricks 41 Frayed 42 Pub pints 21 Mosque fre-43 Movies

quenter 23 Final say (2 45 Black-and-white snack 46 Pink-slips wds.) 24 Nebraska city 48 Baggage handler 25 Roll with a hole 50 Teahouse appar-26 Trap

27 Watches over (2 53 Run-of-the-mill wds.) 54 Conspicuous





Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will

EEKAND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW. **ARCHWAY PARFAIT** DEEJAY BALLET **GOURMET PLAY**

more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

PARF T D F $^{\mathrm{T}}$ U G N ER RCHWA

1 5 6 8 3 9 3 1 8 6 2 7 9 7 S L L 8 E Z 6 9 7 S 6 E 8 9 7 L 3 197 5 2 6 9 6 7 4 9 8 3 2 8 6 9 7 E S 8 4 ε L 2 6 9 $\vec{\omega}$ 6 3

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

LM(PLAX)FSCE VECHMVLPOI OGNERILYY U

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

C X M B V I I E I D I E V X M B A E B K EKKIT WW B DOW DEMOOREE SASPARFAIT

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

MYNA

5-9-09 30 Slammer and

clink 31 Party cheese

34 Great Lakes

port 36 Large artery

38 Sleep loudly

43 Back again

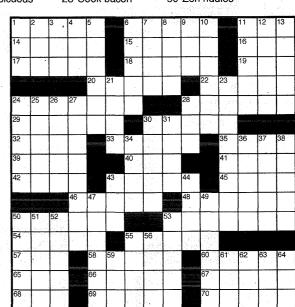
44 Made a web

47 Undamaged

49 Hamburger

© 2009 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 51 Dorm coverers 52 Free-for-all 53 Tightwad 55 Facial feature 56 Like one

Ranger 59 Ziegfeld nick-37 Admire oneself name 61 Struck a match 62 Forensic science tool 63 Mdse. bill 64 Potato bud



Fun By The Numbers

> Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from ne moment vou square off, so sharpen your pencil and put vour sudoku savvy to the test!

1

8

appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The

BLUE JAY GRAY SLEIGH CROCHET **NORWAY** TOUPEE

LMPLAYF

11

H A R T U G J H O C R O C H E T A B G

(*)

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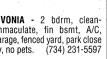
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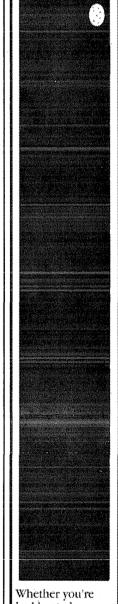
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Public Auction at Devon Self-Storage 47887 Michigan Ave Canton MI 48188 on Dec. 9, 2009 at 1PM or thereafter. Property con tained in the following units will be sold to the highest bidder to satisfy the owner's lien for rent under bidder 148 MI, 1985 Seq. Auction is With Reserve. Devon Self-Storage reserves the right to set the minimum

bids and to refuse bids. CASH ONLY Sidney Sumpter, Unit D03
Sports Equipment, Misc. Household Hardware. Michelle Williams-Slaten Unit D27 Household Items Kids Toys, Lg Play Gym. Deshawn Hood, Unit 1B10

Aaron Harris, Unit 2A28

Debra Tanton, Unit 2F02

Bernetta Lowery Unit 3B10 Household Items

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Notice is hereby given that on Dec. 16, 2009 at 12:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center of Redford, 9125 Telegraph Rd, Redford, MI 48239. Unit (s) may or may not incl the following: House-hold Items, Recreational Items, and/ or Misc. Goods. 217-Gloria Bates, 356-Ernest L. Chambers, 359-Tyler

Notice is hereby given that on Dec 16, 2009 at 3:00 pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Stor Room Self Storage, 40600 Michigan Ave., Canton MI 48188. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: Household Items, Recreationa Items, and/ or Misc. Goods. # 0502a Jeffrey S Matteson,

0634 George Okins

Mello, 476-Trevor Johnson

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2010 Soul Sport Aims For A Young Crowd

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dave Menard For Avanti NewsFeatures and Allopinionsallthetime.com

When I first saw the 2010 Kia Soul Sport, I wasn't quite sure what to make of it. With boxy lines like a miniature SUV, about the size of an economy car. yet with a surprising amount of interior room, it doesn't seem to fit any traditional category.

Kia calls it an "urban passenger

vehicle," and I guess that label fits as well as any. One thing is certain, though - this car isn't aimed at executives on their way to the country club. The Soul is squarely aimed at a younger crowd. and might just have enough soul (pun intended) to hit the mark.

Let's start with the way it looks; it's low and wide, and with a body shape that looks like a cross between a small SUV and a wagon. The window line is angled and it has large flared back headlamps.

Fog lamps are included, as black body side moldings, rear spoiler and side sills. There are plenty of black accents on the exterior, including on the front fender and the side mirrors. The Soul features some unique color choices, including several metallic shades, coffee-colored Java, and denim blue. Eighteen-inch, five-spoke alloy wheels are standard on the Soul Sport; the base Soul comes with 15-inch wheels.

Inside, it's surprising how much

interior room there is. The driver won't feel cramped and there's plenty of room for the front passenger, as well.

The rear seating area can actually accommodate passengers and the Soul will seat five with its 60/40 split rear seats. The cloth seats are comfortable and provide good support and everything in the cabin is within easy reach. The steering wheel and shift knob are leather-wrapped.

The interior is simple and well laidout. Oversized air vents and speaker grilles give it an almost kid toy-like

The center stack features simple climate controls and the audio controls that seem to drive the design.

The interior door speaker grills light up to the beat of the music; this feature can be turned off if it distracts you. While it doesn't bother me, it doesn't really add to my driving experience, either, but maybe that's just me.

The setup says "boom box on wheels"

The audio system itself is an AM/ FM/CD/mp3 system with a subwoofer, six speakers, Bluetooth and a trial subscription to satellite radio. USB and auxiliary input jacks are in the center console, while the Soul also comes with an integrated iPod control unit,



The 2010 Kia Soul Sport. Kia calls it an "urban passenger vehicle."

allowing you to use the audio controls to control the iPod, verses having to use the iPod itself (always a little less distracting to the driver).

The Soul Sport also comes with air conditioning, cruise control, remote keyless entry, power windows and locks, rear defroster and tilt steering column.

