

LOCAL OPINION

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OUR VIEWS

Make sure 'happy' is in Thanksgiving

"Happy Thanksgiving."

You've certainly heard this greeting a lot recently, and you've surely returned the greeting in kind.

And in the front of your mind, surely you mean it. Everyone wants everyone to be happy, right? And Thanksgiving is a holiday that is self-explanatory: A time to be thankful for our blessings.

But somewhere in the back of your mind, in this state at this time, it wouldn't be that far-fetched to believe you're thinking, "Who can be happy right now?"

The numbers are grim. The state's unemployment rate has climbed above 15 percent. The Dow Jones average is a crap-shoot. Michigan is running record numbers in foreclosures and in job losses. People are losing their jobs and their homes.

The need is rising. Church groups and organizations like the Salvation Army are setting records for assistance. The Salvation Army, for instance, has noticed that people who were donors last year are now coming to them for assistance.

So where does the "happy" come from?

Well, it doesn't come from material possessions. Sure, they make it easier, but do they bring lasting and genuine joy? Probably not.

Doesn't true happiness come from being content with what we have — no matter how meager our possessions or how trying our circumstances?

Consider the Pilgrims, who celebrated the first Thanksgiving in the autumn of 1621. The English colonists arrived in the New World in the winter, making it very difficult for them to find food and build shelter. Most of them died the first few months in their new home, having already been weakened by their two-month voyage on the Mayflower. There were no emergency rooms or hospitals, flu shots, penicillin or even aspirin, let alone health insurance.

The Pilgrims endured more hardships and had far, far less in material possessions than the average American today; yet they gave thanks in celebration for what little they had.

As you sit down to celebrate Thanksgiving, look around. Find the blessings in your life. And then put the happy in your Thanksgiving by being grateful for your many blessings.

Hitting the road? Travel safely

Certain pieces of advice should go without saying, but we wanted to make sure this got said:

If you're among the estimated 1.2 million Michiganians planning on traveling for Thanksgiving, please do it safely!

AAA Michigan estimates that number of people in this state will travel at least 50 miles to celebrate the holiday, a number they say is on par with last year's. Sure, the economy continues to lag, but folks still tend to prefer spending the day with family, and for most that means hopping in the car. AAA Michigan says some 87 percent of state travelers will go by car.

If you do, you aren't likely to find much help at the pump. While gas prices have dropped some 17 cents in the last couple of weeks, they're still up more than 59 cents from a year ago. To make things more crowded, the 102-hour Thanksgiving holiday coincides with the state's firearms deer season, which means hunters will also be on the roads.

Here are some numbers to consider before you turn the key:

- In 2008, 61,010 deer-vehicle crashes were reported in Michigan; 12 motorists lost their lives, another 1,648 were injured.

- During the 2008 Thanksgiving holiday, 13 people died in nine fatal crashes on Michigan roads, compared with 11 deaths in 2007. Restraints were not used by eight of the victims. Alcohol was involved in 10 of the fatalities.

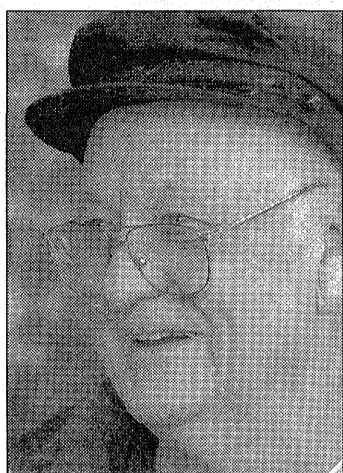
While we hesitate to belabor the obvious, we hope you'll enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday and then, when you hit the road, avoid alcohol, buckle up, be well rested and avoid distractions (such as texting) while driving.

Come home safely.

COMMUNITY VOICE

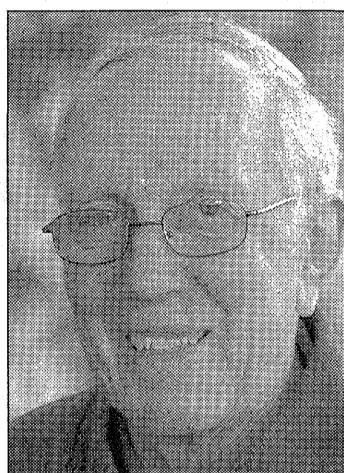
Are you ready for the Christmas season?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



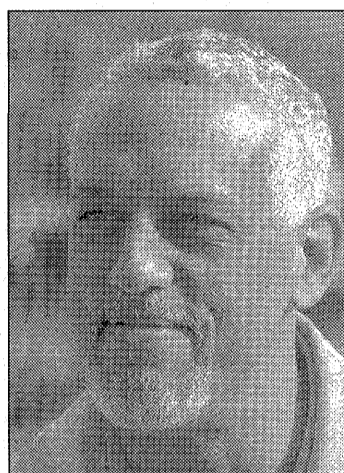
"As ready as I'll ever be. It's a blessed season but it's so commercial now."

Bernie Brehm
Plymouth Township



"I think so. It's that time of year."

Walt Batry
Plymouth Township



"Absolutely. Does that mean I'm supposed to have presents? I'm just ready to have fun."

Tony Sebastian
Plymouth



"Not really. I want to get Thanksgiving over with first."

Eleanor Mahlmeister
Plymouth

LETTERS

'Twas the Morning After Thanksgiving

'Twas the morning after Thanksgiving, and all through our house,

I was the creature stirring, as sneaky as a mouse.

The kiddies, all cozy and snug in their beds,

The hubby's arm stretched out, across the back of my head.

While visions of cheap prices danced in my mind,

I couldn't wait to get there and see what I'd find.

Carefully, I lifted the covers and slid down, Had just made it out of bed, without making a sound.

When out of the driveway arose such a clatter,

I sprang down the stairs to see what was the matter.

Away to the window, I went for a look, Peeked through the curtains, that hung on a hook.

The sun was not up yet and the moon cast its glow,

The tree was glistening white, covered in fresh snow.

When, what to my sleepy eyes should appear?

But, my best friend, with her shopping gear.

She had Starbucks in hand and two-way radios too,

Her fanny pack had wish lists that bulged and grew.

I ran to the door and opened it wide, I had to hurry and let her inside.

She smiled knowingly, when she saw my wrinkled mess,

I'd slept in my clothes, to help with readiness.

I sprang upstairs, to get my purse and shoes,

I dashed right back and was ready to cruise.

My friend drove, while I looked at the fliers,

There were such good deals at Target and Meijer's.

I sipped my Starbucks and said with a smile,

"These deals only come once in a great while."

Now, Wal-Mart! Then, Kohl's and J.C. Penney, too.

Of course, Target and Best Buy and Limited II.

We made it to the first store just as the long lines took flight,

"Happy shopping to all and to all a good night."

Maggie Wunderlich
Canton

Supports Turnaround plan

I am a resident of Canton and am very concerned about the current economic condition of our state. Something must be done.

Two generations ago, Michigan was a Top 10 state for economic growth. For the past generation, we have lagged the nation. Michigan is becoming economically poorer, smaller and less competitive.

In order to reverse this trend, Business Leaders for Michigan is proposing the Michigan Turnaround Plan to get our state back to being a Top Ten economic leader.

I support the Michigan Turnaround Plan because it is a comprehensive strategy to transform Michigan's economy. It lays out the case for change, sets achiev-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

able goals, identifies specific action steps and explains the impact of change. The plan will position Michigan for long-term, sustained economic growth through five strategies:

1. Changing the way the state manages its finances.
2. Right-sizing and enacting structural budget reforms.
3. Getting Michigan competitive to attract and retain jobs.
4. Making investments that create a great job environment.
5. Accelerating job growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

I encourage you to endorse the Michigan Turnaround Plan. I also encourage your readers to read the plan for themselves at BusinessLeadersforMichigan.com and pass it along to their family and friends.

Whether you consider yourself a liberal, a conservative or someone in the middle, the Michigan Turnaround Plan provides action plans and goals behind which all Michiganians can unite for our state's future.

Nick Lancaster
Canton

Solution is you

A recent letter expressed a doctor's concerns for her patients; she sees their problems firsthand. "I talk to families every day who have suffered from the effect(s) of this economy." "My representative seems to be working in direct opposition to the needs of the working families — irresponsible." "I do know we just can't ignore these problems any longer."

I understand her concern, most of us do, but I don't see the same path to a solution. She states: "I talk; I know"; and transitions to a "we" must do something. Her deep concerns turn to a scream out the window: "Somebody must do something!" And that somebody is in Washington. I don't agree.

Perhaps another example to clarify: If you see a man drowning, or a man starving, do you say: "Somebody must do something, or do YOU do something? A wise man once gave us examples like this, and even a commandment on what to do.

The commandment was not to "Love the public as yourself" it was to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love is a very personal act; it is one-to-one. This man worked miracles; he could have cured the ill in whole towns, whole countries. Why didn't he?

Because he wanted to give us an example of love, an example for us to follow.

The Catholic Church has a great social teaching on "subsidiarity." It says that if you have a problem, the first source of solution should be yourself. And if you

see a neighbor with a problem, the first source of assistance should be you. And if together you can't reach a solution, then seek your neighborhood, then your church, then your city, etc. The government is not without a role, but it is the LAST choice. Solutions should always start with you.

Ninety percent of people are employed, only 10 percent not. Over two hundred million have insurance, only 25 do not. You don't know how to act on these big problems yourself, then get together with eight others to help the one unemployed. It starts with helping one. Talk to your neighbors, your subdivision group, your church, your city. Rally your neighbors.

You have time. Volunteer to do what you do best — fill out tax returns, cook in a soup kitchen, offer day care, work in a clinic. You have a rainy day fund. Hire an unemployed person to do work around your house. And all of this, to what impact? Read Saturday's *WSJ* article on the heart surgeon who decided to do something, and now routinely does \$100,000 surgeries for \$2,000. You CAN make a difference.

"Do something for your fellow man for which you get no pay" (Albert Schweitzer). You have a rainy day fund in case you may have needs? For many of your neighbors, it is raining. Hard. Now.

"Somebody must do something?" That someone is you.

And what of our politicians? I've spoken to my representative McCotter a number of times. He recognizes that the government is not the solution to most social problems. Large programs create bureaucracy, dispassion, and large centralized expenses — a breeding ground for greed and corruption, and inefficiency. Dispassion is the key problem with the government solution; there can be no love in dispassion, only attempts at cost efficiency — regardless who pays the cost. I support Mr. McCotter's efforts. I've hired my unemployed neighbor to do work for me.

Tom Salapatek
Canton

Shouldn't cut homestead

To Gov. Jennifer Granholm, I can't believe you took away our 100 percent homestead from the seniors. Our homes are paid for and we have worked. That money helped us pay our taxes.

Being a senior is not a crime. We should be able to enjoy our older years in harmony without our insurances going higher, heat bills going up, taxes going up, and car gas going up. We all are the people who make up Michigan and the good Lord has us here for a reason.

You said vote for me and the next couple of years will be better, but things have gotten so much worse. More school taxes, less students in school. What happened to the lottery, always saying that takes care of it.

Higher education is great because everyone gets a degree in something, but what good is it without a job?

I know your job is overwhelming and the pressures are great, but please remember seniors are going through a lot themselves. Being sick and older sure doesn't help.

I just felt it was time to speak up and speak out for myself.

Meritta Garcia
Westland

P.S. I'm sorry we have lived here in Wayne County and stayed here so long.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



Brad Kadrich Community Editor
Susan Rosiek Executive Editor / Publisher
Grace Perry Director of Advertising

Score! Black Friday shopping is competitive sport

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
CORRESPONDENT

After Thanksgiving dinner, local football fans will hit the couch to watch the Lions play the Green Bay Packers. Avid shoppers, on the other hand, will sit down to plan an equally traditional and no less competitive game — Black Friday shopping.

