# OBSERVER.

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Tour homes decorated for the holidays - Neighbors, B6

### PIPELINE

### Special session

Because many of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education's presentations are for specific PTO and service organizations, it wanted to offer a program for the general public.

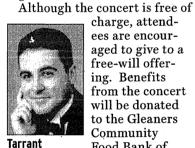
Anyone living within the P-CCS district boundary is invited to attend this special session Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. at the E.J. McClendon Education Center, 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth. Among agenda items: Swearing in of recently elected school board members.

### Lessons, carols

St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth, announces its annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, to be held on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4:30

The service, which follows a format popularized by King's College of the University of Cambridge, England, alternates readings from Scripture with the singing of songs and carols appropriate for the season of Advent. Members of the church's music ministry, including Children's and Youth choirs, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir, and contemporary group SonShine, will come together to present the music for the service, under the direction of Minister of Music Julie Ford.

Jeremy David Tarrant, Organist-Choirmaster at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal) in Detroit, will play the church's Gabriel Kney pipe



charge, attendees are encourfree-will offering. Benefits from the concert will be donated to the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern

Michigan. Gleaners, which was founded in Detroit in 1977. distributes more than 28 million pounds of food annually through its five Metro-Detroit distribution centers.

For more information call (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit the church Web site at www.stjohnsplymouth.org

### Tov drive

The Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Club is collecting toys for the Salvation Army through Dec. 8.

Bring new unwrapped toys to Citizen's Bank at 6549 Canton Center Road or Help-U-Sell Real Estate at 7120 Haggerty Road.

The greatest need is for toys or games for 10-18 year olds. If you have any questions, please contact Kiwanis at (734) 981-0460.

### Renamed ice fest carves new course

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a new name, new features and new management, the Plymouth Ice Festival is ramping up for January.

The annual festival — no longer called the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular — will have a hometown focus and marketing and sponsorship opportunities that should help organizers raise money in a tough economy, said Sam Walton of Signature Audio, who has a oneyear contract to produce the show.

"We have an excellent opportunity for us to highlight Michigan as a thriving, vibrant state, and we believe this is our responsibility as a community-based nonprofit organization," Walton said.

The festival is Friday through Sunday,

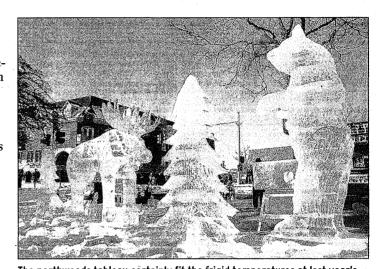
Jan. 22-24, in downtown Plymouth. Show details are still being worked out.

The festival board in September voted not to renew a deal with a longtime producer Watts Up, Inc., instead awarding Walton a one-year contract, with board members saying they wanted to reinvigorate the show.

Walton said that, whenever possible, the festival will showcase Michigan ice-carvers and Michigan products (no Japanese carvers are expected), plus provide a chance for community groups and service clubs to raise money and promote their programs.

"Plymouth is such a close-knit community that it would be impossible to revamp this event without their support," he said, citing the Plymouth Rotary, Lions Club,

Please see FESTIVAL, A3



The northwoods tableau certainly fit the frigid temperatures at last year's ice festival. This year's event kicks off Jan. 22.



Santa arrives, courtesy of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, and receives the key to the city.

### Seasonal splendor

Santa's arrival wows kids in downtown

> BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Santa Claus sought to reassure his biggest fans Friday evening in downtown Plymouth.

"We haven't had any children on the naughty list yet this year," said Santa after introductions onstage at Kellogg Park, where hundreds had awaited his official arrival. He pointed out a young boy in the crowd. "I know you had a concern last year," he said.

Santa - known outside the holiday season as Eric Stopa — arrived about 6 p.m. on a Plymouth Fire Department fire engine with an entourage that included a couple of children, Mrs. Claus, and a woman who introduced herself as, ahem, Christmas Carol.

Santa and high schoolers from a Plymouth-Canton Educational Park choir led the crowd in singing Jingle Bells, and Plymouth City



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The crowd of children is ready for Santa's arrival.

Commissioner David Workman presented Santa with a key — to the hearts of Plymouth's children.

Santa said he was glad to be back. "You folks are always so wonderful,"

Mila Fronczak, 5, of Plymouth, got to shake Santa's hand as he left the stage. She was at the park with her father, Will, a city of Detroit firefighter, and her younger brother, David.

"I thought it was interesting," Mila said of Santa's arrival. She had never seen him arrive before, she said. (Yes she had, her father said.)

Mila sat on her father's shoulders as she waited a chance to go over her Christmas list with Santa at his small house at the park.

What was on the list?

"Surprise presents and a little bit of clothes," Mila said. "I like to get presents," she added.

Before Santa's arrival, singer Gia Warner and local bands The



The P-CEP

Choir warms

crowd with

Christmas

up the

carols.

Troubadours and Kris Kurzawa and Friends had entertained downtown visitors. Members of the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps were also out, collecting donations for their Red Kettle campaign and giving out hot chocolate.

Santa's arrival was sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce; chamber executive director Wes Graff was the master of ceremonies.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At 10:30 a.m., Plymouth is pretty quiet. Carol Adams, of Plymouth and her mom, Jane Adams, of Dearborn, walk down Ann Arbor Trail.

### Plymouth shoppers seek downtown experience, avoid big-box stores

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Call it the Big Box Backlash. While major chain retailers Friday dealt with 4 a.m. openings, doorbuster sales and excited, jostling crowds looking for bargains, boutiques in downtown Plymouth took a more laid-back approach.

'We're not Wal-Mart," said Charles Dare, who, with wife Elle, owns Genuine Toy Co. on Forest. "We're not going to have a doorbuster thing.'

"People are doing those crazy things today with the big boxes," said Sandy Marulis, the owner, with husband Steve, of Michigan Made & More on Ann Arbor Trail. "Today is the day of bargains.'

Business seemed steady at many downtown stores the Friday after Thanksgiving, which is said to be one of the biggest shopping days of the year. Shoppers said they were drawn by the selection of shops and the downtown experience and a desire to avoid crowds and parking hassles.

"We like walking from store to store. I don't like malls," said Michelle Ciccantelli of

Please see SHOPPING, A3

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

### Kiwanis nuts

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

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

The gourmet nuts can be purchased by the can at Papa Romano's, 555 W. Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth, (734) 459-2930, or by the case or pallet at Fitness Things, 1160 W.

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Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (734) 455-8790. Many other Plymouth businesses will also have the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts available for purchase at their location.

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

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Award-winning author/ photographer Cheryl Vatcher-Martin of Canton will be autographing copies of her latest release, "The Cornstalks Are

Whispering" at the Holiday Shoppe & Craft Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Hawthorne Valley in Westland.

Her brand new book, "The Cornstalks Are Whispering, was inspired by a local cornfield in Canton and her former residence in Massachusetts. The book garnered her a fiction award in 2008 through the Lowell Council For The Arts, in Lowell, Mich.

Additionally, her books and fine art photographs are available in Orion Township's Art Center for the holiday market which runs Dec. 7-20.

Her second solo fine art photography art show, "Expressions II" is on exhibit presently and her pieces are available for purchase at the Flat Rock Library. She'd be happy to schedule a school visit to read her books, too. She can be reached at peroin5@comcast.net or (734) 397-1626.

Martin is the owner of Pero Inc., a full service writing, coaching, editing, consulting, photography, teaching, tutoring, and publishing company. She's also a presenter and speaker. She can be reached at (734) 397-1626. E-mail at peroinc5@comcast.net. As an instructor she is offering a new children's writing course, and French and Spanish classes through Wayne-Westland Community Schools. For further information: (734) 419-2426.

### Chorale auditions

BeckRidge Chorale announces auditions for the second half of its 36th season.

Plymouth.



### **Pageant prowess**

Jasmine Guajardo of Canton took top honors at the 2010 Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss competition, topping a field of nine girls while winning \$1,500 worth of scholarships for physical fitness and talent. The Salem High School student also received the "People's Choice" award. Guaiardo now competes in the state program in Ann Arbor in March. Canton High School's Sarah Dix was first runner-up and won scholarships in scholastics. Victoria Reese of Salem High School won scholarships for self-expression and talent, while Mercy High School's Jenna Mizzi won for physical fitness and interview. Other winners include Kelly Larimore of Canton High School (Interview and Scholastics), Ciara Williams of Canton High School (Self-Expression). Avery Ash from Canton High School was the Spirit Winner. All contestants received a scholarship for the Be Your Best Self award.

To get more information and to sign up for an audition go to: www.beckridgechorale. org. While there you may also purchase tickets to BeckRidge Chorale and/or Cherry Hill Singers upcoming concerts.

### Toy drive

The Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Club is collecting toys for the Salvation Army through Dec. 8.

Bring new unwrapped toys to Citizen's Bank at 6549 Canton Center Road or Help-U-Sell Real Estate at 7120 Haggerty Road.

The greatest need is for toys or games for 10-18 year olds. If you have any questions, please contact Kiwanis at (734) 981-

### **Barefoot auditions**

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

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

Roles are available for six males (three from ages 19-24, one 27-30 and two 45-60) and one female (19-21 years old).

"Rope" is the 1929 suspense thriller (set in London) that inspired the classic Alfred Hitchcock film, starring Jimmy Stewart. Barefoot Productions' presentation will be performed in REAL TIME, with NO intermission. British accents will be used. Performances are Feb. 12-28.

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

For more information, call 734-582-9688 or visit www. justgobarefoot.com

#### Corriveau coffee

role House Re

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

For more information, call

(734) 981-0200.

### Saturday @ the Penn

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

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

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

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



Direct TV's

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### New Secretary of State office drawing raves

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A line formed outside Canton's new Secretary of State office — one of Michigan's largest — before employees even opened the doors for business Wednesday

morning.
Yet it didn't take drivers long to handle their business once they entered the 6,000-square-foot West Wayne County PLUS office, nestled in the Golden Gate shopping center on Lilley south of Joy.

"It was really quick," Canton resident Kerri Krafft said, after stopping in and getting her picture taken for her new driver's license.

Accompanied by sons

Cameron, 3, Ethan, 6, and Andrew, 9, Krafft first drove to the former SOS office on Ford Road near Sheldon, only to find it had been closed and replaced recently by the newer, bigger PLUS facility, which offers a wider array of services.

"I think it's very nice," she said. "It's really clean."

Plymouth resident Alison Gumbel bought her new license plate tab just inside the front door by using a credit card at the new self-serve, ATM-style machine. She didn't miss the former long lines customers used to endure prior to their birthdays.

"It was wonderful. It was the best birthday present I could have gotten," Gumbel said, describing her visit as "excel-

Secretary of State spokeswoman Kelly Chesney said during a telephone interview from Lansing that the new West Wayne County PLUS office is intended to get customers in and out quickly. Here's how:

• The larger facility allows the office to place more employees at the counter when business is brisk.

• Workers often greet patrons and make sure they have the documents they need even before they reach the counter.