The Soul Sport is powered by a 2.0liter 4-cylinder engine, rated at 142 horsepower and 137 lb.-ft. of torque. It's mated to a 5-speed manual transmission (automatic is optional), and it accelerates well. EPA gives this powertrain a rating of 24 miles per gallon in city driving and 30 mpg on the highway.

While the base Soul features a fully independent sub-frame mounted front suspension system with MacPherson struts, coil springs, gas shocks and stabilizer bar, the Sport version of the Soul has a sport-tuned system, with firmer springs, re-tuned shocks and a larger stabilizer bar.

Kia describes the ride as "lively." That's a nice way of saying you're going to get a lot of road feel. It's actually a decent ride for the kind of car it is; it,

after all, is not a Lexus or a Mercedes. The Soul Sport is not a great handling car. It does come with stability control, but it feels kind of clunky and the steering is a little stiff.

Anti-lock brakes are standard on the Sport and they are excellent. The Soul Sport also comes with front-seat mounted side airbags, side curtain airbags and a tire pressure-monitoring system.

The Kia Soul Sport starts at a little under \$17,000. Add the optional power sunroof and you're at almost \$17,700. That's a good price point for all the features you get with the Sport.

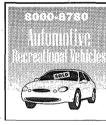
And, unlike me, maybe you'll figure out what category to put it in.

Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com

2010 Kia Soul Sport Vehicle class: Small station wagon. Power: 2.0-liter 4-cylinder/5-speed manual.

Mileage: 24 city / 30 highway. Where built: Korea. Base price: \$16,950. **Price as tested:** \$18,349.

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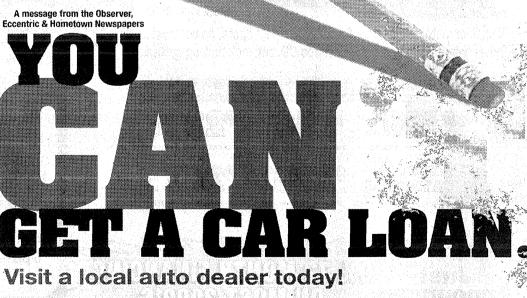
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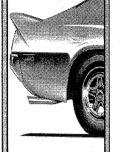
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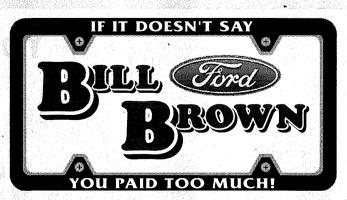
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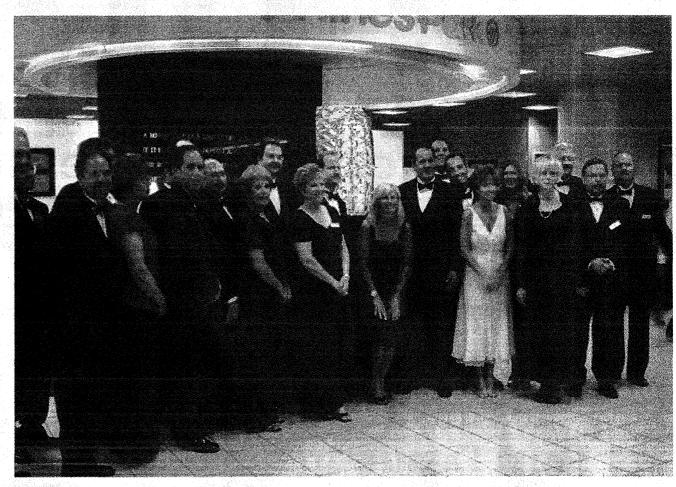
We're proud to be part of the automotive company that's driving a brighter future. And we're equally proud to be part of our community where we provide so many quality jobs to your friends and neighbors. We are a major taxpayer supporting our local quality of life. And we value our involvement and our commitment to our hometown charities. This is our town too.

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Send memories

The Observer & Eccentric

Newspapers

Volume 124 Number 29

75 CENTS

The holiday season is upon us and. through the hustle and bustle, we're asking our readers to let us be a part of their celebration.

We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the Observer for the special ĥoliday edition we're planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright?

Share those memories with your neighbors through us. Send your items — be sure to include a photo, if you can — to Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.

Santa letters

Santa Claus has started to make his list, although sources tell the Observer that, while he's far from check it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters.

The Observer wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole.

The letters should be sent by email and include a snapshot of the child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jo'ly Ol' Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have.

Sena Santa correspondence to bkadrich@hometownlife.com and be sure to put "Letter to Santa" in the subject line. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Teddy toss

The Plymouth Whalers host the 10th annual Teddy Bear Toss during the Saturday, Dec. 5 game against Sault Ste. Marie at Compuware



Arena in Plymouth Township.

Fans are asked to bring a teddy bear to throw on the ice when the Whalers score their first goal.

Over the previous nine years, the Teddy Bear Toss has resulted in thousands of teddy bears being collected and donated to organizations like the Children Charities. The bears are used to comfort children at disaster scenes and during times of crisis.

Film crew puts 'Trust' in Plymouth

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

In Plymouth David Schwimmer trusts.

Trust is the name of the movie that Schwimmer, best known for his role as Ross on the television sitcom *Friends*, has been directing in Plymouth and other area locales in recent days. The movie, a family drama, stars Clive Owen, Catherine Keener and Noah Emmerich; the writer is Andy Bellin.

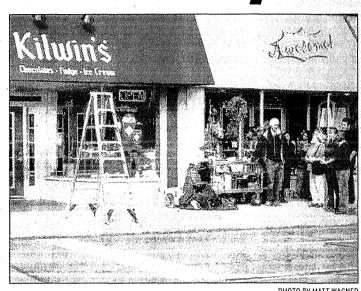
Schwimmer and his cast and crew were on Church Street last week and on Forest Avenue on Monday. Shooting began in Michigan Nov. 5 and is scheduled to be completed in mid-December, said publicist Cid Swank.

Trust is believed to be the biggest Hollywood production with a Plymouth setting since the 1980s newspaper drama Word of Honor, starring Ron Silver and the late Karl Malden.

"It creates economic opportunity," said Wes Graff, executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. "Obviously, it's sent some money" into the local economy. Graff said he spoke with an assistant on the set who told him 60 percent of the film's crew is from Michigan.

Schwimmer, who is directing his second film, has been seen around Plymouth several times, including twice at the Burger Spot on Forest,

Please see MOVIE, A3



asks movie extras to cross in front of Kilwin's downtown **Plymouth** filming.