New research by University of Michigan professor David Wooten suggests Black Friday shopping is similar to sport.

Wooten, a marketing professor at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, along with his research partner, Robert Harrison of Western Michigan University, compiled data from retail managers and more than 200 families in 19 states to create a play-by-play analysis of Black Friday.

They found that, similar to football, the annual frenzy that signals the kickoff to the Christmas shopping season has rules (no line-cutting, item hoarding or stealing from others), strategies for winning (organizing shopping teams, outmaneuvering opponents), and phases of the game (pre-shopping planning, waiting and hunting).

According to Wooten, it also consists of competitors, who relish the glory of victory, as well as spectators, who simply show up to be entertained.

POWER SHOPPERS

Local Black Friday shoppers Mandi Napolitano, her sister Melissa Brown and her aunt, Vicki Skrobot, know firsthand the thrill of the game.

Every year after pumpkin pie the trio huddles amidst a pile-up of newspaper circulars to plan their attack.

"We prepare, cut everything out, look through the papers for hours. Then, we talk on

the phone right before we all go to bed," said Napolitano, 33.

The Canton resident doesn't sleep long; her Black Friday begins at 3:30 a.m.

By 4 a.m. she has teamed up with Nicole Bielecki of Livonia and Pauline Wright of Brighton, and after a stop at Tim Horton's for coffee they head toward Westland Center.

The high school friends know just how to tackle the sales after five years of Black Friday power shopping.

"Someone goes and jumps in line and the others go and grab all the stuff. We help each other," she said.

This year, Napolitano hopes to score an Xbox for her daughter. Although she plans to spend about \$200 less than usual due to the tight economy, her shopping list is still long.

"We clear the car seats out of the car and it's full from top to bottom with stuff from all of us. We usually take my friend's minivan and it's packed," she said.

FAMILY TRADITION

Napolitano's sister, Brown, 37, graduated from Plymouth



Canton High School and now lives in Ionia, but returns to Western Wayne county for Black Friday every year. For the stay-at-home mom, shopping starts at 4:30 a.m. while it's still "pitch black" outside. Brown and her aunt stop at Biggy Coffee then head to Kohl's.

"It's kind of this mad dash all around Canton," she said. "Most people think we're nuts but it's tradition now. It's a bonding time of year."

Brown said prices are so good, it's worth battling the crowds. In fact, competition is part of the fun.

"It's just the whole thrill of it ... Am I going to be the one to get the item or are they going to be out of it by then?" Brown said. "The lines are like a mile long, but the shoppers are really nice. I've never had a bad experience."

coupons, and more than 300 "doorbusters" including merchandise brought into the store especially for the event.

"It is very exciting to work Black Friday. Traffic patterns are generally very heavy from 4 a.m. through 2 p.m., then it tapers off in the afternoon," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of planning that begins months in advance, from proper staffing through placement of merchandise."

However hard retailers work to lure shoppers, some refuse to get in the game. Sarah Donovan, 37, of Birmingham, has shopped Black Friday before, but this year she'll pass.

"It's crazy out there. I'm going to wait to do my shopping," she said. "I keep hearing about layaway, and I think that's a good option."

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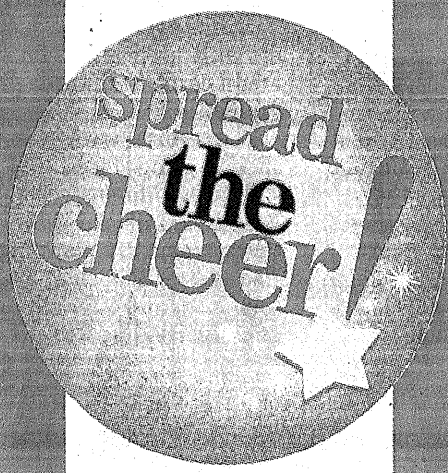
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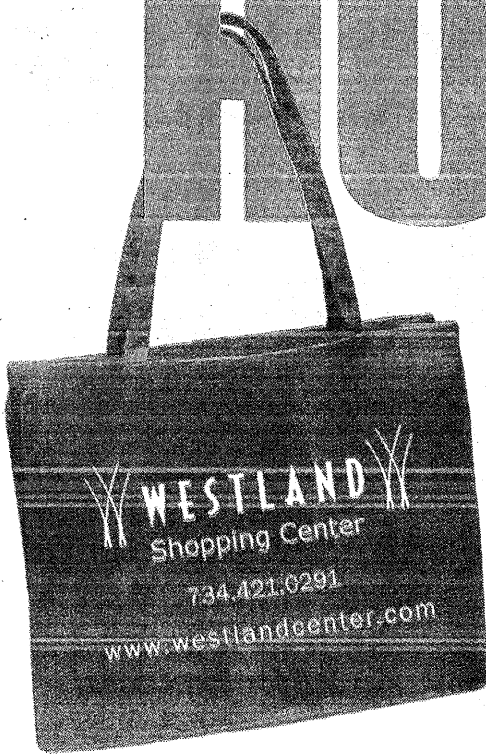
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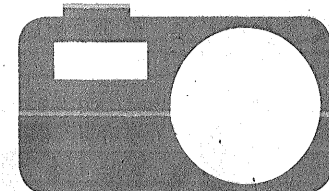
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Bigger and better

New gym scores points at St. John Neumann

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's fitting for the Home of the Dragons to have the hottest gymnasium in town.

Those Dragons play for St. John Neumann Parish in Canton.

And beginning Friday morning — standing on a colorful, progressive new parish logo that features a fire-breathing Dragon — they'll tip it off in their new gym.

Their opponents for the 10 a.m. game will be Plymouth's Our Lady of Good Counsel in the opener of a three-day Thanksgiving hoops tournament involving eight Catholic Youth Organization seventh-grade teams.

"Having a new gym will breathe new life into the athletic program," said the Rev. George Williams, the SJN pastor overseeing the expansion and renovation since it was announced in 2001. "It's just an exciting place to play. The kids and their parents love being here."

"It's fun to watch the parents sit through practice. I think they did that anyway, but they feel more comfortable because we have bleachers and it's so bright."

And if families want to join to enjoy a facility with six baskets, two scoreboards, a high ceiling and that hand-painted navy blue-and-burnt orange logo (beautifully created by SJN parishioner Christy DeCastro), then that, Williams emphasized, will "ultimately help the parish grow."

The logo certainly is a big improvement over the old one, merely the letters "SJN" in the middle of the court.

"And you really had to be tipping the ball up to see it," noted St. John Neumann athletic director Walt Marek.

AWESTRUCK

Williams and Marek said the

SJN TOURNEY FACTS

What: St. John Neumann Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament.

Where: In the brand new gymnasium at SJN, located at 44800 Warren Road just west of Sheldon in Canton.

Who: Eight seventh-grade Catholic Youth Organization basketball teams will christen the gym, a facility made possible by more than \$1.8 million in donations from parishioners since the parish renovation/expansion was announced in 2001.

Opening tip: The SJN Dragons start off the action at 10 a.m. Friday against Our Lady of Good Counsel of Plymouth.

Other teams: Games will continue Friday with Canton-based All Saints Catholic School, Our Lady of the Woods (Woodhaven), St. Mary's Royal Oak, Our Lady of Victory (Northville) and Our Lady of Sorrows (Farmington Hills) also competing. The tourney continues throughout the weekend, with the championship game set for 5:40 p.m. Sunday.

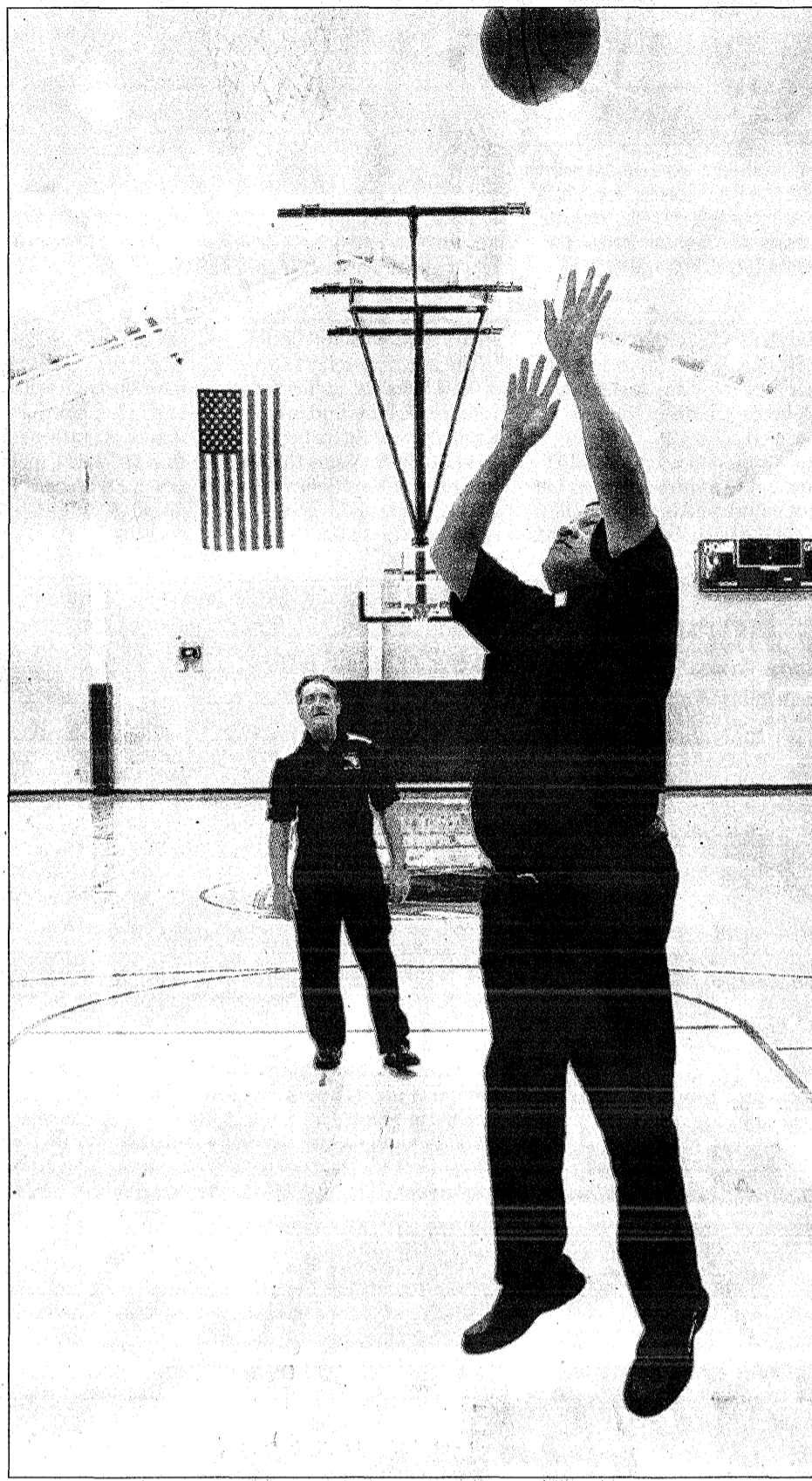
Dragons: Head coach Angelo Lanava and assistant coaches Mike Meagher and Tim Baechler lead a team including players Brayden Abundis, Brocton Baechler, Brendan Bird, Lucas Callahan, Brian Cornelius, Ryan Doyle, Joshua Jones, Nick Lanava, Sean Meagher, Justin Vitez, Wesley Weber and Gregory Williams.

reaction to the new facility has been great since mid-November when it officially opened.

"It was dedicated Nov. 11 and 12, and our first practice was the 16th," Marek said. "The kids and parents who have been in our program for a couple years walked in and their eyes just lit up like they were walking into a palace."