• The self-serve station allows customers to renew their license tabs inside the front door lobby without even

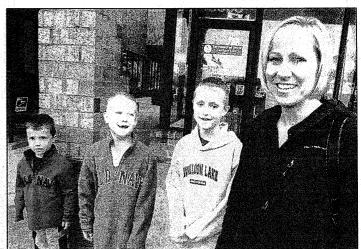
entering the main facility. The machine accepts Discover, MasterCard and Visa. "It's very easy to use," Chesney said.

• The office offers services such as same-day titles and on-the-sport driving records for people who may need them for prospective employers.

 The PLUS office has more senior staff members who can make what Chesney described as "complex decisions" once relegated to Lansing.

• Aside from business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, the office also has extended hours until 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238



RILL RRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPH

Kerri Krafft likes the changes at the Secretary of State Plus office. When sons Cameron, Ethan and Andrew are old enough to drive, they'll appreciate the changes, too.

### **FESTIVAL**

Old Village Association and Special Olympics as among the groups involved in discussions. "Each one of these service organizations has their own goals and fund-raising efforts that we hope to support through their involvement with the festival."

Walton acknowledged that raising money for the festival

in the current economy is difficult, but said potential sponsors are being offered a range of marketing opportunities: signage, logos carved in ice, sculpture and event sponsorships, vending, coupon and sampling opportunities and more. There is a sponsorship opportunity for every business budget, and sculpture-sponsorship prices have been reduced, Walton said.

"Our fund-raising strategy this year is to offer better marketing opportunities tailored specifically for our sponsors,"

Several features of the 2010 ice festival will be new or expanded, including:

• A "Dueling Chainsaws" speed-carving contest, which will give two sculptors just 15 minutes to carve designs that will be judged by the audience.

• A "Hot Spot" warming tent where vendors will show off their wares and offer samples, plus a larger Ice Sculpture Garden.

• A Jan. 22 opening ceremo-

ny in which a "ribbon" of ice will be cut to signal the kickoff of the show.

Walton also plans to enlist festival volunteers from local churches, schools and athletic teams. Volunteer opportunities and other information about the festival are expected to be posted on its Web site, www.plymouthicefestival.org, by the end of this

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### SHOPPING

Perrysburg, Ohio, who drove up for the day with her husband and their four children and was browsing at the Parkside Gallery, where everything is 50 percent off because of a planned year-end closing.

They weren't rushing out to the big-box stores in Perrysburg? "No thank you," Ciccantelli said.

"It's just been steady, not swamped," said Parkside owner Kal Jabara, who opened his store at Main and Ann Arbor Trail at 8 a.m. Friday instead of the usual 10 a.m.

Christmas shoppers tend to flock to the big-box stores early in the season and get to his place later, Jabara said. "They don't worry about getting here early because they know we have a pretty good selection," he said.

"It's just good to get out of the house, enjoy the weather," said Jacquie Bolden of Plymouth, who picked up a hand-painted decorative metal fish sculpture at Parkside. "I don't do Christmas shopping," she added.

Marulis was looking forward to Saturday. In years past on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, she said, lots of people seem to step back from the mega-shopping in order to enjoy Plymouth's small-town atmosphere. "I think it will be a bigger, better day," she said.

There weren't any doorbusters at Michigan Made, but all non-food items were on sale for 20 percent off or more. Michigan Made, directly behind Parkside, is also closing at the end of the year, as the Marulises are retiring.

At Genuine Toy, which opened in August, Charles Dare said business has increased in November, with sales about double what they were in the store's early days. There are even shortages of some items, he said, as manufacturers have cut production

because of a holiday-time oversupply in past years.

Patti Stanchina of Livonia visited Genuine Toy with her two sisters. She found the Melissa & Doug-brand toy kitchen items she was after.

Like others, Stanchina said she enjoys the boutiques and the Plymouth atmosphere over the big-box experience. Kilwin's, the confection shop that opened in Plymouth last May, was also on their list of places to visit.

"I like small shops," she said, adding, "We did stop at Target."

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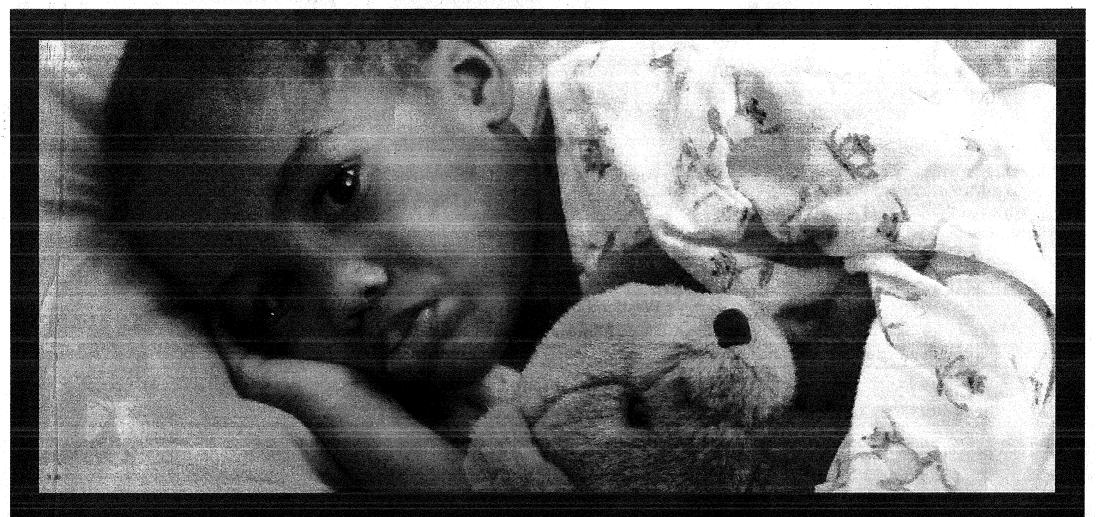


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### **EDUCATION**



JENNIFER WILMARTH

Goodrich, Dodson's Reading

also won the 2008 National

of Poetry. The poems were

nality and artistic quality.

The American Library of

Poetry's mission is to "continue

Brilliance. This is no small feat,

thousands of submissions from

since this national contest receives

students, in grades 3-12, each year.

are thrilled to have their work

published," said Goodrich, who

said she believes this this expe-

As the school year progresses,

rience promotes the students'

the students continue to write

forward to their annual Poetry

spring 2010. For more informa-

tion about this upcoming event,

please contact Bonnie Goodrich

for an "outside audience". In

fact, the fourth graders look

Night at Barnes & Noble in

eagerness to write.

Goodrich said, "Our writers

to fan the flames of literacy in

America." As an award, the

poems were published in

Student Poetry Contest, spon-

sored by The American Library

judged on their creativity, origi-

Interventionist, several students

Among poetry winners at Dodson Elementary School are (from left) Nicholas Borninski, Tatum Cho, Lauren Wood, Avery Teatsorth, Andrew Pascaris, Nathan Janice, Joshua Agius, Amelia Carey and Megan Flanigan.

### **Dodson students become published poets**

BY MAGGIE WUNDERLICH CORRESPONDENT

Nicholas Koh, a third-grader from Dodson Elementary School, said he's "proud and excited to see my poem in the book."

And he's not the only one with a reason to be proud. Recently, 128 students won the Young American Poetry Contest. In addition to a monetary award, their poems were published in the annual Young American Poetry Digest.

Another third grader, Megan Trulock, said, "It feels really cool because the poem was good enough to be in a book."

Fifth grader Naabia Romain agreed and said, "It's exciting that my poem was in a book for the second year."

The Digest is sponsored by the National Schools Project, which was designed to promote students' interest in writing and their enjoyment of poetry. This national contest is open to students in grades 2-5, from both public and prithe U.S. and Canada.

Each year, the contest has a different focus and this one was on haiku poetry.

The students' hard work paid off and now they can see their published poems.

"It's fun to have my poem published in a book," said Isabel Anderson, a third grader. "When I started writing the poem, I was just writing, and then it turned out better than I thought," said Marisa Rowland, a fifth grader. Another fifth grader, Hunter Hall, thought it was "pretty cool because our school got the second most winning poems."

Dodson is the second school in the nation to have the most accepted poems published in the Digest. The monetary award was used to buy a large frame for a picture of the poetry contest winners.

The picture is proudly displayed in the school and "serves as a daily reminder of what students can achieve when they put forth effort", said Dodson principal Dan Carr.

### Marshall scholar

Austin McKinney of Canton has been named as a 2010 Marshall Scholarship winner.

McKinney, a cadet 1st class (senior) at the U.S. Air Force Academy, is the 11th Marshall Scholar for USAFA. He plans to receive two separate master's degrees, one in Latin American Studies, and another in Globalization and Latin American Development at the University of London in

> England. "It is an honor to be chosen for such an award," Mckinney said. "I will

be proud to represent the U.S. Air Force in the United Kingdom for two years.' Ranked top of the 2010

class academically, McKinney is majoring in management with a minor in Spanish. He has participated in a language immersion program to Nerja, Spain, spent a semester abroad to Tecnológico de Monterrey, a university in Querétaro, Mexico, and more recently had a role in a Georgetown University Political Science and **Economics Study Program in** Prague, Czech Republic.

While in Mexico he collected more than 100 hours of community service teaching children mathematics and basic English. C1C Mckinney's generosity doesn't end there. He has also worked as a volunteer teacher in the local agriculture markets of Quito, Ecuador,

### **ON CAMPUS**

and mentored a child in the Colorado Springs community while serving as a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"I grew up in a service oriented family - my father was an Air Force officer and my mom was a teacher," McKinney said, adding that they "taught to always give back to others when possible."

Marshall Scholarships finance up to 40 young Americans of high ability to study for a degree at a school of their choosing in the United Kingdom each year, according to the Marshall Scholarship Web site.

#### Sell-a-Thon

CMU senior Ben Eberlein of Plymouth earned a secondplace honor in the Pro-Am Sell-a-Thon competition at Pi Sigma Epsilon's North Central Regional Conference Nov. 7 at The Ohio State University.

Eberlein was coached on conceptual sales techniques by a sales professional, after which he presented a mock sales call to a panel of judges. Eberlein, along with six of his fellow chapter members, competed against students from the University of Toledo, Indiana University, The Ohio State University, Miami University of Ohio, Purdue University and the University of Akron.

Eberlein will receive a complimentary package for the Pi Sigma Epsilon National Convention in April, where he will have the opportunity to compete for cash prizes.

A graduate of Canton High School, Eberlein is the son of George and Mary Eberlein.



Pi Sigma Epsilon is the nation's only professional business fraternity for men and women interested in marketing,

sales management and selling. CMU began the first Pi Sigma Epsilon chapter in the state of Michigan at CMU in the fall of 2009.

For additional news from Central Michigan University visit its online newsroom at http://www.news.cmich.edu

### Hope College

Hope College students Kevin Soubly of Plymouth and Jessica Zomermaand from Canton, are studying offcampus during the 2009 fall semester.