A stage hand

PHOTO BY MATT WAGNER

Kel Allen

introduce

Coleman

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iva, al

the U.S. Army

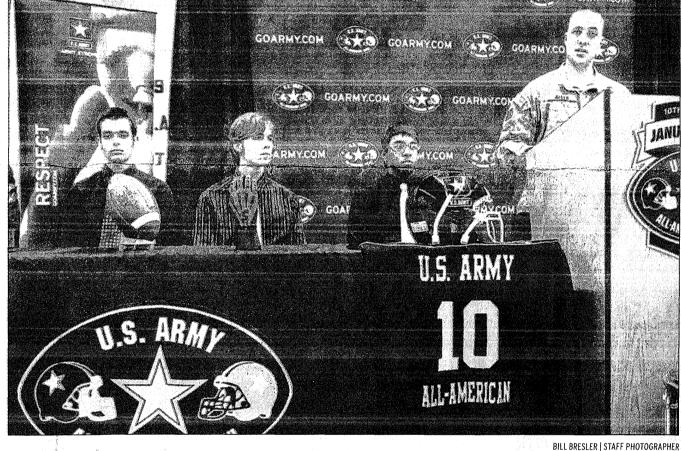
All-American

Marching-

Band.

Jeff sarcia

Marching to new drummers



Local musicians chosen for Army all-star game

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jayesh Srivastava knew other members of the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band had played in the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band, and thought it might be a cool way to march out of his comfort zone. After successfully audition-

ing, Srivastava and two PCMB teammates get the chance to do just that when they play at halftime of the All-American Bowl in San Antonio Jan. 9. The All-American Bowl features 90 of the country's top high school football players.

Srivastava, a 17-year-old senior snare drummer at Canton High School, was chosen along

with Salem High School seniors Sean Coleman (tenor sax) and Jeff Garcia (trumpet) to be part of the 97-member marching band.

"I love music and I love performing," said Srivastava, who spent four years in PCMB. "It seemed like this would be a way

Please see MUSICIANS, A3

ALL-AMERICAN MARCHERS

- · What: U.S. Army All-American Bowl
- When: Jan. 9
- · Where: San Antonio, Texas
- · Highlights: The game features 90 top high school football players; the marching band features 97 musicians chosen from around the country, including three from the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band.

Index

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Couple wraps up Michigan Made adventure

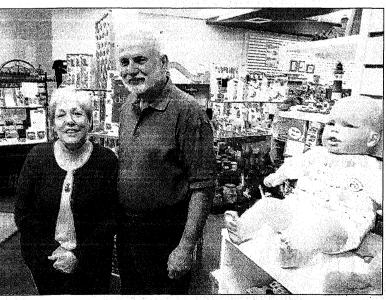
BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

After touring the state for years through their downtown Plymouth store, Michigan Made & More, Steve and Sandy Marulis are ready for new adventures.

They have two young grandsons, Keegan and Davin, with whom they want to spend time, and four trips planned for next year, after they finish closing the shop that's provided their work, their hobby, their metaphorical Michigan vacations and much of their social life for the past decade.

Michigan Made & More is shutting down at the end of next month, with the last day of business scheduled for

Please see MICHIGAN, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sandy and Steve Marulis are ready to retire after 10 years of working seven days a week. Their store, Michigan Made and More will close at the end of the year.

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"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

Kiwanis nuts

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth supports the agencies and organizations that provide assistance to many people in need as well as helping folks directly. To be able to fund these various projects, the club has many fundraising activities. One of them is the Annual Gourmet Nut Fund-raiser being held now.

There are 1-pound and 3pound cans of gourmet nuts for purchase by the can, case and pallet. They are great gifts for family, employees and clients. Please consider the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts as your gift of choice this year and assist * in allowing Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth to continue serving those in need in our community and around the world.

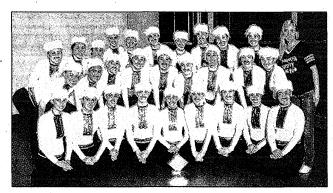
The gourmet nuts can be purchased by the can at Papa Romano's, 555 W. Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth, (734) 459-2930, or by the case or pallet at Fitness Things, 1160 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (734) 455-8790. Many other Plymouth businesses will also have the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts available for purchase at their location.

Businesses interested in participating, or anyone who needs more information, can contact Gary Walley, (734) 455-8790.

Barefoot auditions

Barefoot Productions announces auditions for "Rope," a suspense/thriller by Patrick Hamilton.

Auditions take place Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 14-15, from 7-9 p.m. at the Walker/Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main in Plymouth.



Wildcat winners

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 26, 2009

The Plymouth High School Varsity Pompon team earned first place in the Large Varsity category at the recent Mid-American Pom Pon competition at Eastern Michigan University. Members of the team, coached by Maria Hernandez - include Emma Buchele, Kimberlin Butler, Kellie Connelly, Dominica Convertino, Jillian Covault, Christina Dreyer, Kirsten Engstrom, Nichole Finch, Danielle Gomrick, Tiffany Granowicz, Angelica Janevski, Katie Justice, Madison Kinsella, Laura Krahel, Megan LaPorte, Kirstie Liakos, Lindsey Martin, Holin Pardikes, Holly Runyan, Allison Santori, Chelsea Schroeder, Katie Shelton, Kendall Torp. Jennifer Turner, Lauren Turner, Lauren Uhlian, Havley Wakefield and Christina Winkler.

males (three from ages 19-24, one district includes Plymouth, female (19-21 years old).

thriller (set in London) that inspired the classic Alfred Hitchcock film, starring Jimmy Stewart. Barefoot Productions' Performances are Feb. 12-28.

Actors should bring headshot and one prepared monologue, if available. There will be cold readings from script. Be prepared to list any scheduling con-

For more information, call

State Representative Marc

....(313) 223-3318

..(734) 582-8363

includes all materials. Call Chris or Judy, (734) 459-6222, or email info@remericahometown. com for a reservation or a private interview.

Whalers Food Drive

The Plymouth Whalers, in coordination with the Plymouth Community United Way, are sponsoring a Food Drive Saturday, Nov. 28, before their game against Kingston at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Fans are asked to bring nonperishable food items, paper or toiletry products to the game. A voucher for a discount on a future Whalers admission ticket will be given to those who donate.