"That was the best feeling for

Please see **NEW GYM, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. John Neumann Parish pastor the Rev. George Williams (foreground) tests out one of the baskets at the brand new gymnasium while athletic director Walt Marek waits for his turn.

SIDELINES

Canned food drive

Once again, the Salem varsity boys hockey team will be holding a canned food drive to help provide sustenance for the needy.

The food drive is Saturday at Plymouth Cultural Center, when the Rocks host the Canton Chiefs in a prep hockey tilt. The game starts at 8:30 p.m. Spectators will be asked to bring a canned food item (or non-perishable boxed food) and drop it in boxes by the gate when they purchase game tickets.

There will be the raffling of a gasoline gift card during the game. For every donated food item, fans will receive a ticket for the raffle.

Fans are asked to come a few minutes early to help minimize any bottleneck at the door. For more information, go to www.hockey.salemrocks.com.

Delapaz signs

Canton multi-sport athlete Kevin Delapaz recently signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Chiefs head baseball coach Mark Blomshield noted. Delapaz is a senior left-handed pitcher.

Delapaz also was the starting quarterback for Canton's Division I regional finalist football team. Congratulations to Kevin on the signing.

Penguins iced

The PCS Penguins unified varsity girls hockey team fell to 0-2-0 on the young season with a 7-0 loss Saturday to host Port Huron.

Coaches, please call

It's getting close to the winter season of high school sports — actually a few prep hockey games already have been played.

So 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@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.

Precision Baseball clinic

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

Areas where pitchers can expect improvement include: increasing velocity and arm strength; changing speeds; improving control and learning proper warm-up techniques. Batters can increase power, hit to all fields, reduce strikeouts, make good contact and recognize a fast-ball instead of a changeup or curve.

Meanwhile, in the catching department, instructors will focus on blocking, receiving, throwing, calling a game and being quick behind the dish.

All ages are welcome to sign up for the clinic, which begins Monday, Nov. 16 (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) Sessions are every Monday and Friday and are \$15 per session, per player and \$225 for all 16 sessions if paid up front.

For more information, send an e-mail to info@precisionbaseballone.com or call (734) 459-5921. Precision Baseball is located at 7835 Market Street in Canton.

Girls tankers don't disappoint at D-1 state meet

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Just making it to a Division 1 girls swim state meet is a big accomplishment.

But athletes from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park squads didn't want to show up and call it a day.

Swimmers competed hard and made their schools proud, even if they didn't get to go from Friday's preliminaries to Saturday's finals.

• Several Salem swimmers reached

'A few of these girls didn't have the conference meet we hoped for, but their performance at state meet cleared that up.'

ED WEBER, Canton girls swim coach

the final day at Holland Community Aquatic Center, with junior Emily Nelson placing sixth at finals in the 100 backstroke with a time of 59.72 seconds (after finishing seventh at prelims).

Sophomore Lauren Seroka finished

in ninth place Saturday in the 500 free (5:05.27) and took 11th in the 200 free finals (1:56.12) while freshman Abby Aumiller's finish of 1:01.58 in the 100 back earned her 14th place.

But the big story for Salem was a record-breaking performance by the 200-medley relay team of Aumiller, junior Ashley Micek, Nelson and Seroka on Friday. After finishing in a 16th-place tie with Northville (1:54.83), the Rocks finished 1:52.96 in the swim-off — setting a new Salem standard.

In other prelims, the Rocks 400-free relay team of sophomore Irene Li, Aumiller, Nelson and Seroka took 18th (3:46.14) and freshman Jocelyn Lamoureux finished 24th in the 500 free (5:26.23).

• Meanwhile, Canton junior Kari Schmitt just missed the cut Friday with an 18th-place time of 55.23 in the 100 freestyle (the top 16 per event at prelims reached the finals) while her teammates logged personal bests.

Please see **TANKERS, B2**



Kudos for U9 Sharks

The Canton Sharks U9 Boys Soccer team just completed a perfect season in the GLSL Michigan Division. The boys exhibited great team work and sportsmanship throughout the season and finished undefeated. Members of the Canton Sharks include (back row, from left) Coach Jim Siesel, Christopher Klavon, Nicklas Andrews, Bhanu Makkapatti, Tyler Turko, Michael Siesel, Coach Mark Klavon; (front row, from left) James Hansen, Austin Woelke, Thomas J Gorenflo, Drew Garby, Ryan White, Gurekmann Gill.

Penguins look to mesh

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's a mix of the new with the familiar that could propel the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins to success in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League. They can only go up following a 3-14-0 record in 2008-09.

To help spur better results, the Penguins have a new coach and a handful of new players. Plus, two top players — senior forward Kara Bongiovanni and senior defenseman Shauna Siebert — are back after playing travel hockey in 2008-09.

"There are so many fresh faces that it will take some time to jell together as a team," said first-year head coach Mary Beth Johnson.

Although the team lost a pair of lopsided games to open the season (7-1 Nov. 18 to Ann Arbor Pioneer and 7-0 Saturday to Port Huron), Johnson expected fortunes to turn around after finally having a full roster available to play.

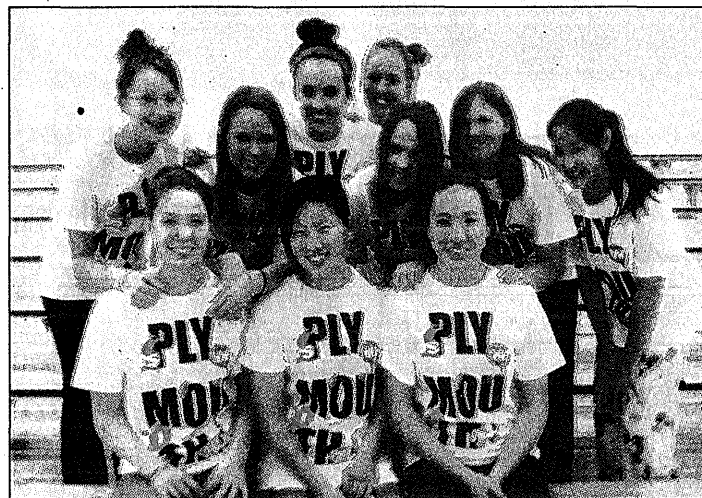
"Tuesday will be the first game that we will have our full roster which will help," Johnson emphasized. "The games against Ann Arbor and Port Huron, we were missing a few players."

The Penguins played Tuesday night against Walled Lake United at the Arctic Edge in Canton. Results of that game were not available as of press time due to the early holiday deadline.

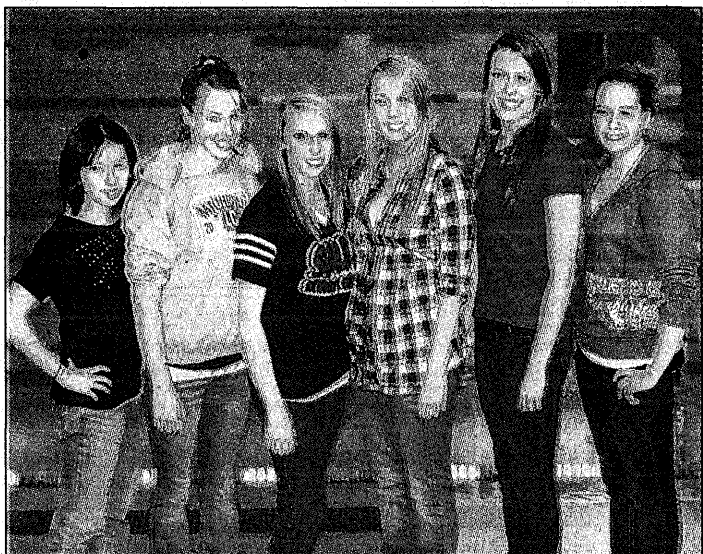
In two exhibition games earlier in November, the Penguins earned victories.

"I was very happy with the way we played against Regina and (Livonia) Ladywood with only a few practices under our belt and missing some of our players," Johnson said.

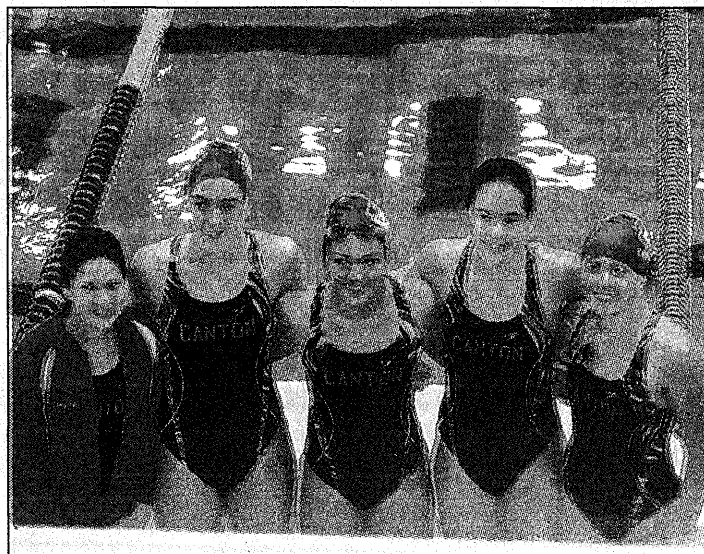
Please see **HOCKEY, B3**



Plymouth Wildcats state qualifiers for the D-1 state girls swim meet in Holland included: (front row, from left) Chantel Cote, Sijia Hao, Michelle Chang; (back row, from left) Linda Erickson, Rachel Huhta, alternate Abby Kelly, alternate Lydia Matson, alternate Emily Toro, Emily Weiner and Stephanie Matsui. The alternates were ready to step in case someone gets sick on a relay.



Qualifying from Salem for last week's Division 1 girls swim meet in Holland included (from left) Irene Li, Abby Aumiller, Jocelyn Lamoureux, Emily Nelson, Lauren Seroka and Ashley Micek.



Canton sent five girls to last week's Division 1 state finals, including (from left) freshman Delaney Adams, juniors Kari Schmitt, Kayla Eyster, Sara Schmitt and Sara Krebs.

TANKERS

FROM PAGE B1

Kari Schmitt set a personal best with that time as well as with the 50 free (25.45, 29th place) while junior Sara Krebs

did the same in the 100 breast (1:11.61, 25th). Almost logging her best time was freshman Delaney Adams in the 100 butterfly (1:02.58, 34th). Canton's relay teams didn't make it to Saturday either, but not before putting on a good showing with four of six events

resulting in personal bests.

The 200-free relay team of Kari Schmitt, junior Sara Schmitt, Adams and junior Kayla Eyster had its best time (1:44.80, 29th) while the 400-free relay of Kari Schmitt, Krebs, Adams and Eyster finished 26th at 3:50.83 — just

shy of their best (3:50.48).

"A few of these girls didn't have the conference meet we hoped for, but their performance at state meet cleared that up," said Chiefs head coach Ed Weber. "I'm very proud of the girls' effort and success."

"All of these girls will be returning next year. We look forward to another great year." Plymouth coach Doug Schade said all seven of the Wildcats who participated in the prelims "swam well but none qualified" for Saturday's action.

Seniors Michelle Chang, Chantel Cote, freshman Linda Erickson, senior Sijia Hao, junior Rachel Huhta, sophomore Stephanie Matsui and freshman Emily Toro were part of the largest Plymouth contingent ever to qualify for the state meet.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Give 'Pickleball' a try

Plymouth and Canton residents are welcome to sign up for a unique recreational sport being offered by Northville Parks and Recreation — pickleball.

The sport combines ping pong and badminton, with a hard paddle used to send the ball over the net. Open pickleball sessions are held at the Northville Recreation Center based out of Hillside Middle School.

Beginner to intermediate play is 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$2 per person) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesdays and Thursdays (\$2). Three courts are available.