Soubly, a junior, is studying in Geneva, Switzerland, through SIT Study Abroad. He is the son of David and Carol Soubly of Plymouth and a 2007 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

Zomermaand, a junior, is studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina, through a CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) program. She is the daughter of Michael and Barbara Zomermaand of Canton and a 2007 graduate of Canton High School.

• Brendan Krueger of Canton graduated Cum Laude from Hope College.

Cum Laude honors are awarded to graduates who achieved a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com



### Music an outlet for Canton songwriter

BY JULIE BROWN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At a recent party for his 50th birthday at his Canton home, Darrel Schwandt had friends attentive and listening as he played a song he wrote, produced and performed.

"It was a contest that TACOM conducted last summer," he said of his winning entry, "The TACOM Family."

He's a civilian contractor at the Tank Automotive and Armanents Command/ Life Cycle Management Command, at the Detroit Arsenal-Garrison in Warren. That's part of the U.S. Army, with Schwandt working for **NCI Information Systems** Inc., based in Reston, Va.

All employees at the base in Warren and other sites in Texas, Alabama, Illinois, New York and California were eligible, including civilians like Schwandt. TACOM is a tenant at the Arsenal in Warren.

"They wanted an official song," he said. A committee did judging of songs to serve as an organizational motivator, "to kind of musically give them an identity.'

Schwandt's song has a patriotic flavor, instilling pride in America and work done by the staffers. He enjoyed taking the idea and developing it.

Schwandt, married to Susan, plays the guitar and has studied music on the side for years. "For the most part, it's just my own creative outlet," he said.

The "Committed to Excellence" contest required a song of three minutes or less, with Schwandt's winning entry just over two-and-ahalf minutes. He received an award and a two-star letter on official letterhead, along with recognition for others who entered.

Schwandt earned bachelor's and master's degrees in telecommunications from Michigan State University with a video production emphasis. He manages media services at the base, including graphics production, photog-

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raphy, video conferencing and other areas. NCI was awarded the contract in 1998 and he's been there all that time and prior to that.

It took him over a week to write the song, which he reworked to polish it. TACOM LCMC (tacom.army. mil) LCMC, headquartered in Warren, is in partnership with the Army's Program Executive Offices. It's one of the Army's largest weapon

systems research, development, and sustainment organizations.

NCI (nciinc.com) offers information technology, engineering and professional solutions/services to federal government agencies, including the military's branches and agencies ranging from the General Accounting Office to NASA.

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Darrel Schwandt of Canton, debuting the song at Organization Day in Warren on Aug. 28. It's the annual event for employees and their families.



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### Consider consequences when co-signing for loan

Q: Dear Rick: I have a dilemma and I would like your opinion.

I am a widower with three adult children. Five years ago, I remarried. My new wife is a widow and has two adult children from a previous marriage. We are both retired and our pensions and Social Security cover the bulk of our living expenses. Our house is paid off and we need anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 from our portfolio to maintain our lifestyle. Our combined portfolio is worth approximately \$400,000. Here's my dilemma. My



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 29, 2009

**Money Matters** 

to co-sign a \$200,000 loan for a business venture. I am concerned that if the venture fails

wife's son

has asked us

I will be left Rick Bloom holding the

bag. Should I co-sign the loan? If I do is there anything I can do to protect myself?

A: When you co-sign a loan for someone it is important to understand what that really

entails. Basically, a co-signer situation is no different than if you were the borrower. The bank, if there is a default, can pursue you for the full amount of the debt. Even if your wife's son declares bankruptcy and is discharged from any personal liability, that does not relieve you of your obligation to repay the debt. Co-signing on a loan is no different than actually taking the loan yourself. Therefore, in dealing with your stepson, the question you have to ask is what is his ability to repay the debt?

I am making the assumption that he does not have the necessary collateral to secure

the debt. After all, he wouldn't need a co-signer if he had adequate collateral. Therefore, the issue is his ability to repay.

One thing you have to factor into the equation is that you are putting half of your investment assets at risk. To me, that is not prudent. Even if your stepson had a good track record of repaying debt and if the business venture was viable, I would not recommend co-signing the loan. After all, if something were to go wrong, your finances would be devastated. It is highly unlikely that you and your wife would be able to maintain your lifestyle if you were forced to make good on the loan.

The question you must ask yourself is, what if the loan is not repaid. If you can say to yourself, I will not be happy if the loan is not repaid, but it will not hurt me financially, that is one thing. However, that is not the case in this situation. If there was a default

on the loan and the guarantor was required to make the loan good, there would be severe financial distress for you. It is based upon this financial distress that I recommend you do not co-sign the loan.

Just because I recommend that you do not co-sign the loan does not mean that you can't offer some assistance. If nothing more, you should suggest to your stepson that he contact the U.S. Small Business Administration. The agency has a variety of loan programs available.

In today's difficult economic times, there is still a credit crunch, finding financing is difficult, however it is not impossible.

Another alternative may be to get a group together who could collectively co-sign the loan. If that is a possibility, you can work with the bank to put limits on each co-signer's potential liability. Obviously,

the main benefit to you is the fact that you would not have a substantial portion of your assets at risk.

It is difficult to say no to a loved one. However, there comes a time when you must look at your individual situation and be a little selfish. I believe whenever you loan money, co-sign a loan or provide other types of financial assistance to a loved one, you must consider the consequences if things go bad. In this situation, if things went bad, there would be severe consequences. Your lifestyle would be jeopardized. Therefore, before you get involved sit down and realistically look at the consequences.

Good luck!

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





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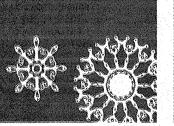
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### **LIBRARY WATCH**

The following programs are available during December at the Plymouth District Library:

 Library closings - The Library will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 30-31.

 MEDICARE D PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM, Tuesdays, Dec. 1 & 8, 10 a.m. - CVS Pharmacy will join the Library staff in helping seniors gain a better understanding of the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Attendees are invited to bring their specific prescriptions for comparative pricing in the various programs available. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk, 734-453-0750,ext. 4 or online at plymouthlibrary.org

 WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRITING GROUP, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m. - Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience nor advance registration is required. Attend either meeting or both.

 EXPLORING PHILOSOPHY: How we know what we know, Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. -Dr. Mark Hutson, Schoolcraft Philosophy Instructor will present an introduction to Epistemology, the branch of philosophy dealing with the theory of knowledge. He will discuss perception and reason, limits of knowledge and major issues in the field. Sign up is requested for this program - call 734-453-0750, ext. 4.

 LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP, Thursday, Dec. 3, 1-3 p.m. - This group is for individuals for whom glasses are no longer sufficient. It is facilitated by a professional and is intended to be social as well as informative. Guest speakers cover a variety of topics - caregivers or friends are invited to attend. No advance registration is required - for more information contact Ellen Stross at 734-453-0750, ext. 232.

• DOLLARS FOR COLLEGE/FAFSA HELP, Thursday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m. -Sheryl Krasnow of College and Career Counseling Associates will explain federal, state and institutional financing programs, college financial aid offices and filling out the raisa form. Register for this free program by calling 734-453-0750, ext. 4.

· CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP, Monday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 8, 4 p.m. (spouses only program) - Social worker Chris Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services will answer a wide variety of concerns for individuals caring for ill or aging family members. No registration is required.

 CONTEMPORÂRY BOOKS DISCUSSION, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

- Members of this book discussion group are invited to read Gentlemen and Players by Joanne Harris. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are welcome at any time. For fur-

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ther information, please call Sue Patterson at the Library, 734-453-0750, or email spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

 VIETNAM PERSPECTIVES: **OPERATION BLUE LIGHT AND** COUNTERINSURGENCY. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.; THE IA DRANG, LINEBACKER AND CAMBODIA: BLUEPRINT FOR AIR-LAND BATTLE, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. - Raymond Schepansky, Military History Teacher from the Plymouth Canton **Educational Park returns with** another in-depth look at war, specifically U.S. strategy during the Vietnam war. Register for either or both of these programs - 734-453-0750, ext. 4.

• YOUR POETRY GROUP, Sunday, Dec. 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Round table readings of poems, your own or by others, are held on the second Sunday of the month. Reader's discretion of language is asked in the works read. For more information, contact Barbara Kraft, 734-453-0750, ext. 217 or bk@ plymouthlibrary.org
• RHAPSODY MUSIC

SERIES: GRATITUDE STEEL BAND, Sunday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m. - These high-energy musical performers make a stop in Plymouth after travels throughout the U.S. and Europe, playing and singing Caribbean, Jazz, Latin American and African music. Register for this free program by calling 734-453-0750, ext. 4.

• DIA LECTURE, Monday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. - The Plymouth **Community Arts Council** presents this monthly gathering, drawing from the Detroit Institute of Art Speakers Bureau. No registration is required.

• BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION, Wednesday, Dec. 16, noon - This month's discussion invites members to read Home by Marilynne Robinson. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Tim Sherman, 734-453-0750, ext. 206 or tsherman@plymouthli-

• MID-WEEK MOVIE, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1 p.m. - Enjoy a recent release, popcorn and pop. No registration required.

• STARS, MOONS & PLANETS, Monday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. - He loves the skies and after this informal gathering, you will too. Plymouth resident Mike Best leads a lively discussion each month for adults and children over the age of 6. No registration is required. For more information contact 734-459-BEST or starmikebest@gmail.com

 NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING, Monday, Dec. 28, 7-9 p.m. - Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required. Bring your latest project.

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Caribou toy drive benefits Goodwill

Goodwill Industries, the Plymouth Caribou Coffee and 89X are teaming to help brighten the holidays for children with unemployed parents.

The "12 Days of Christmas" campaign sponsored by 89x Radio and Caribou Coffee encourages Metro Detroiters to donate new toys for area children whose parents are unemployed and working toward new jobs with help from Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit.

Donations will be accepted at all 19 Metro Detroit Caribou Coffee locations through Dec. 8.

The toys will be available for purchase in Goodwill Industries' "Santa Shop," which offers individuals receiving employment education and training support from Goodwill the opportunity to purchase holiday gifts for their children at highly discounted prices. Santa Shop "shoppers" are Goodwill Industries clients working to become trained, trusted and ready to work.

"The generosity of 89x, Caribou Coffee and the people of Metro Detroit will enable our students and trainees to focus on getting the support they need to earn the jobs that will lead to better lives and future happy holidays for their families," said Lorna G. Utley, president and CEO, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit.

Radio personalities from 89X will appear at live remote events at a different Metro Detroit Caribou Coffee location each day during the

**NEWS BRIEFS** 



### **Chair-ity ball**

Plymouth-based Mercy Street, a new, grassroots organization dedicated to "advocating for justice and mercy for the needy, ailing, neglected, misunderstood and disenfranchised in the community," hosts its first Chair-ity Ball 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at The Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. The live auction benefits homeless veterans of southeast Michigan. A wide range of artists from Portland, Ore., to Plymouth, have transformed ordinary chairs into unique sculpture and functional art for home and studio or gift-giving. Veterans Haven and The Michigan Veterans Foundation are the local non-profit organizations that stand to benefit. Preview continues at www.mercy-street.com. RSVP to Grace Stanczak, (734) 276-1842.

campaign. Details on locations and times will be available at http://www.89xradio.com and http://www.goodwilldetroit.org.