Saturday @ the Penn

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society are presenting a series of family variety shows in downtown Plymouth. These shows are offered at 11:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at the Penn Theater. Cost is \$4 per person.

The next performance, scheduled for Dec. 5, features special musical host Guy Louis and the Chautauqua Express with special guest performers Joe Reilly. The announcer for this performance is Tammy Trudelle.

The Penn Theater is located at 760 Penniman in Plymouth. Tickets may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:05 a.m. Show runs 11:30-1:00

These shows are sponsored by a grant from the Wilcox Foundation, as well as by several local businesses and individuals: Quixworks, Signature Audio, Kelly & Tom Doneth, Optimist Club of Plymouth and Steve & Renee Alexandrowski.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Monday, Dec. 28. All nonfood merchandise is on sale and business appears to be picking up as the holidays approach. Much of their unsold stock will go to Basket Kreations, a block away on Forest.

"We've had a great time. It's been lots of fun," said Sandy Marulis on Friday, while admitting to sadness at the prospect of closing. That melancholy, she said, is quickly overcome when she thinks of their travel plans.

"It just makes sense for us now," she said.

The Marulises bought Michigan Made — later adding the "& More" - in early 2000, after Sandy, who has an accounting background, was laid off for the second time due to a corporate takeover. Steve wound up a nearly 30-year career as a Ford Motor Co. mechanical engineer later that year, and the two have been traveling Michigan — often without leaving the store - ever since.

"We were always learning more about Michigan because we weren't from here," said Sandy Marulis, who is from Pittsburgh, while her husband hails from the New York City borough of Queens.

The couple didn't come naturally to the retail world - neither had touched a cash register, they joke, and Sandy's father, who spent 45 years as Sears, had warned her sternly: "Do not go into retail." But the store, they said, gave

them the chance to fall more deeply in love with Plymouth, where they've lived for 32 years, and to explore the state. And, they said, they found

they liked meeting and talking to customers.

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it. There's a social aspect to it," Sandy Marulis said.

The Marulises expanded the store's offerings, in particular adding more Michigan-themed college and professional sports memorabilia and Michiganrelated books. Michigan Made sells gifts and pottery, mugs, glasses and kitchenware, wood carvings and model lighthouses, cards and refrigerator magnets, food baskets and college-branded clothing and other goods, all made in Michigan or with a

Michigan-related theme. Taste of Michigan food baskets — which will continue to be sold through Basket Kreations - and college goods have proven popular over the years, but the single top seller, Sandy Marulis said, is the Michigan oven mitt, which, of course, is shaped like

the state for which it's named. "These are all over the world right now," Sandy Marulis said, holding up a mitt.

The Marulises said they've taken many customers' suggestions over the years about what to carry, and gathered ideas during their own trips around the state. And they're ready for more of those Michigan trips.

"We hear so much about it, and we just aren't able to get away," Sandy Marulis said.

That's been even more difficult, she said, with the downturn in the economy, and the two haven't had two consecutive days off together for a year and a half.

Sandy Marulis has been heavily involved in the community, and her dedication won praise from Wes Graff, executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, which Sandy led as president in 2008.

"She's an incredible ambassador for the community and one of the most giving people you'll ever meet," Graff said.

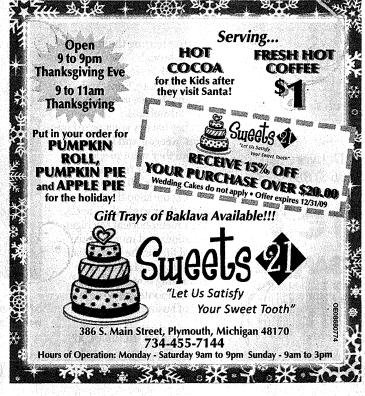
She's involved with Friends of the Penn and has been a member of both the Downtown Business Association and Downtown Development Authority boards. Steve is involved, too she said; like his wife, he volunteers at the Penn, plus gets "dragged in" to help her on other projects, she joked. And her involvement in town has often meant more work for him at the store, they said.

Outside the store, the Marulises are known for dressing up as Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam for Plymouth's annual Fourth of July parade. And a visit from a real-life The Wizard of Oz Munchkin, Karl Slover, in 2003 is still the stuff of local legend.

Slover, then 85, was brought in for a nighttime Plymouth shopping and social event, and signed autographs in the store for four hours. The Marulises and friends and relatives dressed up like many of the movie's characters, and the store was packed. "We had people everywhere," Sandy Marulis said.

"It put us on the map," Steve Marulis said. "People knew who we were after that."

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Corriveau (D-Northville), whose Northville and part of Canton, hosts a coffee hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Parthenon Coney Îsland, 39910 Ford Road, in

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

Career seminar

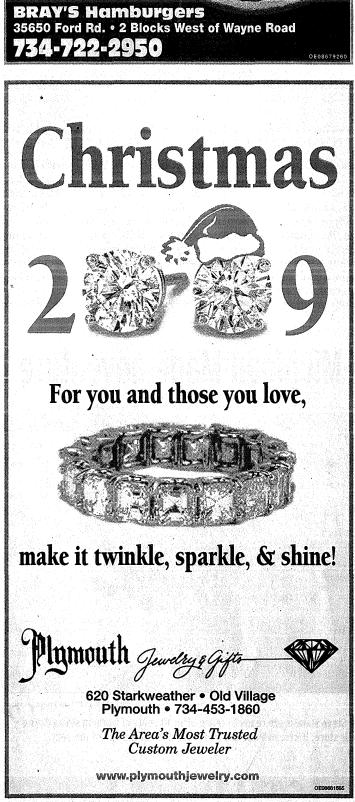
REMERICA HOMETOWN of Plymouth is inviting anyone out of a job or contemplating a career change to become a real estate agent and be ready for what they say is the upcoming real estate boom.

REMERICA HOMETOWN presents a pre-license training class beginning Nov. 30. Real **Estate Professional Education** Group, LLC at: 44025 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Total class cost is \$50 and







to step outside the traditional high school and still utilize my music skills.'