Intermediate to advanced play is 12 noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays (\$3) and 6-8 p.m. Saturdays (\$4).

Paddles and pickleballs are provided at the center. Call (248) 349-0203 for more information.

Plymouth YMCA eyes grant

Liberty Mutual will soon donate a \$2,500 Responsible Community Grant to 20 youth sports organizations demonstrating their commitment to doing the right things on and off the playing surface.

The Plymouth Family YMCA is hoping to be one of the recipients.

"The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program targets many of the issues we see happening at youth sporting events by shining a positive light on what it means to be a responsible coach and a responsible sports-parent," said Greg Gordon, vice president of Consumer Marketing at Liberty Mutual. "Beyond that, Liberty Mutual is making a significant financial contribution to support the efforts of local organizations like Plymouth Family YMCA."

The ongoing, community-based program offers meaningful, easy-to-use educational resources for youth sports parents and coaches, including access to on-the-field game and practice preparation tools as well as self-paced online courses filled with learning tools, videos and topics addressing youth sports issues.

The Responsible Sports program, including community grants, comes at a crucial time for communities where youth programs are under pressure from increasing numbers of participants, limited volunteer activity and mounting program-administration costs.

Through the resources provided by the grants, it is hoped that "our organizations thrive even under challenging circumstances."

For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or go to www.responsiblesports.com.

YMCA leagues, classes

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering plenty of leagues and instructional classes this fall and winter, as detailed below:

- **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).
- There is something for everyone this Fall at the Plymouth YMCA. Registration is ongoing for Girls Volleyball Clinics (for ages 8-10 and 10-12), Basketball Clinics (for ages 6-7 and 8-9), Sports Sampler Class (for ages 3-5) and Little Dragons Martial Arts (for ages 4-7).

For more information on YMCA leagues and programs, check out www.ymca-detroit.org or call the office at 734-453-2904.

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Ocelot men place third in NJCAAs

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft College's bid to claim the NJCAA Division I men's soccer crown fell agonizingly short Friday night as the Ocelots lost in a shootout (3-2) to Georgia Perimeter College in West Windsor, N.J.

Tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation, both teams fought their way through a scoreless overtime period before engaging in a rather entertaining shootout session.

"It was one of the craziest shootouts you will ever see," Schoolcraft head coach Rick Larson said.

Freshman Dane Laird staked the Ocelots to a 1-0 advantage just 21 seconds into the second half on an assist from YaYa Toure. The lead stood up until the 70-minute mark when Georgia Perimeter sent the equalizer past a diving Ian McDonald-Wilkins in the Schoolcraft net.

In overtime, Schoolcraft carried the play to the No. 2-ranked team but came away empty.

"I thought we had the bulk of the chances in OT," Larson said. "We had some great opportunities, but we couldn't get one to go in. They are a great team over there and they just know how to win games."

The loss put an end to an outstanding season turned in by the Ocelots, who finished 19-2-1 and allowed just 12 goals all season. "I just told them these are character-exposing moments and we worked so hard to get to this point," Larson said when asked about his postgame speech. "There's nothing to hang your heads over because we managed to have an outstanding season."

The Ocelots quickly regrouped to claim third place in the national tournament, hosted by Mercer Community College (N.J.), by posting a decisive 3-0 triumph Sunday afternoon over Louisburg (N.C.) College.

Ex-Wolverine Czarnik acquired by Whalers



Czarnik

The Plymouth Whalers bolstered their roster Monday with the acquisition of Washington, Mich. native and former University of Michigan player Rob Czarnik from the Oshawa Generals.

In exchange for the 19-year-old center, the Whalers sent Oshawa a 10th-round draft pick and Windsor's conditional second-round pick, both from the 2011 draft.

"We are excited to add Robbie to our lineup," said Plymouth President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "His greatest asset is his speed and we look forward to developing him for the next level."

"What a great opportunity this is for Robbie to continue his education and play in the number one developmental league for the National Hockey League."

Czarnik was selected in the third round (63rd) by the

NHL's Los Angeles Kings in the 2008 entry draft.

The talented player was originally selected by Oshawa in the sixth round of the 2006 Ontario Hockey League Draft.

of the 2006 Ontario Hockey League Draft.

But he never played in Oshawa, opting instead to play for the National Team Developmental Program in Ann Arbor. In two seasons with the NTDP from 2006-08, Czarnik scored 32 goals with 27 assists for 59 points in 114 games.

Czarnik moved to the University of Michigan program in 2008 and played there through the start of this season. In all, he scored eight goals with 14 assists for 22 points in 51 games with the Wolverines.

The newcomer will wear

No. 27 when he makes his Whalers' debut 7 p.m. Wednesday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth against the Windsor Spitfires.

The Whalers then play Friday in Sault Ste. Marie before returning home on Saturday to host the Kingston Frontenacs at 7 p.m. at Compuware.

NHL callups

Whaler alums continue to be called up to the National Hockey League.

Tim and Tom Sestito were called up by the New Jersey Devils and Columbus Blue Jackets, respectively. Then goalies Michal Neuvirth and Justin Peters were summoned to the NHL.

Neuvirth was called up from Albany of the American Hockey League to the Washington Capitals; Peters came up to the Carolina Hurricanes from Albany of the AHL.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Catholic Youth Organization basketball teams will converge Friday through Sunday on St. John Neumann Parish in Canton, where a Thanksgiving tournament will officially open its new gym. A number of parishioners donated more than \$1.8 million toward the facility. Ready for the big weekend are St. John Neumann athletic director Walt Marek (left) and the Rev. George Williams.

NEW GYM

FROM PAGE B1

both of us to see that kind of reaction."

The many parishioners who donated money since 2001 undoubtedly were just as elated with the finished product.

"The parishioners were very generous and very patient, because it took so long," Williams said. "Initially, we were hoping to do an initial fund-raising effort and (then) borrow the money from the Archdiocese of Detroit."

"The Archdiocese hasn't had money the last few years. So shortly after the project started, the goal posts kept getting moved and the time tables kept getting set back."

Parishioners did come through, donating about \$1.8 million of a project estimated at just over \$2 million, with the endeavor bringing much

more than a place to shoot hoops.

There is a large, Wi-Fi-ready new youth ministries room along with conference rooms, offices, storage space and a multi-purpose room — the latter actually renovated from its former life as a cramped gym.

"When the renovation was conceived," Williams said, "we wanted to enhance our youth ministry so that included the youth room as well as the gym."

BRANCHING OUT

It's definitely mission accomplished on all fronts, with nothing but potential for good things to come.

St. John Neumann already boasts a successful feeder program to the basketball teams at Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools.

That connection can only improve and, with the way everything turned out, both men have grand plans in

mind for the parish, especially its athletic department.

Besides CYO basketball teams for grades four-eight (including a team for girls in grades five-six), Marek said plans are to form CYO volleyball teams in 2010-11. And in December, an adult co-ed volleyball league will start up.

The positive vibe should spread beginning with this weekend's tournament.

"We're hoping that if people see the gym they might want to come here and play," Marek said. "The program is growing by leaps and bounds. They see the facilities we have."

"It's hard to sell a program when you're playing in a little matchbox gymnasium with tile floors."

He was laughing when he said that. But the new place to be for CYO basketball is no joke.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Wright sparks Wildcats over East Kentwood

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Paul Fassbender wanted his Plymouth varsity boys hockey team to get some big tests under its belt this season as a way to prepare for a tough KLA season and state tournament.

The Wildcats passed their first such test Saturday with a 6-4 victory over East Kentwood in Grand Rapids.

"We played very well tonight," Fassbender said. "We had strong, good puck movement."

Leading the charge were Colin Wright, who scored twice and added an assist, and two-goal scorer Ryan Bauer.

"Colin Wright played an explosive game using his speed to generate multiple scoring opportunities," Fassbender said.

Wright got Plymouth on the board in the first period, scoring off a feed from Ryan Renault (one goal, two assists).

In the middle stanza, Wright set up Bauer for his first of two markers in the frame. Bauer also scored from Renault and

Pat Smiatacz, while Zach Gambrell (from Ryan Brown) also scored.

Finishing the victory with goals in the third period were Wright (from Kevin Matusiak) and Renault on an unassisted tally.

Earning the victory for Plymouth was goaltender Michael Justus.

Plymouth played its home opener Tuesday night against Monroe in a game that took place after this issue of the *Observer* went to press.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Ladywood volleyball title bid ends

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Getting to the girls state volleyball finals is nothing new for Jack Magelssen, who won 10 state Class A championships when he was at Portage Northern.

But it's a brand new experience for his Delton-Kellogg squad, which had won only two district matches and had only one winning season in school history.

In Friday's Class B semifinal, Livonia Ladywood's state tournament run came to an end as the Panthers rolled to a 25-10, 25-17, 25-18 triumph before a large and boisterous crowd at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

Ladywood, which bowed out at 40-23 overall, ironically was the last team to beat the 60-6-2 Panthers — that coming in last month's Sturgis Invitational.

"We're not a big team, just a bunch of local kids who grew up together and play together," said Magelssen, whose squad faced North Branch in Saturday's championship final. "I felt they could get to the state finals, but I don't know if they knew."

"You never know when you get here. Tonight we knew we had to come out hard and set the tone of the match. We like to play ahead."

The Panthers did just that against the Blazers.

In the first set, the Panthers bolted out to a 7-2 lead and it was the Terin Norris show as the senior setter, bound for Western Michigan University, had three kills, two blocks and two ace serves.

The Panthers took control of

the second set building an 11-6 lead. The Blazers fought back to within three, 19-16, before sophomore outside hitter Adrianna Culbert served three aces and Norris once again got the set-winning kill on a dink shot just over the net.

In the third set, the Blazers jumped out to a 4-1 early advantage, but Delton once again exerted its dominance to take leads of 10-6 and 17-10.

Ladywood fought back, but it was too little, too late as Norris and Culbert combined for 11 kills to close out the match.

From Ladywood coach Erin Craggs' perspective, it was a hopeless feeling.

"I kind of told the girls just to hit hard," she said. "We were giving them free balls and it put them in a comfort zone. At the end we persevered and showed a lot of integrity."

"They (Delton) played great. They threw our offense off. They served aggressively and passed 'nails.' We weren't able to keep up."

Norris led the Panthers with a team-high 12 kills to go along with 21 assist-to-kills, three aces and five blocks.

Culbert and Carly Boehm each added nine kills, while Katie Marshall and Hannah Williams combined for 22 digs.

Senior outside hitter Claire Dezeliski had a team-high 12 kills for the Blazers, while junior Katy Rooney added 11.

Sophomore setter Alexandra Hines contributed 27 assists, while senior Ashley Hines recorded a team-high 10 digs.

But the Blazers only hit at an .093 clip (30-for-107) with 20 attacking errors.

Delton, meanwhile, was 39-for-105 (.286) with only nine errors.

It's Magelssen's first trip to the state finals since 2001 and his 13th overall.

"It's nerve-wracking," said Magelssen, now in his fifth season at Delton. "The girls are handling it better than I am. I love the kids, but I'm not sure I can take many more like this."

Meanwhile, the Blazers hope to build on this year's state tournament run.

"We graduate only three seniors," Craggs said. "And they've set an awesome bar to make it back next year."

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

With everybody back, the team will bank on the experience and talent of Bongiovanni, Siebert, senior defenseman Jordyn Moore and junior defenseman Sarah Coleman — all co-captains.

Other forwards include juniors Tory Campbell, Jennifer Fedon, Rebecca Majszak, Mallory Rojo and Marris Sullivan, sophomore Ellexus Montoya and freshmen Chelsea Finkbeiner and Beth Johnson.

Also back on the blue line will be junior Rhianna Fleisher. With only four defensemen, that lack of depth could pose a problem if any injuries crop up.