Anyone donating a new, unwrapped

toy to Goodwill Industries will receive a coupon for a free small coffee redeemable at any area Caribou Coffee location. Visit http://www.cariboucoffee.com to find the nearest Caribou Coffee location.

### Diaper day

"I have never seen so many diapers in my life," said Laura Fawcett, librarian at Canton Public Library and mother of three. "It's a mountain of diapers."

Boxes, packages and bags of diapers, all donations from the community, towered near the front door of the Canton Public Library after its recent Diaper Day event. After the last contribution was tallied, 17,397 diapers were collected for the Detroit Area Diaper Bank.

Canton resident Marybeth Levine, founder of the Detroit Area Diaper Bank, was overwhelmed.

"It's so far beyond my wildest expectations I can't even put it into words,' Levine said. "I'm so grateful to the Canton Public Library and to all of the donors whose generosity will help so many people with their wonderful gifts."

The library partnered with the Diaper Bank after connecting with Levine through social networks and in the library, where Levine's family makes frequent visits. "This kind of partnership, working with our community and making connections, is part of our mission statement and the library's core values," reports Laurie Golden, marketing and



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### W-W parents plan to speak about school closings

BY SUE MASON OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board knows there will be plenty said about a 21st **Century Schools Committee** recommendation to close seven elementary schools and switch to a four-tier grade configuration.

Lisa Grondy and her husband Jim say they plan to be there to speak.

The Grondys live in the Norwayne community, which could see both of its elementary schools — Jefferson-Barns

and Lincoln - closed, if the plan is approved.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 29, 2009

"It's a shame to see both go. They do so many things for our community," Lisa Grondy said.

The school board has scheduled a public forum for 6 p.m. Monday in the Stockmeyer Auditoriun on the Wayne Memorial High School campus in Wayne.

The board, which has observed the work of the committee since it started in late June, will officially receive the committee's recommendation and then hear the comments and recommendations of

> Hours: MON.-SAT. 9-9

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

What: Wayne-Westland school board public forum

Why: To receive the recommendations of the 21st Century Schools Committee and to hear comment and recommendations from the public regarding proposed school closings and boundary realignments.

When: 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30 Where: Stockmeyer Auditorium, Glenwood east of Fourth Street, on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School campus Information: Online at www. wwcsd,net, click on the @1ist Century Schools Committee logo

residents. It will take formal action on the plan at its Dec. 7 board meeting, also planned for 6 p.m. at the Stockmeyer Auditorium.

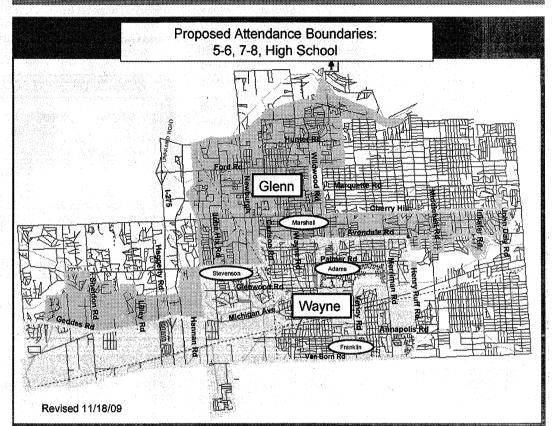
"The meeting will be structured on an informational basis," school board President Skip Monit said. "We won't be in a position to answer questions. In fact, we'll be asking

our own questions.' The committee is recommending closing seven elementaries (Madison, Patchin, Lincoln, Jefferson-Barns, Hamilton, Kettering and Vandenburg), turning the remaining elementaries into K-4 buildings, turning Adams and Marshall middle schools into 5/6 buildings, with Stevenson and Franklin as the remaining middle schools.

The Grondys were among a group of parents that met last week at Jefferson-Barns school to talk about what needs to be done to convince the school board that one of the Norwayne schools needs to stay open.

The meeting was organized by Susan Nagy and Kristi Hicks, parent representatives for the two schools on the 21st Century Committee. Both live in the Norwayne community, attended either Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns schools and have children attending the

Proposed K-4 Attendance Boundaries Revised 11/18/09



"I come from this community. One of my missions is to focus on a decision that's best for our children," Hicks said.

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"Our main objective is to keep one school. We hope they say, 'Let's keep one open." Both schools were built in

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1943 to serve the children of workers who worked at Willow Run Airport building bombers for the war effort. Made of block and wood, they were renovated as part of the 1998 bond issue. However, information provided to the facilities committee indicates that both schools still need more than \$4 million in renovations.

Current enrollment at Jefferson-Barns is about 140 students, while Lincoln has 280 students.

"We need to make our voices heard," Nagy said. "We all have biases about what schools should be kept open. Ours is that one of the schools in Norwayne needs to be kept open."

Nagy initially questioned the decision to close both schools at the committee meeting Nov. 17, saying that it would have a negative impact on the community.

Nagy and Hicks have been meeting with residents of the Norwayne community since the meeting to "just try and get the word out" about what is proposed. They're concerned some of their neighbors con-

sider the proposal a done deal. 'We just trying to spread the word that the school board's mind isn't made up," Nagy







### 'Tis the (shopping) season

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

While the retail district in downtown Plymouth and more established retail stores in Canton raked in the Black Friday bucks amid expectations based on past performance, other outlets were still figuring out the post-Thanksgiving shopping atmo-

sphere.
Take Hobby Lobby, the craft and home decorating store that opened in March on Ford Road in Canton.

The store welcomed Black Friday as part of a two-day sale. It opened on the biggest shopping day of the year at 8

With no previous holiday shopping experience on which to draw, store officials were simply waiting to see how it

"This is our first Black Friday in Canton, in metro Detroit, really," said Nicole Raftery, the store's co-manager. "It's been fairly steady, but

we don't really have any expectations. It's our first Christmas

(season) here, so we're just waiting to see what happens." Hobby Lobby opened some six hours after sisters Colleen Myles of Canton and Eileen Veit of Bay City got started. The siblings were shopping at Westland Mall, where Colleen was babysitting bags while Eileen shopped. "We take turns with the stuff, we need to make a car

run," she said.

The two sisters started their day at 2 a.m. at Toys R Us, and had managed to make it to Kohls, JC Penney, Sears, Bath and Body Works and Macy's before stopping at The Children's Place. They planned to end their day at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

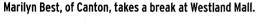
"We've been doing this for 13-14 years," she said. "We always go through the ads and create a plan of attack so we can get in and get out. It's a yearly tradition."

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



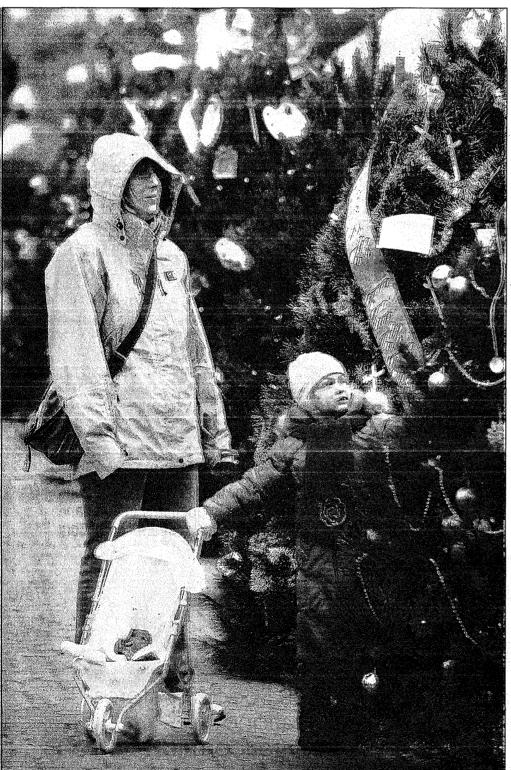
Linda Archambeau, of Canton, Dawn Davenport, of Ypsilanti Township, and Tracy Archambeau, of Belleville, stopped for a bite to eat at the Westland A and W after hitting the sales.







Taking a break at Westland Mall is Colleen Miles of Canton.



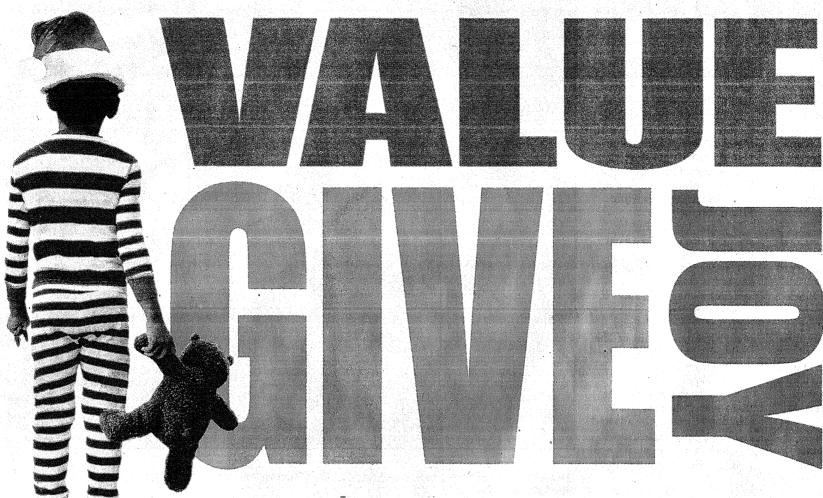
Carina Berg and daughter Charlotte, 4, look at the trees in Kellogg Park. Not pictured is Dad, Falko Berg, who is looking at a different tree.



Deea Coleman and daughter Anzenique Rogers of Canton started shopping at 4 a.m. At 8 a.m. they were at Westland Mall.



Carol McKinley, at right, brought daughters Jessica Sheila and Tasha for ealy morning shopping at Westland Mall.



special holiday events every day through AGN GATS EVG. Nov 23 - Dec 11

**Salvation Army Angel Giving Tree** located in the East Court.

Stop by the Angel Giving Tree in East Court right beside the Santa Set. The Angel Giving Tree will be here until Friday December 11. The Salvation Army and You helping to make a child's Holiday a little brighter.

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Kroger Sleigh of Giving located in the East Court.

Your donation of non-perishable foods will be passed along to families in the City of Westland for the holiday season. Donations are being accepted at the Customer Service booth located outside of Macys until Dec 21. Your donation enters you into a drawing for a center gift card. See Customer Service for more details.

Dec 1 - Dec 24

Angela Hospice Tree of Life located in the East Court.

Beginning Tuesday, December 1st through December 24th shoppers are invited to participate in the Angela Hospice Tree of Life. Stop by the Angela Hospice display next to Santa to participate. You may write the name of a loved one on a gold angel ornament and place it on the tree in honor or in memory of someone special. Information about free grie support programs offered by Angela Hospice is available as well.

Gift Wrap for Men 101 located in the East Court 6pm-8pm.