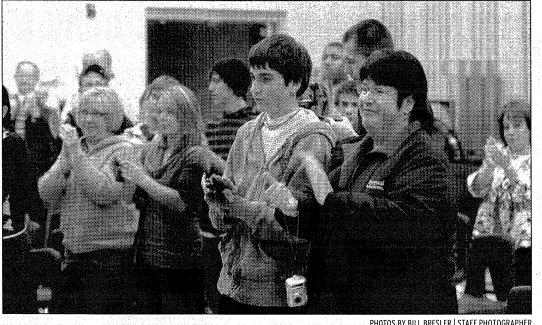
The three Plymouth-Canton musicians were chosen after nominations which included a videotaped audition. PCMB, a perennial national championship contender, got as many selections as any band in the country, according to Army

officials. Their selection for the threeyear-old program is a testament to the quality of the program, according to U.S. Army All-American Bowl spokesman James Pallitto.

"It's an incredible program," Pallitto said. "This isn't a fluke. These guys year in and year out are successful."

Like his teammates, 17year-old Garcia has spent all four of his high school years in the PCMB. He said he thought auditioning for the All-American Bowl would be fun, and performing in it would

improve his skills. I like getting better," said Garcia, who wants to go to either the University of Michigan or Western Michigan



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proud families and friends applaud the selection of three Plymouth-Canton Marching Band members for the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

University to study music. "I feel like it's a fun experience. I get a lot out of it musically."

Like Srivastava, Coleman had heard a lot about the Army program, and felt like participating in it would expand his experience.

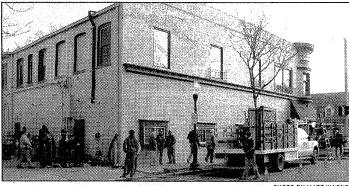
I wanted to break out beyond what we do in marching band," said Coleman. "(Marching band) has been a

very large growing experience, and I've had a lot of life experiences from it. I was pretty thrilled (at his selection). It's not a lot of people, and they're from all around the country. It's an honor."

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band has had enormous success, winning regional, state and national honors on a yearly basis.

According to the band's first-year leader, David Armbruster, Coleman, Garcia and Srivastava are "excellent examples" of that quality.

"These guys exemplify what this program is all about," Armbruster said. "Their passion just exemplifies the spirit



Movie crews have equipment at the ready for filming in downtown Plymouth.

where he had lunch on Monday and one day last week.

"Kind of a quiet guy," said Burger Spot owner Mike Schmidt. Schwimmer had two burgers and a large order of fries on each visit, Schmidt said. He ate alone, reading and checking messages on his phone, Schmidt said, although he was briefly accompanied by a woman on his first visit.

"Still waiting for Clive Owen or Catherine Keener," Schmidt said with a smile.

and approachable, Schmidt said, although he pretty much kept to himself. On his Monday visit, he was recognized and attracted a few curious people, he said, including one woman who spoke with him briefly, Schmidt said.

Graff said Schwimmer's interest in Plymouth speaks well of the impression the city makes on visitors.

"The quality of what they consider to be scenic, the older homes, obviously plays well with this kind of film," he said.

A made-for-cable movie, Christmas in Pittsburgh, is also scheduled to be partly filmed in Plymouth, beginning next



Jayesh Srivistava.



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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 26, 2009

Locks cut off storage trailers

Nothing was reported stolen from four storage trailers that were broken into in an industrial park in central Plymouth Township last week. Police are investigating.

The trailers were outside four different businesses in the park, two on Port Street, one on Helm and one on Mast, according to Plymouth Township Police Department reports. A padlock had been cut off the door of each trailer, police said; the breakins were discovered early Saturday.

In two incidents, the complainants told police nothing had been stolen. In two others, it was not immediately clear if anything had been

stolen, police said. One incident on Port Street was captured on video, in which a male appeared to be working alone. The business owner told police the trailer had been broken into in June and he had since installed security cameras. He had also removed anything of value from the trailer, he said.

Car burglary

A purse, with credit and debit cards and identification in it, and a satellite navigation system were reported stolen

Friday from a car parked in the

POLICE

driveway of a house on Primrose The 1998 Saturn had apparently been left unlocked, as police found no signs of forced entry. The burglary occurred on the night of Nov. 19 or some

time the next morning, a police

Locker break-in

report said.

Cash was reported stolen from a Canton Township man's wallet after his locker was broken into at Bally's Total Fitness, on Ann Arbor Road east of Haggerty, one afternoon last week.

The break-in occurred as the man worked out between about 4:25 p.m. and 5 p.m. Nov. 19, a police report said. Police said the locker had been forced open. By Matt Jachman

BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

An estimated 700 people turned out Sunday for St. Joseph Mercy Health System's public unveiling of its new Center for Advanced Medicine & Surgery in Canton, a state-of-theart facility that marks a \$43 million investment in health care.

Hundreds of visitors toured the twostory, 53,000-square-foot expansion during a two-hour open house, viewing firsthand what medical officials say marks a strong commitment to area patients who need cancer treatment and outpatient surgery.

During a pre-open house dedication and blessing attended by 80 people, Dave Parr, who chairs St. Joseph's board, said the new center signals the health system's pledge to offer "remarkable medicine and remarkable care." The addition was built onto an 85,000square-foot facility that opened 11 years ago near Canton Center and Palmer.

The first-floor cancer center is expected to open in early to mid-December, providing services such as southeast Michigan's first Rapid Arc radiation therapy. The second-story surgery center for minimally invasive procedures is expected to open by late

Garry Faja, president and CEO for St. Joseph and regional market executive for Trinity Health, made opening remarks to welcome a crowd that included dignitaries such as Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and wife Jean, state Rep. Dian Slavens and Wayne County Circuit Judge Mark Slavens, her husband.

The event marked a proud day for Kathy Kasperek-Korelis, the new center's project director, who started out more than 20 years ago at the St. Joseph facility near Ford and Lilley roads.

The Rev. Dr. Tim Dombrowski, a St. Joseph mission and medical ethics specialist who in 1998 blessed the original building at 1600 S. Canton Center, gave Sunday's blessing along with Sister Yvonne Gellise, St. Joseph's senior advisor for governance.

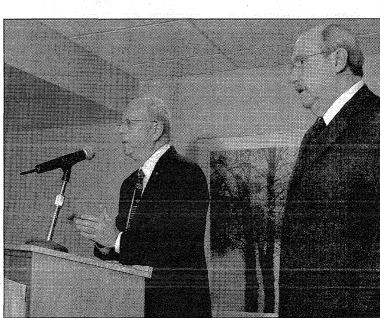
As Sister Gellise sprinkled holy water over the crowd, Dombrowski said, "Let this facility be a beacon to this community as a place to receive care and treatment that is caring and compassionate."