Meanwhile, freshman Cortny McAdoo is slated to hold down the fort as the team's only goaltender.

In addition to Mary Beth Johnson, her husband, Brad Johnson, is new to the coaching staff as an assistant coach and goaltending coach.

The third coach is Shawn Rowley, part of the Penguins program since it began.

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Local church stresses service to others with St. Lucia Day event

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER



Members of the annual St. Lucia Singers perform during breakfast at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills.

It's not your typical eggs and bacon breakfast.

Waiters and waitresses dressed in Swedish costume serve fruit soup and cardamom bread, ham and Havarti cheese, homemade cookies, Limpa bread and Lucy buns, while a choir sings and children, some dressed as elves, dance around a Christmas tree.

"I started it 30 years ago," said Nancy Bergstrom of Farmington Hills. "No one is more surprised than I am that it's gone on for 30 years. You think, are people going to get tired of it? But they come year after year. For some people, it's the start of the Christmas season."

The St. Lucia Day celebration at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills combines Scandinavian foods, culture, dance, songs and a lesson or two about serving others. The church is part of a denomination with roots in Sweden, where families mark the saint's day of martyrdom — Dec. 13 — with special rolls and coffee. The eldest daughter, wearing a wreath of candles on her head, serves breakfast to her relatives, recalling St. Lucia's life of service.

The Italian saint was martyred in 304 after bringing food to persecuted Christians. She wore candles on her head to light her way through the dark catacombs where they hid.

High School seniors will portray St. Lucia at Faith Covenant Church's three breakfast seat-

ings on Dec. 5. They will proceed into the darkened sanctuary with their court, symbolizing "Christ's light coming into a darkened world," Bergstrom said.

"It's a beautiful morning. The St. Lucia and the court dress in long white robes with wreaths of candles on their hair. It's something that is simple and beautiful. I've had people come and when the procession starts, they start weeping. It's so beautiful."

Church members move the pews aside to make way for breakfast tables, the orchestra, choir and young folk dancers in the sanctuary. The event has grown from 350 people the first year to more than 1,000. There's a waiting list of some 90 people this year.

FOR CHARITY

Farmington Bakery supplies the Lucia buns made from a church member's recipe, but volunteers make the other breads and cookies. Proceeds

from the \$13 per person breakfast go to charity. This year the Detroit Children's Choir will benefit from the event.

The church's Christmas shop, stocked with goodies and gifts, and a "recycle shop" of gently-used Christmas decorations, both will be open. All proceeds from the recycle shop buy Christmas gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated.

"It's a community outreach," Bergstrom described St. Lucia Day. "It's a multi-generational event, which is so rare. Everyone wants to have a part."

Children of the church, age 4-7 dress in elf costume and dance in a group called the tomtar. Older children folk dance or lead in the St. Lucia procession. Adults serve the breakfast or perform with the orchestra or choir.

"There's something to do almost the whole way through and some kids can't wait to do the next thing," said Jeannine McFadyen of Westland, who

coordinates the event.

EAGER VOLUNTEERS

Adult church members also look forward to working at the event.

"This year we have a young lady playing cello who learned to play just so she could be in this orchestra, McFadyen said. "We have a huge crew in the kitchen. We have a crew just washing dishes and they love to do that. It's almost like being in a club to work in the kitchen."

"We have a gentleman who makes the coffee every year — for 30 years."

McFadyen has sung with the St. Lucia Day chorus since it was started. The group learns songs in both English and Swedish, practices a month before the event and then performs at the saint's celebration and at church services the following Sunday. Like the St. Lucia procession, most of the songs refer to Christ's light or Christmas.

Both Bergstrom and McFadyen said the St. Lucia Day celebration is a "fun way" to recall their church's Swedish roots. But Bergstrom also pointed out that the church today is culturally diverse.

"We're multicultural. That's what's so nice about it," Bergstrom noted.

The guests who attend the breakfast are equally diverse.

"Some people come in from out of town," McFadyen said. "It's fascinating to see how it keeps going year after year."

For more about the church, visit www.faithcovenantchurch.org

JUNE P. L. RANDALL

June P. L. Randall, age 84, a longtime resident of Livonia, passed away on November 22, 2009. She was born June 12, 1925 in Kennington, London, England to Gilbert and Lillian (Arnold) Parma. As a teenager June served as a Civil Defense Telephonist during the London blitz. She became a "GI" bride on October 23, 1945 when she married Leonard Randall a member of the US Army. They were happily married for 60 years until his death in 2006. She worked at the Detroit Public Library; June helped inaugurate an audio-visual department and pioneered record cataloging rules. June worked to establish library service in Livonia; she formed the first Friends of the Library group and served on the Library Commission for 10 years. She was very active in the PTA from local to state level; she received the Michigan Life and National Life Awards. June also received the key to the city of Livonia for all of her help and hard work. She was an avid reader, loved music, and had a passion for cooking. She is survived by her children Paul (Jennifer) Randall and Celia "Rose" (Stephen Warner) Randall-Warner; and her grandchildren Grace, Nichole, and Mallory. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. A memorial service was held last Wednesday at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Rev. Peter C. Smith officiated the service. Contributions would be appreciated to the Leelanau Conservancy, PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654 or CARE, PO Box 1871, Merrifield, VA 22116.

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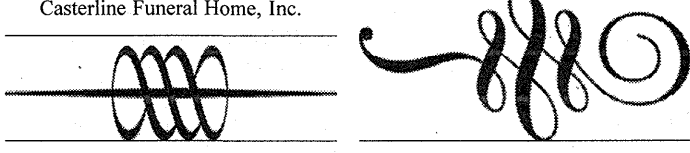
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<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE0862544</p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sunday School 11:00 - Contemp Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org CE0862547</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette CE0862548</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creedon CE0862557</p>
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a CE0862546</p>	<p>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter CE0865987</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs CE0864673</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE0865917</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>GREEK ORTHODOX</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 463-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 465-3196 CE0862538</p>	<p>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George Vaportis Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org CE0862541</p>	<p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WUWZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE0865177</p>	<p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1380 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org CE0865178</p>
<p>LUTHERAN-ELCA</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>	<p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron CE0865987</p>
<p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gull Rd. 248-474-0584 SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE NURSERY AVAILABLE BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS CE0865986</p>	<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org CE08626511</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>

For Information regarding this Directory,
please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

Plymouth Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

CHAMBER CHAT



Donna Trombley has started Beyond Basics, providing arts, crafts and music sessions for those with special needs or who are developmentally disabled.

Bringing arts, crafts to those with special needs

Observer: Tell us about your business.

Beyond Basics: Art, music, crafts and poetry enrichment sessions for developmentally disabled/seniors with dementia. Through the exploration of art, literature and music, we hope to evoke creativity and empower each individual with the experience of personal expression. From this it is our desire that individuals will build self-awareness, self-esteem, social skills and become more community involved. Frame Works has been in the art and framing business since 1976. Having offered arts & crafts classes to the public, Frame Works is pleased to open the door to people with special needs.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

Beyond Basics: Growing up with a family member with Down Syndrome, I began volunteering in special education programs. I continue to work and volunteer in the human service field at various capacities, with 28 years of experience.

BEYOND BASICS

- **Business Name:** Beyond Basics Program for Art & Culture
- **Business Address:** 42150 Ford Road, Canton (in the Frame Works building); 833 Penniman in Plymouth
- **Your Name and position:** Donna Trombley
- **Your Hometown:** Westland
- **Business Opened:** Oct. 1, 2009
- **Number of Employees:** 1
- **Business specialty:** Art, craft and music sessions for those with special needs or who are developmentally disabled
- **Hours of Operation:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m., with all-day sessions possible
- **Business Phone/Web site:** (734) 459-3666

I have a deep passion for the arts, and abilities that give me a desire to share that passion with others who rarely get the chance to develop their artistic expression.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Beyond Basics: I wanted a community setting for integration into the community.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Beyond Basics: It's a small, personal, enriching experience, not just day care. The "Adventures in Art" session will focus on specific artists

or styles, exploring examples of artists' works and trying our hand at producing our own pieces. In "The World of Words" sessions, through the reading of stories and poems by many writers across the globe and throughout time, we will contemplate and discuss what effect they have on us and what meaning they bring into our lives. In the "Music Menu" sessions, our goal is to have a taste of musical expression from various cultures and time periods, and to discover the flavors that appeal to our musical palettes.

Economic breakfast

The December 2009 Good Morning Plymouth Community Breakfast will again take a glimpse into our economic future. The event will feature local experts who work directly in fields critical to our economy. This year we have also added to the line up of speakers State Representative Marc Corriveau to discuss the impact of decreasing state tax revenues on the Michigan economy.

- Speakers include:
- Government: Rep. Marc Corriveau
 - Financial Institutions: Bill Lawton, Community Financial
 - Real Estate: Jeff Glover, Keller Williams Realty, Jeff Glover & Associates
 - Investment/Stocks: Steve Alexandrowski, GEM Asset Management, LLC
 - Auto: To be announced
- These breakfasts normally draw 50-80 people and provide an excellent opportunity for networking. On Dec. 10 the breakfast will be from 7:30-9 a.m. at Independence Village located at 14707 Northville Rd. (South of Five Mile Rd.). To attend this event, please call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org. The cost is \$12 and can be paid in advance. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to the event, since the Chamber is liable for all meals.

This event is sponsored by TDS Metrocom and Independence Village.

Community/Business News

From now through Dec. 14, Dick Scott Automotive Group will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots organization. On Saturday, Dec. 5 they will host a special one-day only holiday event and toy drive at each of their dealerships.

As a thank you for bringing



Wes Graff

in your new unwrapped toy donation on Saturday, Dec. 5 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. you'll receive a coupon for \$10 off on your next oil change

at any Dick Scott Dealership. They will have a Marine on site to greet visitors and Santa will be available for free photos compliments of Dick Scott Automotive Group between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Please do not bring any stuffed animals, as they can no longer be distributed because they can harbor germs. Please note that Toys for Tots is always in need of gifts for 9 to 12 year old boys and girls. Craft or hobby kits, make-up kits, electronics and CD's, are great choices.

Dick Scott has convenient locations in Plymouth, Canton and Fowlerville.

Holiday High Tea

Sweet Afton Tea Room is now selling tickets for their 2009 Holiday High Teas on Sunday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m.

Each Tea includes entertainment by Harpist Bethany Stawasz. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$24 children under 10 and can purchased in person or by phone at (734) 454-0777. The Tea Room is located at 450 Forest Ave. in Downtown Plymouth.

Red Ryder

The Plymouth Historical Museum is showcasing a special exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story." The exhibit draws its inspiration from the popular 1983 movie, "A Christmas Story," in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red

Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Throughout our Main Street there will be vignettes of scenes from the movie and from the original story that the movie is based on, Plymouth Historical Museum style. Red Ryder BB guns were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth. The exhibit runs through Jan. 24. Call (734) 455-8940 for the museum's schedule.

Genisys top workplace

Genisys Credit Union was chosen as one of the 2009 Detroit Free Press Top Workplaces in the medium size category (150-499 employees). The survey, conducted by WorkplaceDynamics of Exton, Pa., identified key factors that are important to employees such as business practices, company growth, education, income, atmosphere and future opportunities.

Based on the responses from employees, Genisys finished 16 out of the 58 highly ranked businesses in the metro Detroit area that were honored.

New directory

There are only a few more weeks left to purchase advertising in the Chamber's new Business Directory and Local Area Profile. The book provides a buyers guide to all member companies and will be used as a marketing piece about the Plymouth Community. To learn more about advertising opportunities in the guide, please call Gillian Mashni of NovoPrint at (734) 718-4049.

Wes Graff is executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via e-mail at wes@plymouthmich.org or by calling (734) 453-1540.