Westland Shopping Center and Magic 105.1 are taking away the excuse that you cannot wrap a gift because you are a man. Join Mike Bradley from Magic 105.1 as gift wrapping experts show how to wrap gifts of all sizes. We encourage all the men in the community to stop by, with gifts that you have purchased from the center of course, and be shown how you can wrap it like a pro, and then it is your turn to give it a try. Prizes will be given to the best wrapped gift, the best attempt to wrap a gift and other fun games that we will think

these events and other great happenings at Westland

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### HOMETOWN LIFE



2009-10 GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mainstays for the 2009-10 Salem varsity girls basketball team will be Brett deBear (left) and Sara Stone. Both players look to help the Rocks continue last

### Rocks return intact, ready to roll

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fred Thomann loves the way his Salem girls basketball team finished the 2008-09 season — 12 wins in 14 games. This time around, a nice start would be nice, too.

"Every season is a work in progress," said Thomann, beginning his 26th season coaching the Salem girls varsity. "Last year, we started 1-6 and ended up winning the (KLAA) championship and had a great finish to our season and really should have won the districts."

Salem opens 7 p.m. Tuesday at home against Brighton.

Virtually the entire roster played last season (Salem's overall record was 13-8). That means the Rocks have a good chance to continue that winning feeling from the '08-09 stretch run.

Despite the graduation of

key players Chelsea Davis (starting at Wayne State), Victoria Brotz and Tracy Whalen, the defending KLAA Central Division, Kensington Conference and association champs do have some outstanding returnees.

At the top of the list are senior forward-guards Sara Stone and Brett deBear (both seniors) along with last year's solid sixth player, Rachel Norman, who will start this season.

"Sara Stone is as good a player as there is in the area, in the league," Thomann said. "She's outstanding and has a chance to be recruited by Division 1 schools.

"Brett deBear is extremely talented and is going to go somewhere to play basketball, we just don't know where."

In addition to the 5-10 Stone and 5-9 deBear, the Rocks will be banking on Norman (5-9). All three are considered "perimeter players" who can hit the glass hard.

"Norman has had a fantastic camp," he said. "So we have three key players that have really stepped up. Now we have to get the rest of the group to step up."

Two of those players include 6-0 senior Tabitha Mann and promising 5-9 freshman Breanne Beaver, expected to share low-post responsibilities.

In the mix for the fifth spot are Heidi Schmidt, Katelynn Krause, Alyssa Garbarino and Lily Burnstein. Those players also bring versatility, one of the Salem hallmarks.

Rounding out the varsity is Alyssa Silletti.

### MIX AND MATCH

Thomann emphasized that there is no point guard, per se, with most of his roster schooled in running an offense.

"Our guards are kind of

interchangeable," he said.
"They're all perimeter players,
but they all can play inside. ...
Whoever has the ball is the one
running the offense."

To that end, the Rocks will bring a hybrid style, with players able to either shoot from the outside or play smashmouth basketball in the paint depending on the opponent and situation.

Brighton will soon find out which Salem team they'll have to face.

"We had a really good preseason scrimmage against some very good teams," he said, "and we have a tremendously competitive early season schedule and then we're going to get into our division.

"Hopefully we can do well there and get ourselves lined up for the conference tournament and then the association (tourney)."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

### **Young guns**

### Plymouth kids could be all right

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There is no crystal ball for Plymouth varsity girls basketball coach Ted Sturdivant to peer into as the 2009-10 season opens.

Sturdivant lost current Division 1 player and defensive standout Shaakira Haywood among nine graduated players from the 2008-09 team that went 9-13 yet won a state playoff game for the first time in school history.

On the other hand, he still has senior co-captains Stacey Klonowski (5-9 forward, 8 points, 7 rebounds), Troi Davis (point guard) and 5-8 forward Danielle Deslilets, now a starter after being a key backup for last season's team.

last season's team.

But the second-year
Plymouth coach is optimistic
the Wildcats can compete in
the KLAA South, with a roster
of high-intensity, high-speed
players who he promises will
push the envelope at both ends

"We're a young team,"
Sturdivant said. "But we'll
bring enthusiasm and nonstop
action to our approach to basketball."

Those wanting a glimpse of that exciting style might want to catch the season opener, 7 p.m. Tuesday against visiting West Bloomfield.

Setting a pretty high standard for those youngsters are his go-to group of seniors, led by Klonowski.

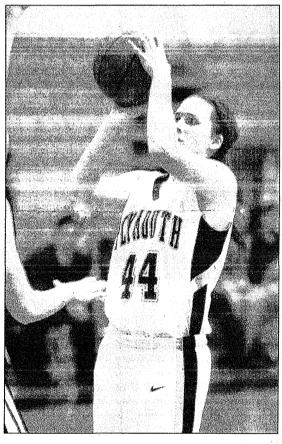
"We'll go as Stacey goes,"
Sturdivant said. "She was a
player that worked hard under
the basket and she had a ton
of offensive rebounds and
putbacks (last year). She is our
best player."

### PRIME POTENTIAL

Among other big piece of the puzzle are Davis, who the coach looks "to keep us in an uptempo game," and Deslilets — "a tough, tough player."

That doesn't diminish what 5-8 junior small forward Alex

Please see HOOPS, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of Plymouth's go-to players this season will be senior forward Stacey Klonowski, shown during a game last year.

### Canton returnees ready for encore in KLAA South

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Yes, Canton's varsity girls basketball team went 20-3 last season. Yes, the Chiefs have all their players returning. But don't expect head coach Brian Samulski or his players to take anything for granted during the 2009-10 season, which opens 7 p.m. Tuesday at Saline.

"The girls have high expectations for the season," stressed the fifth-year coach. "But they understand that nothing comes easy, and even though everyone is back this is a new season."

Having a strong returning cast should be enough for KLAA South opponents to worry about, let alone a team that doesn't mind a good sweat.

"We will continue to work hard, compete, play the right way," said Samulski, "and challenge ourselves to become better

players and a better team."
Four players from last year's All-

Observer team will again be in the forefront.

Junior forwards Kari Schmitt (an average of 10 points, 8 boards last year), Sara Schmitt (7.8 points, 6 boards), CarolAnn Sexauer (9 points) and junior guard Melanie Pickert will be tough for opponents to shut down.

nents to shut down.

Pickert is a solid defender, last season averaging 2.5 steals per contest (along with 4 points, 2 assists).

Also chipping in up front will be junior forward Kayla Bridges (5.1 points, 4 boards) who "has a great feel around the rim."

### DEPTH AT GUARD

The Chiefs have a bevy of guards to work in tandem with Pickert in the back-court.

Samulski said senior guard-forward Alyssa Cottrell "brings outstanding energy and (is a) good defender." Last year, she averaged three points and three rebounds.

Senior guard Lindsey Winters is a perimeter player who can score from outside and should be able to improve on her 2008-09 average of just under three points per contest.

Yuki Krolicki and Kelly Larimore, both senior guards, will help the cause on defense and offense, respectively while sophomore guard Robyn Mack (3.5 points, 2.2 assists) has "outstanding vision on the court."

Sophomore guard Jesse Larner likely will split time between the varsity and junior varsity this season.

"It should be a solid fun and shellow

"It should be a solid, fun, and challenging season," Samulski added.

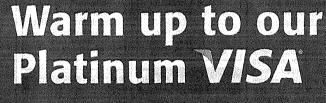
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER this season.

Canton's Melanie Pickert (No. 15) is one of several key returnees for the Chiefs





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Ргумоптн

Canton Northville Novi

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 29, 2009



Pictured are members of the Plymouth High School Saberettes varsity and junior varsity teams after first- and second-place finishes Nov. 8 at the 2009 Mid American Pompon Dance and High Kick Championship Nov. 8 hosted by Eastern Michigan University.

### Saberettes cut through competition

Plymouth High School's Saberettes were sharp Nov. 8 at the 2009 Mid American Pompon Dance and High Kick Championships held at Eastern Michigan University.

The varsity Saberettes, coached by Maria Hernandez, took first place after presenting a routine themed around Russia. Plymouth tallied 374 points, just ahead of Canton (370.5) and Garden City (364).

Meanwhile, the junior varsity Saberettes were almost just as successful. The JV team,

coached by Erica Caudillo and Trisha Ward, finished in second place with a high kick routine based on a Jungle Book theme.

Novi's junior varsity won that division with 360.5 points, followed by Plymouth (352.5). Placing fourth with 342 points was Canton.

Next up for both Plymouth High School teams is February's state competition.

Members of the varsity Saberettes, listed alphabetically, include: Emma Buchele, Kimberlin Butler, Kellie

Connelly, Dominica Covertino, Jillian Covault, Christina Dryer, Kirsten Engstrom, Nichole Finch, Danielle Gomrick, Tiffany Granowicz, Anjelica Janevski, Katie Justice, Madison Kinsella, Laura Krahel, Megan LaPorte, Kirstie Liakos, Lindsey Martin, Holin Pardikes, Holly Runyan, Allison Santori, Chelsea Schroeder, Katie Shelton, Kendall Torp, Jennifer Turner, Lauren Turner, Lauren Uhlian, Hayley Wakefield and Christina

Members of the JV Saberettes, also listed alphabetically, include: Joslyn Covault, Rachael Currier, Alanna Farrugia, Lauren Fisher, Brittany Guajardo, Jessica Hackman, Stephanie Hall, Callie Lehr, Luiza Lica, Megan Pahl Natalie Puckett, Alexa Rosochacki, Jen Sochocki, Leah Sheffield, Jessica Swartz, Siera Tyl Chloe Verkerke, Courtney Viadu, Paige Wright, Amenda Zaborowski and Lyndsay

### Whalers can't climb out of early hole

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

True hockey fans had something to be thankful for Wednesday night at Compuware Arena.

Host Plymouth and Windsor hooked up for a highly competitive, entertaining Thanksgiving Eve clash before an enthusiastic crowd.

For those Plymouth rooters among 2,983 spectators, the only bad thing was the final score — the Spitfires scored two quick goals and held on for a 2-1 victory.

"They had more shots (45-38) but I think we had more Grade A scoring chances," said Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci. "I thought we played really well. I thought we gave them two goals when we sat back early, but once we got our legs going I thought it

was a real good game.' Windsor (22-3-0-3) took a 1-0 lead just 6:22 into the

contest. Winger Richard Panik took advantage of a Plymouth giveaway, scoring unassisted on a wrist shot that beat goalie Matt Hackett.

At 10:07, a long shot by the Spits Ryan Ellis was tipped in front by Scott Timmins for Windsor's second goal.

Plymouth needed just 50 seconds to get that one back.

Forward Josh Brittain jabbed in the rebound of a shot by center Tyler Seguin past Windsor goalie Troy Passingham. Collecting the second assist was forward Robbie Czarnik, playing his first game for the Whalers and in the OHL.

But that was all the scoring, with Hackett and Passingham thwarting every opportunity although both squads put on plenty of pressure.

Plymouth dropped to 14-12-0-0 with the defeat, entering games Friday and



Plymouth Whalers newcomer Robbie Czarnik looks to make a play Wednesday night against Windsor at Compuware Arena. It was the Michigan native's Plymouth debut.