Dave McNeil, outpatient oncology chaplain, also addressed the crowd



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rev. Dr. Timothy Dombrowsi and Sr. Yvonne Gellise, RSM, bless St. Joseph Mercy's new facility.



Board of Trustees chair David Parr speaks about St. Joe's health care mission. Garry Faja is The president and CEO of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

during dedication, which came just before community residents started lining up in the lobby to see the new

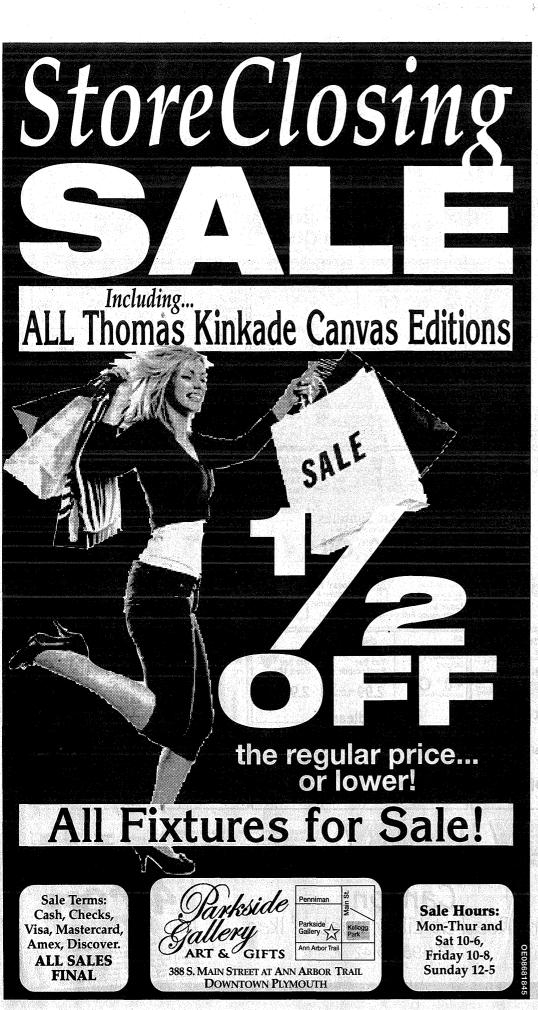
facility. LaJoy lauded St. Joseph for expanding the Canton facility, saying "we have enjoyed a long-standing relationship with St. Joe's and are excited about the wonderful new services they are bringing to the community."

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Family sets up scholarship to keep their son's memory alive

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

With the one-year anniversary of his death quickly approaching, the family of Dustin Piepsney has been busy making sure his name will never be forgotten.

Dustin's parents, Bill and Amy Piepsney, have set up a scholarship to honor their son, who was found dead behind their Canton home on Dec. 12. They are in the process of raising money for the scholarship, which, if all goes according to plan, will be awarded annually to a student from

According to Bill Piepsney, he and his wife decided to start the scholarship soon after their son's death.

"This is a year to give he also the

"This is a way to give back to the community, and to also keep his memory alive," he said.

Dustin died of a single gunshot wound to the head shortly after he came home from school on a Friday afternoon. Canton police investigators concluded that he had committed suicide, something the family has never accepted. In addition to the fact that there was no suicide note, there was never any indication from anyone who knew Dustin that he was upset about anything.

In fact, Bill Piepsney said his son was involved in school, had many friends, and was also active in sports, especially wrestling. That is why they have decided to award the scholarship to a wrestler — at least for the first year.

"This year it will be for a wrestler. We could change that in the future. Maybe we will make sure it will be awarded to any athlete in the future. We really haven't figured it out yet. We're still trying to work out the details," said Piepsney, who is a 1988 graduate of Westland John Glenn High School.

The Piepsneys have approached the Canton Community Foundation to administer the scholarship for them, and it will be part of the foundation's annual scholarship program, which annually awards about two dozen college scholarships to students living in Canton.

Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks said the Piepsneys are hoping to get the scholarship endowed, which means they will have to raise \$10,000. If they are able to achieve that, the scholarship will sustain itself through investments.

"If they are able to get it endowed, they won't have to do fund-raisers every year to pay for it," said Noricks.

To get to that threshold, the Piepsneys have been busy hosting several fund-raisers. The latest will be taking place over the course of the next month at the U.S. 12 Bar and Grill, located at 34824 W. Michigan Avenue in Wayne. The bar will be holding a poker fund-raiser several nights a week through the end of December. They started on Monday, and are hoping to have a big turnout Thanksgiving night beginning at 8 p.m. It will feature a \$100 buy in deep

stack tournament, and will include up to a \$10,000 prize pool. There will also be a blackjack table.

"We're expecting a big crowd on Thursday," Bill Piepsney said. "We have a lot of friends in the area who have really spread the word around."

The other dates U.S. 12 will be hosting the poker tournaments include Dec. 1-4, Dec. 17-20, and Dec. 29-30. All games begin at 7 p.m. on those dates.

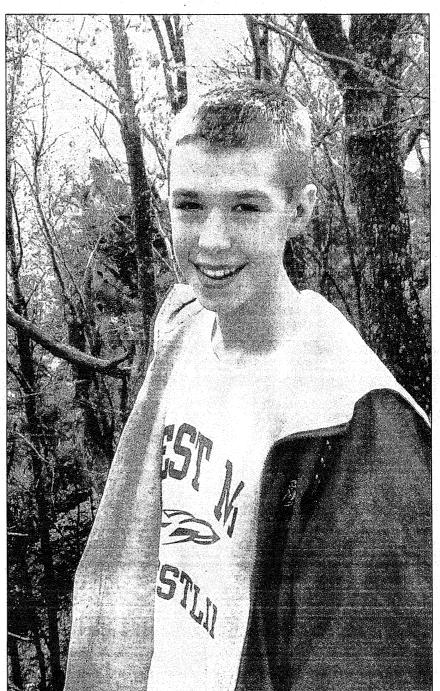
For those who don't like to gamble, but still want to contribute to the scholarship fund, can contact the Canton Community Foundation at (734) 495-1200 and make a donation.

"These contributions will qualify for tax credits, which people can write off at tax time," Noricks said.

Noricks said students interested in applying for the scholarship can visit the foundation's Web site (www. cantonfoundation.org) after Jan. 1 and download an application. Applications for all the scholarships offered through the foundation can be found on the Web site.