Don't add to holiday anxiety by overspending

The holidays are upon us. It is also that time of year when many who are already in a difficult financial situation make things worse by overspending for the holidays. It doesn't matter if times are good or not, inevitably, Americans overspend during the holiday season.

I believe holidays are about family and friends, not gifts. In this difficult economy, it is more important than ever to have a budget for the holiday season.

Too many consumers never plan their purchases for the holiday season and find themselves paying for gifts long after the holidays are over. In fact, it's not unusual for some to still be paying off last year's holiday purchases when it's time to make this year's purchases.

It is important to be fiscally responsible. Even though the economy has improved over last year, we are still in a very difficult situation. If nothing more, look at the unemployment rate — substantially higher than a year ago and, according to many, expected



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

to increase. In a recent report by the University of Michigan economists, job losses in Michigan will continue for another two years. In other words, no one's job is safe.

My advice to those who exchange gifts is to set limits ahead of time on what will be spent for gifts. Setting a maximum amount to be spent is not only a good financial move, but also can relieve a substantial amount of pressure and anxiety during this holiday season. I can't think of a better holiday gift this season than to reduce the amount of anxiety someone is feeling.

I recognize that if everyone is fiscally responsible during the holiday season, it's not good for the American economy in the short run. Our economy is consumer-based and many retailers depend upon the holiday season to make their year. However, reality is

the economy is changing and many people can no longer afford the luxury of unlimited spending.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that when the economy improves — and it will — that everything will be back to normal. I don't believe that is the case. I believe we are going through a fundamental change and, as with every other change, there will be winners and losers. The winners will be the people who are fiscally responsible. Unfortunately, there will be losers and they will be the individuals who fail to adapt to the changes in the economic environment.

The holiday season should be a time of joy and happiness, not of pressure and anxiety. So relieve the pressure and anxiety of family and friends and discuss the idea of spending limits on holiday gifts.

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.

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 Dinverno

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 Canton.

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 environment.

"The #1 reason for poor sleep is stress, closely followed by the tossing and turning that comes from the wrong mattress or pillow. If you aren't waking up feeling refreshed and renewed, you are probably sleeping on the wrong mattress" said Vice President of Operations Steve Glucksman.

"In just a few minutes, our sleep diagnostic system fits you with the right mattress, foundation and pillow for your own unique body and sleep style. It takes the guess work out of choosing a mattress and brings in the science of sleep."

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.

"The staff at Pure Sleep is specially trained and committed to finding the right sleep system to give you a great night's sleep and get you on your way to better health" said Glucksman.

But what about the cost? "Rest assured, we have the buying power of Michigan's #1 Mattress Retailer, Art Van — guaranteeing

the lowest prices, best selection and complete satisfaction for every person we serve."

This holiday, the perfect gift just might be a new mattress, giving you a better night's sleep all year long.

FREE SLEEP DIAGNOSTIC TEST and get **50% OFF PLUS an extra 10% OFF**

STEARN'S & FOSTER® and Sleep to Live® mattress sets.

See Pure Sleep store for details.



Ask about Special Holiday Financing
No Interest until 2014
No Minimum Purchase

41913 Ford Rd, Canton
Just west of I-275
across the street from IKEA
(734) 983-9100

Store Hours
Open Daily 10am-9pm
Sunday 11am-6pm
Visit Pure Sleep Today for the Best Rest.

Art Van PureSleep

Because you can't have a great day—without a great night



FOOD

Holiday Helpers

Recipes for the Season

FAMILY FEATURES

The holidays are upon us, which means not only are you preparing those huge meals, but you also have an endless stream of other fun and festive get-togethers with hungry guests. To help you whip up those extra special dishes during the holidays, the folks at Carnation have created some rich and creamy holiday recipes.

For the early birds in your family, try Eggnog-Spiced French Toast. The added touch of eggnog spices puts just the right holiday touch on traditional French toast.

To use those leftovers, try Turkey & Cranberry Encore Salad — the combination of the uniquely creamy cranberry dressing along with fresh greens and succulent turkey make the perfect post-holiday entrée. You'll be happy for the leftovers.

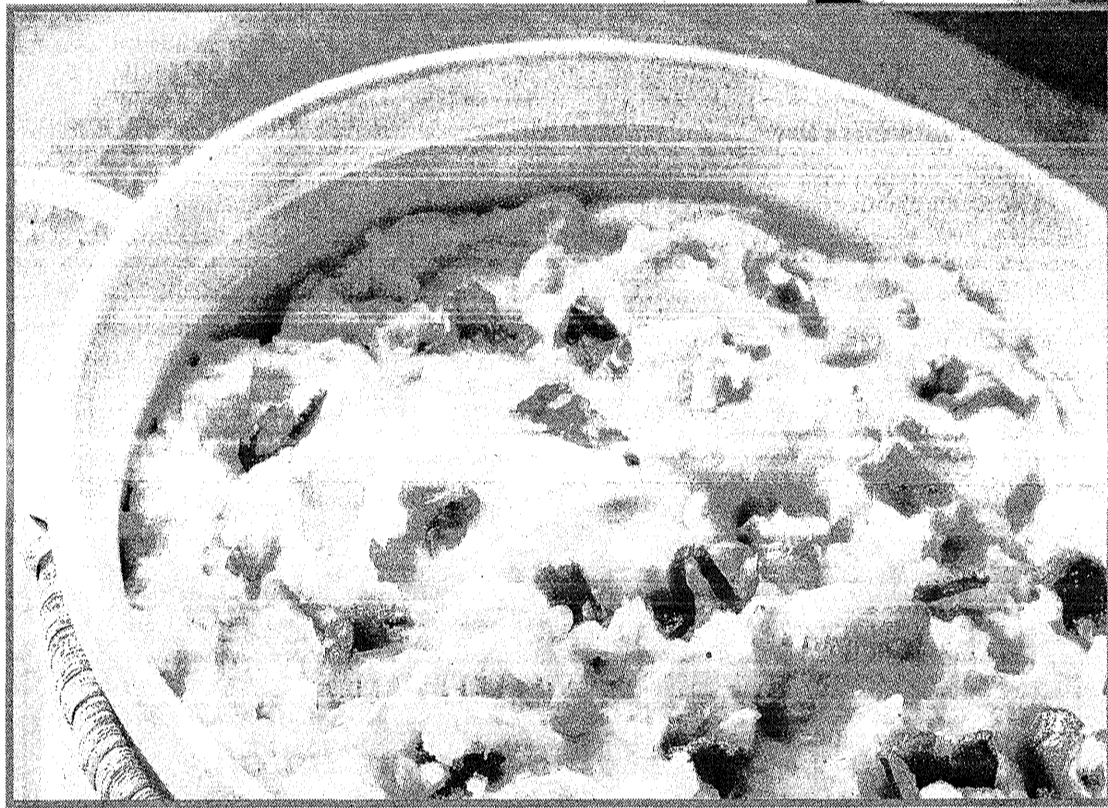
Fun Mexi-Meatball Kabobs are party perfect and easy to prepare. Use skewers to make them easy to eat.

Want to be a hit at the next potluck buffet? Bring along this perfect bake and take dish, Loaded Potato Potluck Favorite. It gets its creamy texture from Carnation Evaporated milk, which is fondly referred to as "The Cooking Milk." Did you know you can substitute it for drinking milk in any of your favorite recipes?

These rich and creamy recipes are perfect for any entertaining you'll be doing this holiday season. Find even more recipes at TheCookingMilk.com.



Eggnog-Spiced French Toast



Loaded Potato Potluck Favorite



Mexi-Meatball Kabobs



Turkey & Cranberry Encore Salad

Eggnog-Spiced French Toast

Makes 4 servings

- 2 large eggs
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons rum extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 8 slices (1/2-inch-thick) firm, day-old bread, divided
- Nonstick cooking spray
- Powdered sugar
- Maple syrup (optional)

BEAT eggs, evaporated milk, sugar, rum extract, cinnamon and nutmeg in shallow dish until well blended. Place 4 slices bread into egg mixture turning over to evenly moisten both sides.

MEANWHILE, spray large skillet with nonstick cooking spray; heat over medium heat. Transfer prepared bread to skillet in single layer. Cook for 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Remove slices to serving platter. Repeat with remaining bread slices, spraying skillet with cooking spray if necessary. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve immediately with syrup.

Loaded Potato Potluck Favorite

Makes 16 servings

- 8 medium potatoes (about 2 1/2 to 3 pounds total), peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 cup Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cups (8-ounce package) shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled, divided
- Sliced green onions (optional)

PLACE potatoes in large saucepan. Cover with water; bring to a boil. Cook over medium-high heat for 15 to 20 minutes or until tender; drain.

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Grease 2 1/2- to 3-quart casserole dish.

RETURN potatoes to saucepan; add evaporated milk, sour cream, salt and pepper. Beat with hand-held mixer until smooth. Stir in 1 1/2 cups cheese and half of bacon. Spoon mixture into prepared casserole dish. BAKE for 20 to 25 minutes or until heated through. Top with remaining 1/2 cup cheese, remaining bacon and green onions. Bake for an additional 3 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Turkey & Cranberry Encore Salad

Makes about 8 servings

DRESSING

- 2/3 cup (5-fluid-ounce can) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1/2 cup jellied or whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 1/4 cup Italian salad dressing

SALAD

- 1 bag (10 ounces) mixed salad greens of your choice (about 10 cups)
- 2 cups (about 10 ounces) cooked turkey, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) crumbled blue cheese
- 1/3 cup dried sweetened cranberries
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted walnuts (optional)

FOR DRESSING:

PLACE evaporated milk, cranberry sauce and Italian dressing in small jar or container; cover tightly with lid. Shake for 1 to 2 minutes. Makes about 1 1/2 cups. (Dressing can be made in advance and refrigerated for up to 2 days. Shake well before using.)

FOR SALAD:

TOSS greens, turkey, blue cheese and 3/4 cup dressing in large bowl. Sprinkle with cranberries and walnuts. Serve immediately and with additional dressing, if desired. Refrigerate any remaining dressing.

Mexi-Meatball Kabobs

Makes 30 servings, 2 skewers each

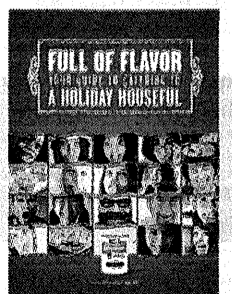
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 pounds lean ground beef
- 2 cups quick oats
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 2 packets (1.25 ounces each) taco seasoning mix
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 large bell peppers (any color), cut into 60, 1-inch pieces
- 60 4-inch wooden skewers
- Salsa and sour cream (optional)

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Foil-line 3 baking sheets and spray with nonstick cooking spray. COMBINE ground beef, oats, evaporated milk, eggs, ketchup, taco seasoning and black pepper in large bowl until just mixed. Form mixture into 120, 1-inch meatballs. Place on prepared baking sheets.

BAKE for 15 to 20 minutes or until no longer pink in center. Drain on paper towels, if needed.

THREAD two meatballs and one piece of pepper on each skewer. Place on large serving platter. Serve with salsa and sour cream.

To get your free Carnation "Holiday Houseful" Recipe Guide (while supplies last), go to TheCookingMilk.com.



Need a chocolate fix? Try these easy snack recipes

Take a break from all that shopping after Thanksgiving Day to rest your feet and treat yourself to a chocolate snack or hot cup of cocoa.

Make these easy snack recipes Thanksgiving Eve and store until the snacking urge strikes. Fill a thermos with the cocoa drink and take along for a quick warm up while waiting outside for stores to open Friday morning.