Saturday.

**DECENT DEBUT** 

Czarnik, a draft pick of the NHL Los Angeles Kings, had been playing college hockey at the University of Michigan. The Washington, Mich. native was acquired Monday in a trade with the Oshawa Generals and skated on a line

"I think he was pretty good," Vellucci said. "I think he was tired and wasn't used to that much ice time. "But I thought he played very

with Seguin and Brittain.

well and he's going to do really good for us, ... his speed is outstanding."

According to Czarnik, it will take a little while to get used to the "pro style game" of the OHL and mesh with his linemates. "It's just the second time I

skated with this team, so I think it will be a little hard at first," Czarnik said. "But I think we'll adjust to each other pretty well." He added that the major

junior circuit is "really different than college, but I really enjoyed it out there tonight. It seemed a little faster."

Czarnik will have back-toback games Friday at Sault Ste. Marie and 7 p.m. Saturday at Compuware against Kingston to get more acclimated.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

### Wildcats put up 9 spot

**RY TIM SMITH** OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On a night when his team put nine pucks behind the opposing goaltender, Plymouth varsity boys hockey coach Paul Fassbender praised his energy guys who didn't even make the scoresheet.

The Wildcats rolled to a 9-2 romp over Monroe at Compuware Arena on Tuesday night to move to 2-0 on the young season, with senior forwards Taylor Currier, Ryan Renault and junior forward Zach Gambrell each netting two

But Fassbender said contributions from players such as junior defenseman Kevin Matusiak and the fourth line of sophomore forwards John Deal, Sean Smiatacz and freshman forward Nick Schultz really set the tone.

'They didn't get anything to show for it," Fassbender said. "But their hard work, their shift in the first period started a forechecking barrage where they (Trojans) couldn't get out of their frames. Standing on the doorzone for five or six minutes."

And as for Matusiak, the coach noted that "for somebody who doesn't get much ice, Kevin Matusiak played outstanding. He was solid defensively and had some good shots from the point."

**NONSTOP PRESSURE** 

With all of his players putting constant pressure on the Trojans, Plymouth — despite giving up an early power play tally to Kyler Kleindienst (who scored both Monroe goals) — didn't just put up a barrage in the forechecking department.

Plymouth racked up 55 shots on Trojans senior goalie Cameron Barron, including 25 in the middle stanza. Most of the shots were high-quality chances,

Getting Plymouth on the board first was senior forward Pat Smiatacz at 4:34 on a power play. He redirected a point shot by senior defenseman and captain Evan Swieczkowski. Less than a minute later, the

Wildcats took the lead. The Monroe defense coughed up the puck to junior forward Tyler Sanders (1 goal, 2 assists) and he did the rest, snapping a wrist shot from between the circles that beat Barron to the glove

Junior D-man Justin Bauer picked up the first of his three assists on Plymouth's next goal (with 7:21 to go). Bauer took a shot from the blue line that was stopped, but Currier (2 goals, 1 assist) chipped in the rebound.

**FILLING THE NET** 

From the puck drop to open the second period, the Wildcats dominated play so much they enjoyed a 25-4 edge in shots on goal for that stanza alone. Plymouth scored four more goals but could have netted several more if not for the play of Barron.

"We had good puck movement on the power play and other than that we crashed the net harder than we did last game," said Fassbender, referring to a 6-4 victory over East Kentwood on Nov. 21. "And that (led to) two or

three goals." At 2:17, Gambrell scored from the side of the goal with assists to Sanders and freshman defenseman Cam Nadell.

Just 51 seconds later, it was 5-1. Junior forward Ryan Brown and Gambrell moved in on Barron, and Brown — using Gambrell as a decoy — blistered a wrist shot through the goaltender.

Starting that play was freshman defenseman Dean Gunther, who picked up an assist.

The Wildcats added their second power play goal with 7:41 left in the period. Renault finished off a perfect give-and-go with Currier.

#### LOTS OF GOALS

Then at 14:54, Gambrell's second tally made it 7-1 after two step, he swatted a rebound into the goal. Drawing assists were Sanders and sophomore defenseman Nate Stemberger.

Nearly five minutes into the third, Currier lifted a shot past Barron but it was senior forward Colin Wright (2 assists) who made Plymouth's eighth goal

Wright stripped the puck from a Monroe player in the Trojans' zone, then skated into the slot before sending a crisp pass over to Currier.

Monroe senior forward Kyler Kleindienst registered his second goal of the game at 6:09. All that did was fire up the Wildcats yet again. Just 1:01 later, Plymouth made

it 9-2. Renault spun and ripped a low shot from above the blue paint that eluded Barron. The assists were recorded by Wright and Bauer.

Fassbender, meanwhile, said he doesn't expect too many games this season to be so lop-

After two games at this weekend's Ann Arbor Cube Invitational, the Wildcats will visit tough KLAA rival South Lyon on Tuesday.

"This is out of the ordinary, games should be much closer," Fassbender stressed. "I'm hoping this weekend we can take care of business and we can win both if we play our game.

"... then there's South Lyon next Tuesday, a very good hockey team. Should be a tight game with no room for mistakes."

### Canton loses

The Canton varsity boys hockey team lost Tuesday at Novi. 8-5, dropping the Chiefs early season record to 1-1.

Canton's next game is 7:20 p.m. Wednesday at Southgate Anderson.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Roberts and 5-6 sophomore guard Katelyn Watson will contribute to the starting

"She (Roberts) is our most athletic player," Sturdivant

said. "She's a tremendous athlete. .. I'm looking for great things from Alex, I'm looking for her to have a breakout season.

Varsity newcomer Watson is as aggressive as any diminutive guard might be.

for a first-year player," he said. "I'm looking for her to make a transition from JV to 'big-time' varsity basketball."

playing time is 5-11 sophomore center Isis Haywood. younger sister of Shaakira. "I'm looking for her to grow and mature into a defensive Alyssa Burris, who "has the potential to have a tremendous offensive game" and 5-8 first-year forward Taylor

as strong can be," the coach

Juniors Mariah Tesarz, Jackie Godin and sophomore Lejla Kulaglic, all guards,

will push for playing time with their hard work and tenacity

Redford Union head girls basketball coach Alan Kruck the season to find out what his younger players will do when it matters.

sive stops. That's the area we'll be challenged in."

lineup.

"She goes to the basket well

In the mix for regular

stopper.

Leading other reserves are 5-7 sophomore guard-forward Birman, a junior. "She (Birman) is as strong

Sturdivant, who has former

on his staff, is anxious to start "This should be an inter-

esting year," he said. "We're always looking to run and use our athleticism to score easy baskets. ... I have the personnel that will be able to get out and go rim to rim.

"But we have to have defen-

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### Early surge lifts Penguins to 1st win

**OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

With most of the team finally together, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem varsity girls hockey team exploded for four first period goals on the way to an 8-3 win over Walled Lake United in the Penguins conference opener.

Senior defenseman Jordyn Moore was the big gun, scoring a three goal hat trick and assisting on another. Scoring two goals was senior defenseman Shauna Siebert.

The victory at Arctic Edge in Canton followed two one-sided defeats to open the season, in which the Penguins (1-2-0, 1-0-0) were outscored by a total of 14-1.

"The girls played great," said PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson. "I just wish we would have played this way on Saturday (7-0 at Port Huron). "It would have been a completely different outcome."

PCS got on the board at 3:47 when junior defenseman Sarah

Megdan, Tony DesJardin and Dave Cramer, went 3-0-1 in the tourney, defeating the

Waterloo Wolves 5-3 in the

Earlier in the tourney, the

Crush pounded Waterloo 7-2.

Canton's squad was the first to

defeat the Wolves this season. Waterloo left with a 14-2-3

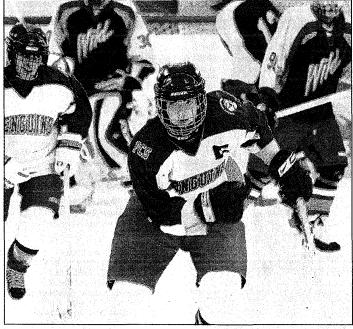
In their first game of the

three-day tournament (Nov.

championship game.

nament.

record.



Sarah Coleman (foreground) leads a rush for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team Tuesday night with teammate Ellexus Montoya trailing. The Penguins defeated Walled Lake United, 8-3 for their first regular season victory.

Coleman scored, taking a pass from freshman forward Beth

Johnson. Less than two minutes later,



Members of the tournament-winning '96 Canton Crush Bantam A hockey team include: (first row, from left) goalies Eric VandenBosch, Jacob Ponder; (second row, from left) Mike Scarpello, Dylan Glenday, Jon Clark, Brendan DiRezze, Ryan DesJardin, Matt Goldin, Nick Heffron; (third row, from left) coach John Megdan, coach Kramer, coach Dave Kramer and head coach Dave DiRezze. Not pictured is Bryan Eastman.

13-15), the Crush tied Belle Tire Panthers, 6-1.

Later in the weekend.

Canton defeated the Pickering

Tournament games were played in Brownstown,

Arctic Edge on Michigan

Moore assisted on senior forward Kara Bongiovanni's goal and it was 3-0 at 7:38 when Moore scored her first of the night (from junior forward Tory Campbell).

Walled Lake finally got one past PCS freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo when Katie Acheson scored with 43 seconds to go in the period.

The Penguins expanded the edge to 6-1 after two, with goals by Moore (from Coleman) and junior forward Jennifer Fedon, who beat Wild goaltender Christina Karagozian. Drawing assists were Moore and Siebert.

In the final frame, Siebert got it going with a marker at 4:11, from Campbell. But Walled Lake chipped in a goal at 6:37. with Emma Crone scoring.

The teams traded goals after

PCS made it 8-2 when Moore capped off her hat trick, with the helper going to Bongiovanni.

A half-minute later, Walled Lake's Melissa Phalin finished the scoring for the evening.

IN BRIEF

### **Precision Baseball clinic**

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

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

Areas where pitchers can expect improvement include: 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 fastball 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.