The Piepsneys are still trying to cope with the loss of their son, who they believe was with at least one other person the day he died. They are hoping somebody will ultimately come forward with the truth about his death.

"There is rarely a minute that goes by, every day, that we don't think about him and what happened. We hope to find out some day. For now, we are going to do all we can to keep his memory alive," he said.



BILL BDECLED | STAFE DHOTOGDADHE

Dustin Piepsney was active in many sports, including wrestling at East Middle School.

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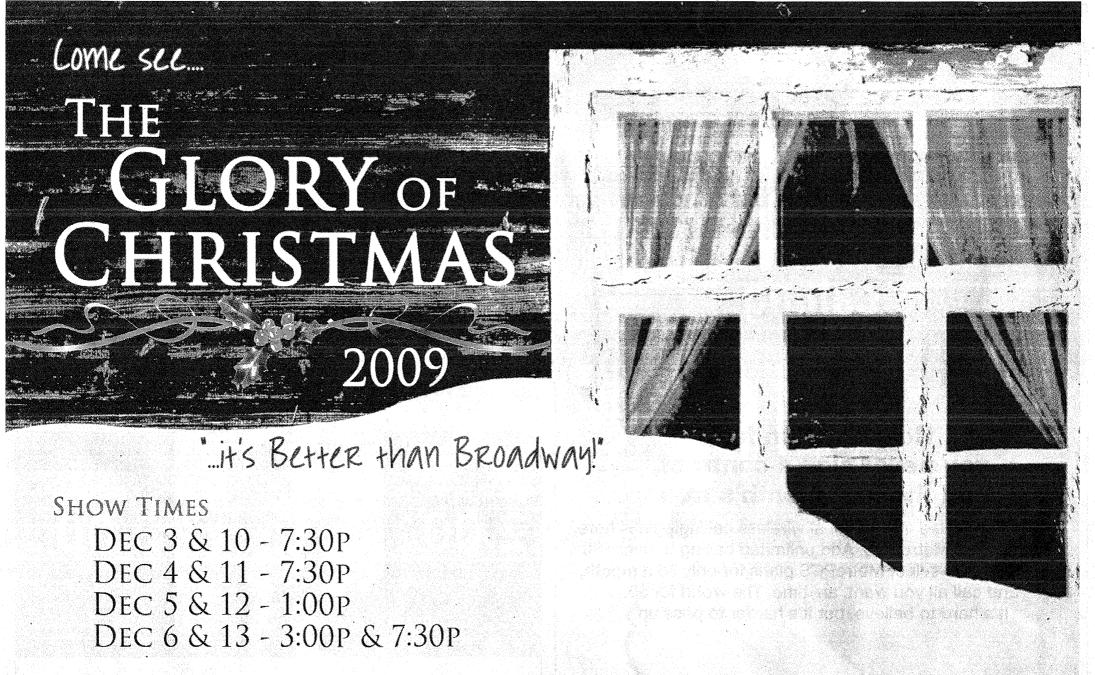
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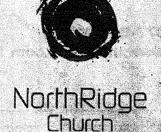


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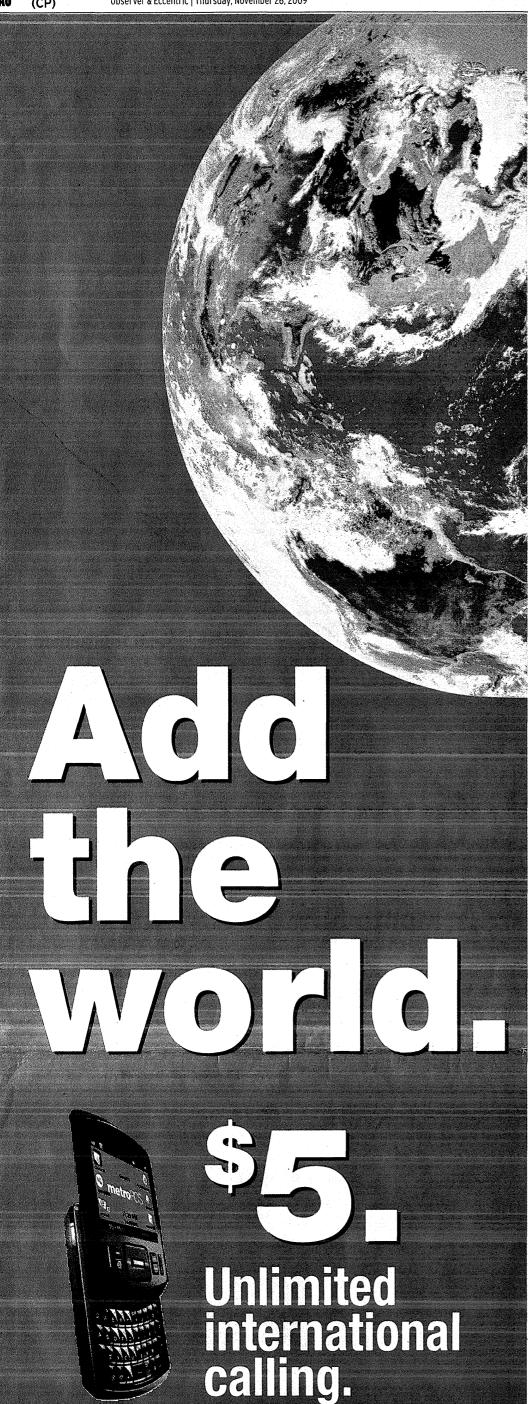
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Walking in Jesus' footsteps impacts Canton pastor

BY JULIE BROWN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The Rev. Bryan Smith's recent travels were those of a pilgrim and not a tourist.

"It was an experience that really impacted me spiritually, emotionally, physically," the pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church of Canton said of his recent Holy Land visit.

Smith was among a group of Christian clergy, some 20 in all, who traveled as part of the Columbia Theological Seminary of Decatur, Ga., Journey of Faith program.

The program is for midcareer (ages 35-55) clergy with five or more years experience in ordained ministry. They left Oct. 28 and returned Nov.

Smith, a graduate of UCLA and Princeton Theological Seminary, took some 25 prayers with him to the Western (Wailing) Wall. He noted the visit was an intense experience he's still sorting out, and has been told that process can take a long time to determine how God will

He was impressed to be in the places Jesus was.