COCOA CAFÉ OLÉ

- Ingredients:
- ½ cup sugar
 - ½ cup cocoa
 - 3 tablespoons powdered instant coffee
 - ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 4 cups milk

Instructions:

Combine sugar, cocoa, instant coffee and cinnamon in large saucepan. Gradually stir in milk; heat stirring occasionally, to serving temperature. Pour into mug or cup. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings



Cocoa Café Olé

TOFFEE POPCORN CRUNCH

- Ingredients:
- 8 cups popped popcorn
 - ¾ cup whole almonds or slivered almonds
 - 1-½ cups (8 ounce package) Heath Bits 'O Brickle Toffee Bits
 - ½ cup light corn syrup

Instructions:

- Heat oven to 275°F. Grease large roasting pan (OR two 13x9x2-inch baking pans). Place popcorn and almonds in prepared pan.
- Combine toffee bits and corn syrup in heavy medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until toffee is melted (about 12 minutes). Pour over popcorn mixture; stir until evenly coated.
- Bake 30 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from oven; stir every 2 minutes until slightly cooled. Cool completely. Store in tightly covered container in cool, dry place. About 1 pound popcorn. For best results, do not double this recipe.



Toffee Popcorn Crunch

JINGLE BELLS CHOCOLATE PRETZELS

- Ingredients:
- 1 cup dark chocolate chips or semi-sweet chocolate chips
 - 1 cup white chocolate chips, divided
 - 1 tablespoon plus ½ teaspoon shortening (do not use butter, margarine, spread or oil), divided
 - About 24 salted or unsalted pretzels (3- by 2 inches)

Instructions:

- Cover tray or cookie sheet with wax paper.
- Place chocolate chips, ¾ cup white chips and 1 tablespoon shortening in medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at medium (50 percent) 1 minute; stir. Microwave at medium an additional 1 to 2 minutes, stirring every 15 seconds, until chips are melted when stirred.
- Using fork, dip each pretzel into chocolate mixture; tap fork on side of bowl to remove excess chocolate. Place coated pretzels on prepared tray.
- Place remaining ¼ cup white chips and remaining ½ teaspoon shortening in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at medium 15 to 30 seconds or until chips are melted when stirred. Using tines of fork, drizzle chip mixture across pretzels. Refrigerate until coating is set. Store in airtight container in cool, dry place. About 2 dozen coated pretzels.



Jingle Bells Chocolate Pretzels

Recipes courtesy of Hershey's.

CITY BITES

BENEFITING CHILDREN

Livonia - Westborn Market raised \$8,200 through a monthlong "Halloween Pinup Pumpkin" campaign at its Livonia, Dearborn and Berkley stores, to benefit patients and families at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Store patrons bought and signed the pumpkin art that featured cancer patients from St. Jude's. "Our customers' generosity was fantastic," said Alisha Person of Westborn Market, who helped to coordinate the effort. "This is the first year that we've partnered with St. Jude, and the response was overwhelming."

Each store awarded a \$100 Westborn Market gift card and a hand-blown glass pumpkin to customers selected at random from those who donated more than \$5 to the Halloween Pinup Pumpkin fund-raiser.

NEW RESTAURANT

Plymouth - The Ironwood Grill is officially open. Located at 840 Ann Arbor Trail, the eatery offers pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven, sandwiches, salads, pastas and burgers, rotisserie chicken, 20 beers on tap and 40 bottled beers, and more. With big-screen televisions located throughout the bar and dining room, the restaurant is designed to bring in the sports crowd and be family friendly. (734) 667-5614

DECEMBER BLIZZARD

Tri-county - Just in time for the holidays, Dairy Queen will bring back its seasonally inspired peppermint Blizzard treat with a new name: Candy Cane Chill is the Blizzard of the Month for December.

A classic combination of peppermint candy cane pieces and rich chocolate chunks mixed with DQ soft serve, Candy Cane Chill is available at all participating Dairy Queen and DQ Grill & Chill restaurants nationwide beginning Dec. 1. The average retail price of the Candy Cane Chill Blizzard is \$3.09 for the 12 ounce, \$3.49 for the 16 ounce and \$3.99 for the 21 ounce.

DINNER COST UP

Farmington Hills - According to the Associated Food & Petroleum Dealers (AFPD), the average price to buy and prepare the ingredients for a traditional turkey dinner for 10 people is \$4.14 per person, a total of \$41.14. That's up from \$39.70 for 10 or \$3.97 per person in 2008.

The cost is based on a standard turkey dinner and includes all the traditional trimmings: stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, green salad, fruit salad, cranberry sauce, rolls, and pumpkin pie. Beverages were excluded.

"We have surveyed retailers since 1994 and found that prices kept relatively consistent until 2005, when transportation costs began to inflate food prices," stated Jane Shallal, president and CEO of AFPD.

The survey prices reflect the average cost of items that can be purchased at supermarkets in the Metro Detroit area the week prior to Thanksgiving. Shallal said that many of the items on the traditional Thanksgiving dinner menu are on sale during this time.

"Many supermarkets offer one or more brands of turkeys and some are selling them at below cost in hopes of encouraging shoppers to come into their store for their Thanksgiving Day purchases. Shoppers can also look to some of the grocers' loyalty programs to cut the price of their dinner even further," Shallal said. "We urge customers to clip coupons and search the ads to check for when items they need are on sale."

BREAKFAST with Santa



You are Cordially Invited to
Laurel Manor's
1st Annual
Breakfast with Santa

Saturday,
Dec. 5th 2009
Doors will open
at 8:30 am
Breakfast Starts
at 9:00 am

~ MENU ~
Scrambled Eggs,
French Toast, Bacon,
Fruit and an
Assortment of Juices

Balloon Artist
Photographer on Site
Gifts for the Kids

Tickets:
Adult.....\$ 15
Kids 3-12.....\$ 12
(Age 2 and under eat Free)

Make Your Reservation Today!
Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center
39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 462-0770 www.laurelmanor.com

Compari's & Fiamma
will be Open
3:00 pm
on Christmas Eve
and 4:00 pm
on New Years Eve
Reservations
Recommended

In the Heart of Beautiful Downtown Plymouth

Fiamma Grille Compari's

Join us for the holiday season.
Our Great Food and Service along
with our Festive Holiday
Decorations make us a great place
to have your holiday parties
and get together.

Now through December 23
purchase \$100 or more in
Gift Certificates and
receive a **Free Gift**
Certificate to use in 2010.
(Free Gift Certificate is issued for
20% of purchase Gift Certificates)



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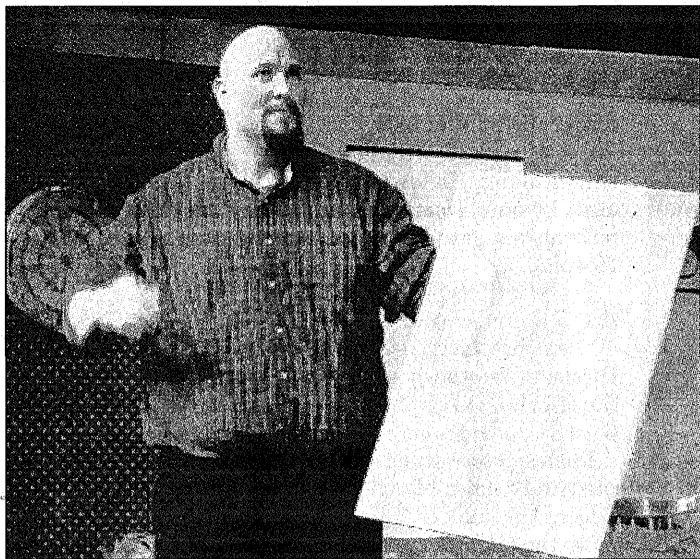
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Reuben Ellman of Westland donned a papier mache head of Henry Ford and walked in the America's Thanksgiving Parade nine years ago. Since then, he has done everything from float building to driving. He's shown here in a photo from his MySpace page, checking out a sketch.

Westland man watches annual parade from inside float

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Reuben Ellman of Westland hasn't gone home to Oscoda for Thanksgiving dinner in eight years — and this Thursday will be no different.

While his parents, two sisters, brother-in-law and six nieces and nephews gather together in his home town, Ellman will be finishing up his ninth year as a volunteer in the America's Thanksgiving Parade.

"I miss Thanksgiving dinner at times, but for nine years between 5 a.m. and the time I get home, I know I am doing something that more people will see, experience, and enjoy with their families," said Ellman, who walked in the parade wearing a "big head" of Henry Ford that first year, in 2000. Ever since he's been behind the wheel of a convertible or a float.

"I know my family up in Oscoda is having a great dinner and sharing in the day. Those thoughts and feelings keep me fed until I get to a restaurant or home to make some dinner."

Quitting time at the parade can be anywhere from 3 p.m. at the earliest to 9 p.m. at the latest on Thanksgiving Day. Ellman, who works as a data management specialist for a company called PHNS, generally works the day after Thanksgiving, making a quick trip north on the holiday an unlikely choice.

During his second year as a parade volunteer Ellman expanded his effort to include float driving and float building.

"I remember being covered in Styrofoam shavings from the numbers and glue and cloth," he said, recalling his work on the Lollipop Plane float.

"Through the years I have also worked on restoring the papier mache heads and other floats."

He's driven and spotted various floats, as well as convertibles — which he prefers — and now teaches other volunteers how to navigate in a float.

Here's Ellman's thoughts about float driving in the America's Thanksgiving Parade:

Q: Why have you continued to participate — what compels you to be a part of it?

A: I keep doing it because I love to do it. I get to tell people I am part of the Thanksgiving Day Parade. I get to tell them I am a float driver. Not too many people can say they are part of the Parade and a float driver. I do it because I love it and it's really cool.

Q: What float will you drive this year?

A: I did request a convertible. However, based on my experience and the trust and respect from the parade personnel, they know I can be put in any position and know it will be done. I will find out my position on Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Q: Do you have a favorite float you drive?

A: My favorite float is actually the convertible. In the convertible you are in the elements like the spotter and self-propelled drivers, but you are in a sweet vehicle. Usually, there are only 10 convertibles; there are a lot more floats.

Q: What's most challenging about driving a float?

A: The most challenging. That is kind of tough. Due to the fact there are different jobs. As a float driver that drives a self-propelled float the tough part is giving up control to your spotter. You

have to rely on your spotter and trust that they will not have you drive into trouble. And staying warm. As a driver in a pull vehicle the hardest part is not getting too hot in the vehicle. Actually, the hardest part is making sure there is no one running between the tow vehicle and the float — your spotter helps with that. As a convertible driver — staying warm.

Q: Anything else you'd add about the experience?

A: I have always been a volunteer person. When I was growing up I was part of a few volunteer organizations — one allowed me to walk in all the parades. I have been a volunteer (community theatre) actor for 20-plus years. I volunteer at the Fox and Opera House theatres. I love volunteering because it allows me to do a lot of different things, see a lot of different things, and just getting out and doing. The Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Parade Company are unique in that you can volunteer throughout the year but the product you are working on is only seen one time a year and for only a short time. More people have seen me drive, though they did not know it, then have seen me act or do any other activity. What is more important is people tell me their childhood remembrances of the Parade. It really is a great time and a wonderful thing to do.

The 83rd America's Thanksgiving Parade will step off at 9:20 a.m. on Woodward Avenue and Mack and end at Woodward Avenue and Congress in downtown Detroit. See it in person or watch it on WDIV-TV Local 4. NewsTalk 760 WJR also will broadcast live from the parade.

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Hear seasonal songs barbershop quartet-style

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Wayne chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society kicks off its busy holiday season with a new name and a public concert on Dec. 6.

"We've always done a lot of singing at Christmas — in senior homes, hospitals and sometimes we've sung at the malls and spread a little Christmas cheer," said Mark Pritchard, music vice president for the Harmonytown singers. "A lot of the singing takes place in churches."

"We added a couple of Christmas numbers that we thought were good ones. We thought, jeez, we haven't done a (public) Christmas concert in

some time. Let's see if we can find somewhere economic, so we're able to keep the price down low."