### Tournament win for '96 Crush Literally 'Crush-ing' the tournament title hopes and dreams of their opponents, the '96 Canton Crush Bantam A hockey team Nov. 15 claimed the Motown Cup Series tour-The Crush, led by head coach Dave DiRezze and assistant coaches John

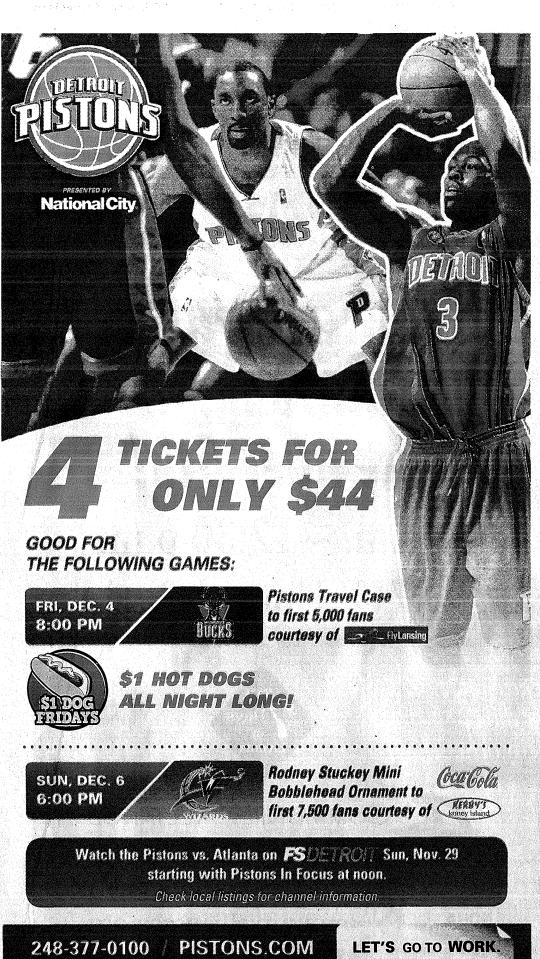
Tony DesJardin, Cameron Clark, CJ Myers, Taylor Turner, James Sheridan, John Megdan, Cameron O'Donnell, Josh

South, 5-5.

Southgate and Joe Louis Arena Avenue.

Canton's home rink is the







### Rowe's penchant to teach impacts gymnastics

**OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 29, 2009

At age 67, Douglas Rowe admits he's not quite as limber as his football playing days at Wayne State University.

"I've had both hips replaced, they don't let me demonstrate," said Rowe, owner and operator the past 28 years of Michigan Academy of Gymnastics in Westland.

Rowe's devotion and his love for gymnastics, however, isn't going on the disabled list anytime

"He's a true teacher as I've ever seen," said Leon Bekker, boys and girls program director at MAG. "He loves kids, and will do anything for the kids. He's a true example for not only the kids, but for the staff."

Rowe, who resides in Westland, was paid the ultimate compliment last month at a banquet in Kalamazoo when he earned USA Gymnastics of Michigan Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rowe currently is on his second 12-year lease at the 22,000square foot facility, located on 5870 N. Hix Road (between Ford and Warren roads).

Michigan Academy of Gymnastics also has two satellite facilities, including a 14,000square foot building in Ann Arbor, along with another site working in conjunction with the Canfield Recreation Center in Dearborn Heights.

His various programs include preschool training, which offers kinder classes, as well as classes for all levels and ages. MAG also features competitive teams for boys and girls.

"Kids can come out of here and be talented in other things," Rowe said. "They can go into other areas and excel.

After graduating from Wayne State where he was exposed to a variety of individual sports, Rowe taught physical education, social science and physical sciences, as well as coaching football, baseball and gymnastics at Riverside High School in Dearborn Heights.

"I learned real good basics with kinesiology, humanities, dance," Rowe said. "I took anatomy and exercise physiology. Gymnastics



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michigan Academy of Gymnastics owner and operator Douglas Rowe has been a fixture in Westland for 28 years.

is applied P.E., kinesiology and exercise physiology. That's what it is in the rest of the world, but here it's a sport."

Rowe launched the Rebel Gymnastics Club at Riverside during the summer of 1976 and quickly moved his high school team up to No. 2 in the state within the next year.

Rowe remembers those humble beginnings.

"The first meet I ever coached was against (Livonia) Clarenceville on those flimsy mats with no padding," he said. "There was really nothing underneath other the bare floor.'

In 1978, Rowe opened his first gym in Garden City. His second gym was opened in 1986 at an adjacent building, which is now a dance studio, on Hix Road. Then in 1989, Rowe purchased Not Just Gymnastics, which is located on 3900 Jackson Road (Suite No. 4), in Ann Arbor.

Meanwhile, his Westland gym has mushroomed into a complete modern training center for boys and girls gymnastics with the ability to host high level regional training camps and clinics.

The competitive teams of Michigan Academy of

Gymnastics have won numerous team and individual awards over the years. And many of MAG alums have competed in the collegiate ranks and at national level meets.

Rowe employs a full-time staff of 14 instructors and 20 part-timers, including those with Olympic level and sport educational credentials.

His younger brother Ken, 63, an avid runner, has taught beginner boys classes since 1995.

"He's worked with me for years, he's my maintenance crew, and he's my best friend," Doug said.

The MAG owner estimates over 2,500 kids will participate in his various programs this year. "Even in a down economy,

in 2009 we'll have more girls compete at level state meets," Rowe said. "I think in the fourcounty area, there are over 11,500 involved in gymnastics, whether it's through the YMCA, recreation or private clubs. That's a lot involved - even in these times."

When asked how much time Rowe spends a week bouncing between his three gyms, he defers the answer.

"You'll have to ask my wife Debby, it depends what she says," Doug said. "It's probably somewhere between 70 to 50 hours."

MAG has trained some of the highest level gymnasts to come out of Michigan including the late Jason Whitfield, Adrian and John Besancon, Monica Stavros, Gayle Quashnie, Nicole Argiros and Conan Parczuchowski. He's had others move on to West Point and the Air Force Academy.

He is currently working with Canton gymnast Samantha King, a 16-year-old from Salem High, who was a Level 9 all-around national champ. King, trying to bounce back from an elbow injury, is now competing at Level 10. But despite all the talent that

surrounds him, Rowe sticks to his roots and his core values.

"My mission statement has not changed since I first wrote it," he said. "It sets the tone for what I believe."

And that means Rowe is there for everybody. He's just not a figurehead, a teacher first and a businessman second.

Very few people have maintained continuous activity with children's sports," he said. "My job is to make things better for kids. And if they want to learn, I'm happy to help them."

### THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 1 Brighton at Salem, 7 p.m. Canton at Saline, 7 p.m. West Bloomfield at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.

Franklin at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, Dec. 3** A.A. Huron at Salem, 7 p.m.
A.A. Greenhills at Ply. Christian, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
Ladywood at Flint Powers, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY

Tuesday, Dec. 1 Plymouth at South Lyon, 6 p.m. Country Day vs. PCS Penguins, 6:30 p.m. at Arctic Edge Farmington United vs. Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8 p.m Wednesday, Dec. 2 Canton at Southgate Anderson: 7:20 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4

Salem vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m

Saturday, Dec. 5 PCS Penguins vs. Bloomfield Hills, 3:15 p.m. at Royal Oak Lindell Arena Plymouth at Lake Orion, 6 p.m. Canton vs. Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8 p.m. Ladywood at Port Huron, 4 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 2 Plymouth at Dexter Quad Meet, TBA

Stevenson at Avondale Quad, 5 p.m. Wayne Quad Meet, 5:30 p.m. Franklin, John Glenn at N.B. Huron Tri-Meet, 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3

Alma College at Madonna, 2 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Sunday, Nov. 29 Madonna at Alma College, 3 p.m. Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2 Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m Friday, Dec. 4 (Schoolcraft College Invitational) K'zoo Valley vs. Kennedy-King (III.), 5:30 p.m. Schoolcraft vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 Schoolcraft Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m

Saturday, Dec. 5 Lake Orion Invite, 8 a.m. Rocket Duals at John Glenn, 9 a.m. Clarenceville Quintet Meet, 9 a.m.

Columbia Central Invite, 9 a.m. Grand Blanc Invitational, 9 a.m.

Blissfield Invitational, TBA.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Wednesday, Dec. 2 Saginaw vs. Plymouth

at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4

Plymouth at Saginaw, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5

Sault Ste. Marie vs. Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Dec. 2 Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4
(WHAC/MIAA Challenge)

(WHAC/MIAA Chailenge) Olivet College at Madonna, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m. (WHAC/MIAA Challenge)

### **SPORTS ROUNDUP**

### Holiday hoops camp

The Plymouth High School Basketball Booster Club announced it will be hosting its Holiday Basketball Camp, 1-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Dec. 30 at the PHS gymnasium.

Up to 50 boys in grades 5-8 are eligible to sign up. The cost of the camp is \$50. For more information and to register, contact booster club president John Nadratowski at (734)

### Coaches, please call

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

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

To do so, please e-mail Observer sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife. com) or leave him detailed

messages at (313) 222-2637. Deadlines are Tuesday nights for the Thursday paper and Friday nights for the Sunday edition.

### 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 Beginner to intermediate

Tuesdays (\$2 per person) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesdays and Thursdays (\$2). Three courts are available. Intermediate to advanced

play is 1-3 p.m. Mondays and

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.



### On keeping your appliances clean: Refrigerator has halitosis

ob writes: "My nephew bought a used Sub Zero refrigerator and decided to clean the fridge and freezer with Soft Scrub. He didn't realize that the strong ingredi-



Doctor

Joe Gagnon

"I called the manufacturer and they told us to turn the fridge off entire unit a day or two.

ent of bleach

in this popular

cleaner is not

going away.

and scrub the with water and then air it out He did that

but my nephew tells me that after twice cleaning it hardly changed the smell. Note, it never smelled before he started this whole cleaning process. I've heard suggestions to use charcoal or a product called Frig It. The Soft Scrub people said simple water should dissipate the odor. Thanks for any suggestions."

Well Bob, You, your nephew and I now know that Soft Scrub is not an odor remover, which makes your e-mail all worthwhile and I thank you. I would try letting the product warm up to room temperature and washing the inside of both sections using pure tomato juice. Let it stand for and hour or so and then rinse it out . using warm water. Use only

pure tomato juice, not any blend such as V8.

After cleaning and rinsing, fill a bowl of tomato juice and let it sit on a refrigerator shelf for three days. The refrigerator should be operating while the juice sits on the shelf. This is the time proven method used by farmers who used to wash the dog or cat with tomato juice after they got lovey dovey with a skunk. There are several commercial products sold today to get rid of odors and I'm sure they can do the job but I've heard many success stories related to tomato juice.

### **DONATING A WASHER**

Michele writes: "A year ago I got a great deal on a front

load washer and retired my top-loading Kenmore 70 series to my garage. I thought surely I would come across someone who would need it but no luck. So now, I'm concerned to offer it to anyone or any non-profit organization because it has been sitting. Need I be concerned? If it is safe to give away, would you suggest a tune-up? What organization could I contact about donating the washer?"

My dear Michele, I trust that when you placed your old washer in the garage a year ago, you made sure the water valve was dry along with the pump or you poured in some sort of Anti-freeze. If not, these components may have frozen and will need replac-

ing. As for being so kind as to want to donate the product I might suggest you contact Habitant for Humanity at 170 April Drive in Ann Arbor. They will pick it up and with help from a service technician who donates his time, it will be tuned up and sold to a wanting person.

#### **DISHWASHER CLEANING**

Connie writes: "I was taking the dishes out of my machine and I noticed small black spots on the bottom of the dishwasher and I reached my hand down to see what it was, and to my surprise the metal is coming off the bottom of the washer. Should I continue to use it to wash dishes? I have had it for 17

years and had no trouble with

Connie, let me give you a fact that I have proven a million times. If I ran my fingertips across the bottom inside edge of a person's dishwasher, five out of 10 times they would come out stained with a black substance and that is undissolved detergent. Before you go getting rid of the dishwasher, I suggest you give it a cleaning treatment using Tang orange powdered breakfast drink. Stay tuned.