"There's something about seeing places you've talked about your whole life," said Smith, who said he realized many places were close together, and the Christian faith had its roots in a relatively small area where Jesus walked.

The travel is funded by the seminary in partnership with the Holy Land Pastoral Renewal Program of the CF Foundation. The clergy flew from Atlanta to Tel Aviv in Israel. Their itinerary included the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, and the Mount of Beatitudes as part of an overview of Jesus' Galilean ministry. The order of their itinerary was changed a bit due to several days of rain when they

They visited Tabgha, the traditional site of the loaves and fishes, and the Chapel of the Primacy of Peter, the traditional site of Jesus' appearance to the disciples while they were fishing.

The clergy journeyed to Kursi on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus is believed to have healed the demoniac swine. The clergy saw Nazareth and



The Rev. Bryan Smith of Geneva Presbyterian Church recently visited the Holy Land with a group of midcareer clergy.



The Rev. Bryan Smith with the Sea of Galilee in the background. Smith, pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton, recently visited the Holy Land.

Mount Tabor, and took a morning walk in Jerusalem, from the Mount of Olives via the Garden of Gethsemane and the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Smith and the other clergy prayed at the Western (Wailing) Wall.

They also visited Bethlehem, including Shepherds Field, Manger Square and the Church of Nativity. There was a full-day excursion to the Dead Sea. ending with a discussion of "The Journey of Faith: Why Did God Want You Here? What Is God Calling You To Do?"

Smith found the Galilee portion to be beautiful and pastoral. "Jerusalem is just so intense,

so much activity and energy,"

an historical and theological

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he said, adding it was almost like two separate trips. The clergy participants had a twoday retreat in Georgia earlier in the year to help them prepare, learning to reflect, pray and talk things over.

The pilgrims would see a site each morning and then reflect on that. There was no professional competition, things like talking about congregation size. The focus was on the trip. "It was a great, great group," Smith said.

"I think that was a big part of the trip for me, to be present to God," he said of the trip, with mostly Presbyterian clergy joined by a Lutheran and Methodist pastor. He appreciated his family - wife Jennifer and children Julia and Joshua - allowing him to focus on the trip, as did his congregation.

Smith will schedule a couple evenings to share his experiences, one likely in December focusing on Bethlehem. "I took about 400 pictures" which will have to be narrowed down, he said. He'd also like to present information on Jerusalem, Jesus' passion and death, at Easter.

"I would love to go back," Smith said. He'd like to go with his family at some point, or take a church group with whom he could process the information at the same time.

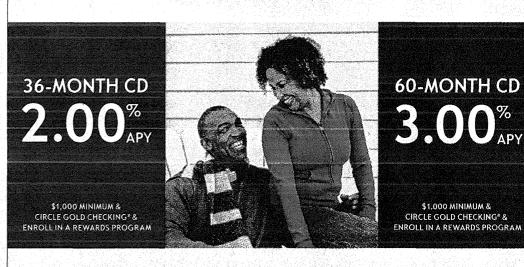
Smith was really touched by the Mount of Olives, where Jesus prayed the night of his arrest. Trees there were there at the time Jesus lived. "There was just something about what he went through that night," he said. He also thought more about

the current situation with the Palestinians, as the clergy drove through a checkpoint at Bethlehem. You just have a sense of

how divided people are in that land based on religion and ethnicity," Smith said. "That deeply touched me.'

Smith wants to learn more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and try to create peace there. He noted there are a small number of Palestinian Christian, not a powerful force in the region but trying to maintain witness. He met such a man, author of *Blood Brothers*, which explores such issues in

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Halloween event boosts Y's scholarship coffers

The seats of the Penn Theater were filled with superheroes and villains, pirates and prin-

It was Halloween at the Y, presented in part by Community Financial.

On Halloween, children and their parents were invited to see "Monster House" at the Penn, wear their costumes, and celebrate the holiday. Funds raised by the event will allow children who could not otherwise afford to participate in a YMCA program receive scholarships.

"It's part of our annual Strong Kids Campaign to make sure everyone can be part of the Y," said Josh Landefeld, YMCA executive director.

Landefeld said he often encounters people who didn't know the Plymouth YMCA existed and "are always surprised" by the fact.

"The YMCA has been around for more than 150 years in southeast Michigan, and many without the big buildings people often associate with the Y," Landefeld said. "The Plymouth Y has been part of this community for over 40 years."



JOHN KEMSH

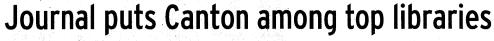
Hannah Glowzinski (from left), Isabelle Barone, Olivia Barone and Rachel Glowzinski strike a pose at the Plymouth YMCA's Halloween event at the Penn Theater.

The Plymouth Community YMCA provides programs designed to build spirit, mind and body for children and youth throughout the Plymouth-Canton area. Each year, more than 2,500 children participate in Plymouth YMCA programs.

"It's such a great place for kids to learn healthy habits and good values," said board member and volunteer Maria Barone, who

attended the Halloween event with her two daughters.

For more information on youth sports programs, summer and school break camps, youth volunteer opportunities, Girls on the Run, the annual Father's Day Run, and more, contact the Plymouth Family YMCA, (734) 453-2904 or visit the Web site at www.ymcadetroit.org.



The Canton Public Library has again been identified as one of America's top-rated libraries by Library Journal, and was one of only two Michigan libraries to receive a star rating.

The Canton Public Library received a three-star rating for the second straight year. In that time period, the library added more computer terminals, introduced programs for tweens, initiated roving library assistance, introduced the Lucky Day shelf and set a new one-day circulation record.

Library Director Eva Davis was pleased by the rating.

"We are a well-used, well-loved library," Davis said.
"Our staff works hard to serve our community with excellent services, programs and materials. It's nice to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

The Library Journal has again honored the Canton Library as one of the country's top facilities.

have the recognition of this Library Journal rating." America's Star Libraries. as rated by the LJ Index of Public Library Service, a national rating of public libraries and sponsored by Baker & Taylor's Bibliostat, offers an overall indication of how a library's performance stacks up to peer libraries and provides guidance on how all public libraries can better assess and improve what they provide to their users.

For more on how the stars realigned, what makes star libraries tick, and how public libraries across the United States are using the LJ Index to improve their services, access full coverage of the new round of America's Star Libraries and the entire LJ Index at www. LibraryJournal.com/ljindex2009x and in the November 15 issue of LJ.







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