The group of approximately 25 active singers found the perfect venue at the Livonia Public Library. They'll sing at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 in the auditorium at the library, 32777 Five Mile. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, age 13 and under. They're available with a credit card by phone at (734) 743-1764. Or send a check, payable to the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, to Frank Adams, 38300 Lana Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

Include telephone number and e-mail address, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return ticket. Or request the tickets be held at will call.

"This is the first time our chapter has put on a Christmas show in many years," Pritchard noted. "We'll do *Winter Wonderland* and *White Christmas*, *Silent Night*...a lot of the standards."

Guest singers, the BCC Select Ensemble from Franklin High School in Livonia, will perform a mix of seasonal songs, as well as *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

"They're a nice counterpoint for us. They'll be all over the place — a little eclectic,"

Pritchard said. "They'll be singing some a cappella, which is what they share in common with us, and they'll sing some with piano. We'll make a contribution to their music program."

The Wayne chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, named its singing group Renaissance Chorus when it was formed 17 years ago. It changed the title to Harmonytown Chorus earlier this month, Pritchard said.

"We delight very much at this time of year at getting out and getting into the community. We're in a lot of towns — Garden City, Westland, Northville, Livonia — and wherever we go there is harmony."

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Student performs Brahms, Shubert in senior recital

Maria Lord will present a bassoon and voice senior recital, 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft, Redford.

She will be assisted by Dianne, Colin, and Natasha Lord. Music will include compositions by Brahms, von Weber, Barber, Shuman, Shubert, and Lord.

She is a student at Thurston High School where she plays bassoon in the Honors band and tenor saxophone in the marching band and jazz band. She plays principal bassoon for the Dearborn Youth Symphony, and receives private instruction on bassoon from Robert Williams, principal bassoon of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Lord also has participated in Redford Union's Madrigal Choir under Kevin Cushman's direction, and has performed in the Michigan All-State Honors Choir in Grand Rapids. She has sung in many languages in addition to English including Latin, German, Italian, and Tok Pisin, the trade language of Papua, New Guinea.

The recital is free and open to the public. Thurston High School's phone number is (313) 535-4000.



Maria Lord will perform a senior recital Saturday, Nov. 28.

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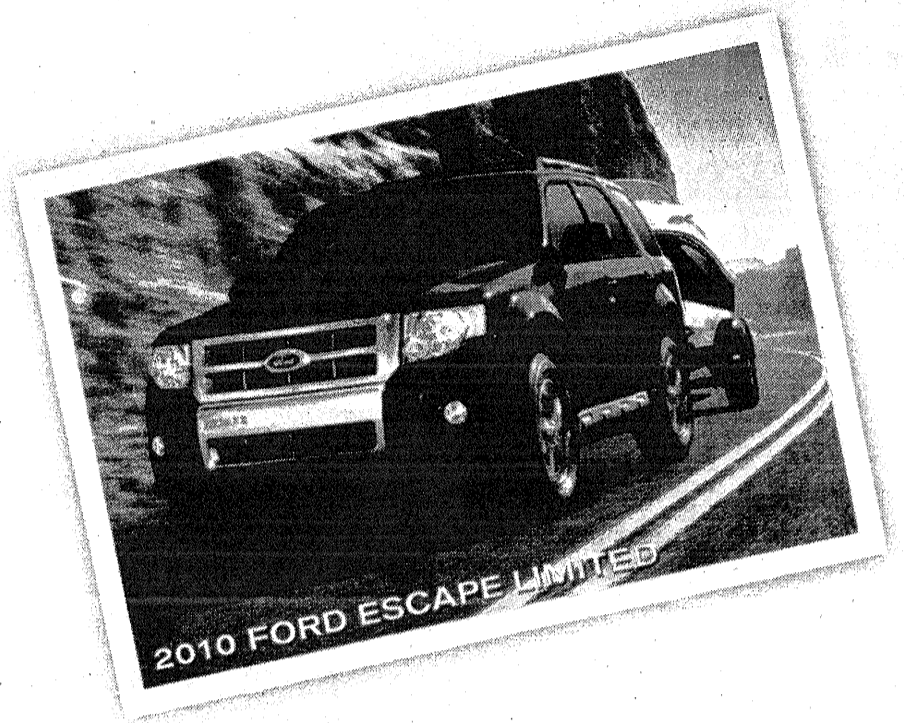
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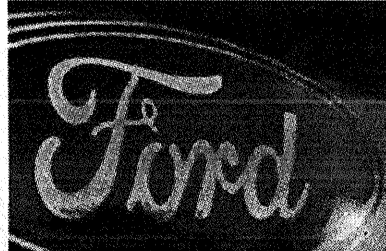


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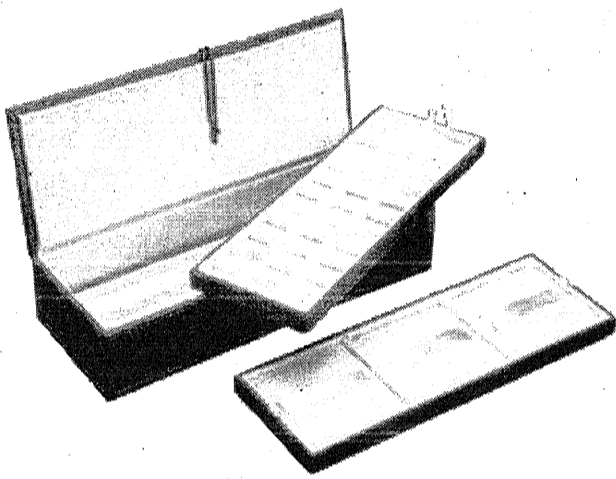
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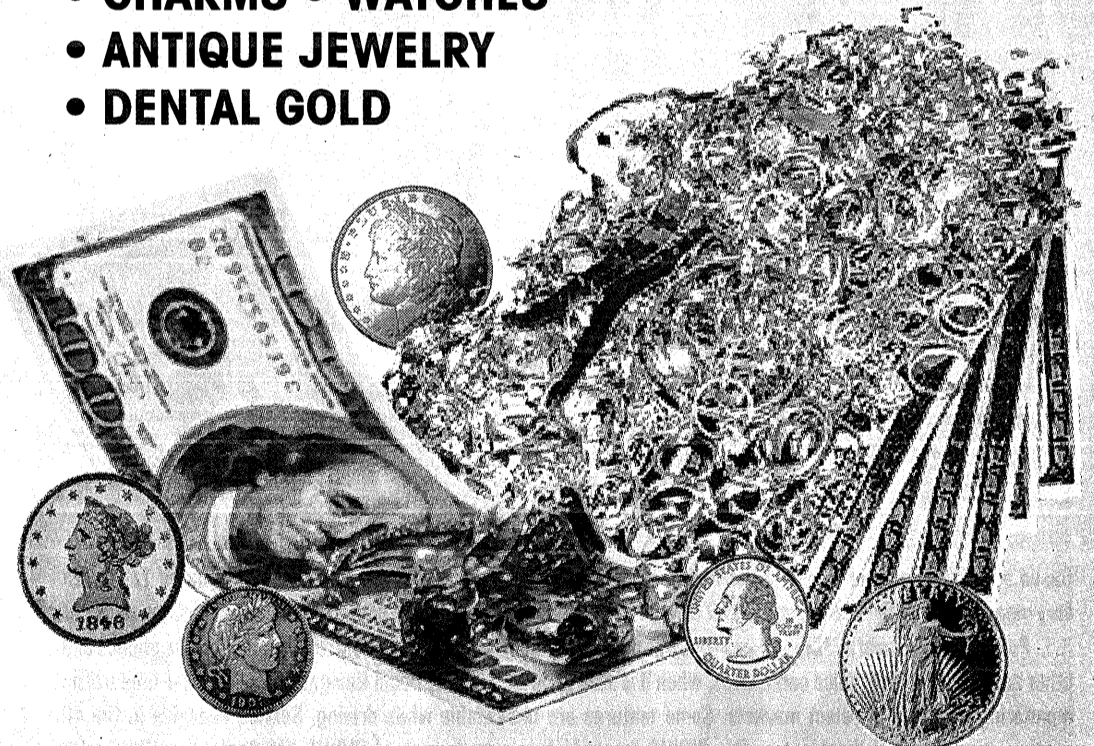
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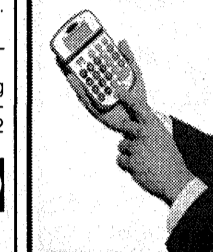
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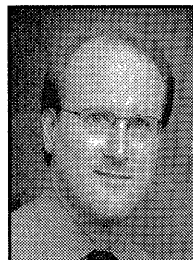
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FORD HAS BIG VISIONS OF SMALLER FUTURE FOR VEHICLES

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CAReport



By Dale Buss

Ford knows, and does, small cars. Remember the original teeny Fiesta that created a mini-sensation in the U.S. market in the Seventies? And Ford's latest Fiesta subcompact is currently the No.2-selling vehicle in Europe.

So the company is better situated than it might seem for what Ford's top U.S. sales analyst, George Pipas, sees <http://wheels.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/11/19/there-may-be-a-smaller-ford-in-your-future/?scp=8&sq=brand&st=cse> as an irreversible trend toward smaller vehicles by American consumers. Even after a decade in which Ford generated record profits by selling high-margin SUVs such as the Ford Expedition and F-150 pickup trucks, Pipas says Ford has bet its future on small cars and "crossover" SUVs that are built on car platforms rather than truck bases, such as the Ford Edge utility vehicle and Fusion compact sedan.

"I predicted at an investor's conference back in 2003 that the best days of traditional truck-based SUVs were behind us, and that smaller, lighter, car-like utility vehicles would emerge and eventually overtake the truck-based products," Pipas told me. "I was partly right - but it happened much sooner than I'd thought."

At a recent conference in Manhattan,

Pipas also said, "Our view is, the era of excess has reached a tipping point. People are moving from conspicuous consumption to more careful consumption."

In support of his argument, Pipas marshaled not only car-sales statistics but also surveys showing that the size of new homes shrank last year after decades of rising.

Combined sales of what the industry calls the "B" car segment, basically subcompacts, and the compact "C" car segment reached 14 percent in 2004 but has climbed without interruption since then to 21 percent in 2009, Pipas said. Throw in crossovers, and the three segments that accounted for just 21 percent of sales in 2003 grabbed a combined total of 31 percent of the market last year - and Ford expects them to reach 36 percent by 2013, maybe even surpassing mid-sized cars in popularity.

Pipas noted that "the downsizing phenomenon in the auto market largely had taken place before the midpoint of the decade." But in the recent acceleration of this trend, he cited a number of factors.

One of them is a long-term, powerful influence: The newest wave of Millennials are naturally inclined toward smaller vehicles, while many in their parents' Boomer generation are downsizing as well. Both demographic phenomena lend



Ford Fusion just won the 2010 Motor Trend Car of the Year Award.

Soon, a new U.S. Ford Fiesta will be introduced, similar to this U.K. version.



The 2010 Ford Focus has become a popular small car.



weight to the move toward smaller vehicles.

Another factor has been the \$4-a-gallon gasoline peak in the summer of 2008. Then the trend was turbocharged by the protracted recession that has simply left many American consumers without the budget to purchase larger vehicles.

"At that point," Pipas said, "undisciplined consumption came home. The recession was a wake-up call which caused some consumers to pull up on the bridle."

"Our view is that consumers are going to live more within their means in the future. And in that case they'll make thoughtful compromises between what they'd like to have and what they really need."

So while Ford has only about a 7% share of the U.S. small-car market right now, compared with Toyota's 25%, it is counting on taking bigger chunks beginning over the next few months as it introduces the new Fiesta to Americans, as well as a new-generation Focus.

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