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

### MILESTONES

### **NEDOCK-GINN**

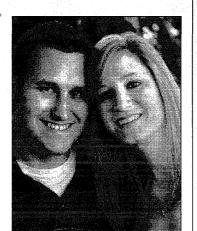
twice and it still has that odor.

I suggested a third cleaning

Kassandra Catherine (Kasey) Nedock, and Jeffrey Lee Ginn of Royal Oak

announce their engagement. Kasey is the daughter of Kathryn Williams of Farmington Hills and David Nedock of Southfield. Jeff is the son of Mickey and Ted Ginn of Clarkston. Kasey is a 2000 graduate of Farmington Hills Harrison High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College and also a recent graduate of Madonna University's paralegal program. She is employed as a paralegal for the firm of Kirsch and Satawa in Southfield.

Jeff graduated in 2000 from



**Nedock-Ginn** 

Clarkston High School and in 2004 from Central Michigan University. He is employed as a senior software engineer for Metastorm in Southfield.

They plan a May 2010 wed-



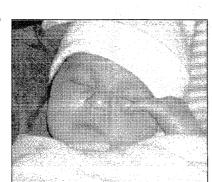
### Haley needs a home

Haley is the featured greyhound this week from Greyheart **Greyhound Rescue and Adoption:** She's a 6 1/2-year-old greyhound with light brindle coloring. She loves to run and play, likes squeaky toys and is goodnatured. If you would like to meet Haley, please call Greyheart **Greyhound Rescue and Adoption** at (866) 438-4739. Please visit the Web site, www.greyheart.org.

### **ALEXANDER RYAN BARR**

Alexandar Ryan Barr was born Oct. 27 in Garden City Hospital. Proud parents are Daniel and Dori Barr of Livonia. His sister is

Samantha Rivera. 13. Grandparents are Darcy Gray of Livonia, Finula Barr of Westland, Rick and Sherry Mandler of Taylor and John Barr and Donna Werner of Rochester Hills.



Alexander Ryan Barr

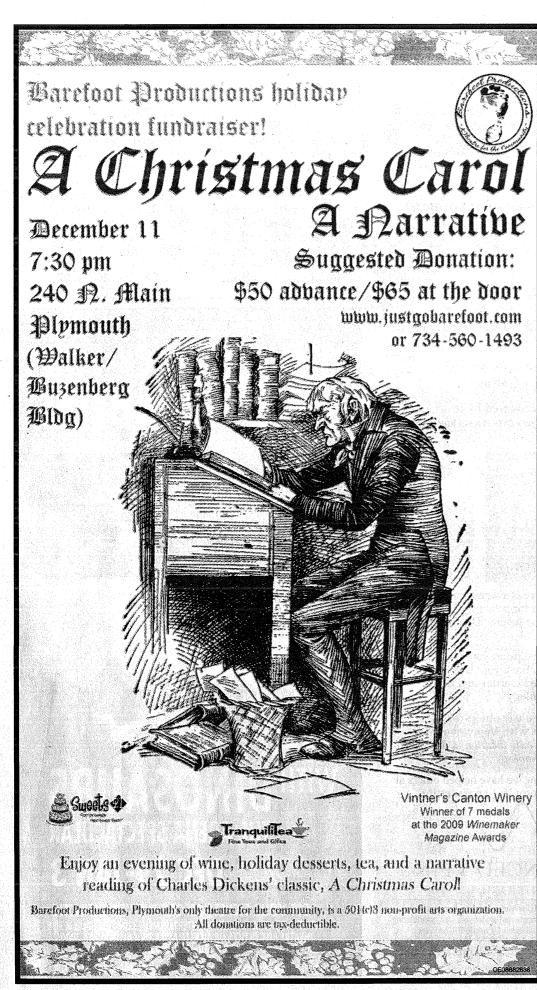
### Metroparks card perfect holiday gift

Looking for a gift that's always a perfect fit? Golfers, nature lovers, teachers and busy moms are just some of the people who will love receiving a Huron-Clinton Metroparks gift card or annual permit this holiday season.

The cards can be bought for any amount can be used just about anywhere at 11 Huron-Clinton Metroparks in the five-county Southeast Michigan region. Good at golf courses, park offices, marinas and interpretive centers, the cards can pay for a variety of services, including greens fees, vehicle or boat annual permits, picnic shelter rentals, marina fees, interpretive program fees or cross-country ski rentals. The cards can also be at Turtle Cove

Family Aquatic Center at Lower Huron Metropark, or the pool and adventure golf course at Metro Beach Metropark.

A vehicle entry permit is required to enter any Metropark and for 2010 is \$25 annually for regular admission, \$15 annually for seniors. General information can be found at www.metroparks. com or by calling (800) 47-PARKS.





2009; Age 50. Wife of Kirk, Mother of Kathryn & Christopher. Arrangements by Simple Funerals 313-382-1181.

#### www.SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com MARILYN A. SIMMONS

November 23, 2009. Beloved wife of George C.; mother of Craig B. & Judy C. (Merlyn) Smith; dear grandmother of Joshua, Kalen & Erin Barnhart. A memorial service was held on November 28, 2009 at Christ The King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI, Pastor James Fogle officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to the Church.



#### 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

(Arnold) Parma. As a teenager June

served as a Civil Defense Telephonist

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 hus-band. 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.

Arrangements by: Casterline Funeral Home, Inc





Nov. 26, 2009 age 86 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Mamie. father of Frank Jr. (Darella), Sandra (John) Kowlaski, Carol (Timothy) Bell, Ronald Conrad, and the late (Joseph (the late Margaret) Vail. Brother of Albert, Bonnie Riley, Jeannie McCoy & the late Levi, Alfred. Predeceased by grandson Kevin Ball and survived by 13 grandchildren & 13 great grandchildren. Funeral at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland Tue. 1 PM. Family will receive friends Mon. 12-9 PM. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com

### In Memory Of



IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD KENT EBERE II 12-1-2006

Taken from us in the prime of his life. We cherish each and every day and ever moment we spent with you. We miss your infinite knowledge, guidance, your laughter and jokes, discussion and advice. If tears could build a stairway to Heaven and memories a road, we would walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. It will never be the same, we will never be the same, we will forever love you and never forget you. Love always and forever, your loving wife Connie and son Walt, Bev and Jeff.

### NEIGHBORS

# O Christmas trees!

### Decking the halls starts at Halloween in this house

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

Ralph Pesys may be the only dog in Livonia with his own Christmas tree.

Janina and Tomas Pesys, sister and brother, consider it - and every other tree in their parents' home — normal as far as Christmas decorating goes.

Even their dad, Edmund, doesn't think twice when he considers the 900 glass ornaments carefully hung from a 9foot tree in the family room.

"It evolved," said Toni Pesys, explaining her passion for Christmas decorations. "We put an addition on the house and then I couldn't have a tree in just one room. Next there was a tree in another room and then it kind of grew."

With 2,000 ornaments, Toni easily decorates a tree in every room. When guests walk through the Rosedale Gardens home during the Livonia 21st annual Christmas House Walk on Dec. 5, they'll even find two trees displayed in some rooms, along with roping, lights, nativity scenes, candles, figurines, ceramic villages and

"I love our front room at Christmas. I just think it's really pretty, especially when there's a fire," said Janina, a college student who helped decorate the tree in her bedroom when she was growing up. "I really do find myself looking for a second tree at my friends' homes. It's odd when there's only one."

Both she and her brother say they'll decorate for Christmas when they have their own homes, but probably won't put in quite as much effort as their

"Yes, it's bordering on an obsession," said Toni, with a laugh. The Redford native said she is attracted to "old



Edmund, Toni, Tomas, Janina and Ralph Pesys with the 9-foot Christmas tree that sports 900 glass ornaments, many of them from the 1950s and '60s.

### LIVONIA 21ST ANNUAL **CHRISTMAS HOUSE WALK**

What: Tour six decorated homes When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5

Tickets: \$9 in advance; \$10 day of the walk; available at all three Livonia libraries, city hall and the Greenmead gift shop Details: Sponsored by Friends of Greenmead, the event raises money for the structures and grounds of Historical Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. Program books, including a map, will be available at the walk. Christmas cookies will be served at the Hill House at Greenmead.

Contact: (248) 477-7375

and dirty" ornaments found at garage saies and thriit stores "Some are so tattered, I just feel sorry for them."

### TREES EVERYWHERE

Bulbs from the '40s, '50s and '60s adorn trees in the family room and basement. Straw ornaments, reflecting Edmund's Lithuanian heritage, decorate a tree in Tomas' old bedroom, which also displays amber glass, another



Edmund Pesys holds Ralph for a photograph of Ralph's very own Christmas tree. It's adorned with a 'World's Best Dog' ornament and representations of his favorite animals, including mice, rabbits and squirrels.

hallmark of the Eastern European culture. A religious themed tree in the living room shows off angels and stars and the evergreen in the dining room sports patriotic colors.

Tomas will set up a Christmas village in the outdoor potting shed that's furnished with quirky lights, salvaged furniture and a tree decorated in tiny watering

cans and seed packets.

In addition to Ralph's tree, decorated in his favorite animals and displayed near his food and water bowls, the kitchen includes a cooking themed tree that stays up yearround. Toni uses it as a night

The master bedroom, with its view of backyard pines, is the perfect spot for a wildlife themed tree. And the 9-foot tree with 900 glass balls takes center stage in the family room, part of the home's 900square-foot addition.

Toni envisioned 1,000 ornaments on the tree's boughs, but couldn't fit them all and settled for 900. She tells a story about the tree's origin that Edmund jokingly claims he has "blotted out" of his

"For Christmas one year he (Edmund) gave me a watch and I did a really bad thing. I took it back to the store and I exchanged it for the 9-foot Christmas tree," Toni said. "I had so many ornaments that one tree wasn't enough."

#### LIGHTING TECHNIQUE Edmund, who grew up

in Dearborn Heights and is

Please see CHRISTMAS, B7

### Zonta members reach out to women, girls, mark milestones

BY JULIE BROWN **O&E STAFF WRITER** 

Sally Randall of Livonia is glad she joined the Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County some 13 years ago.

"Actually, I joined for the networking and the mentoring," said the retired Botsford Hospital registered nurse. She spent 23 years on Botsford's staff in Farmington Hills.

She's now Zonta Area 3 director, including two Ontario clubs and seven in southeast Michigan. She earned both nursing and business degrees.

"I think Zonta's a wonderful organization," said Randall, who learned about scholarship opportunities through the group. "We do a lot of good."

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County recently awarded scholarships to two local women, Stephanie Bagwell of Livonia and Jamie Berlin of Canton. The Michigan State University students received \$500 scholarships which are renewable for the winter semester.

Zonta International is an international women's organization that works to improve the status of women locally and globally. The club meets the fourth Monday of most months at Papa Vino's. For more information about Zonta or to attend a meeting, call Sally Randall at (734) 464 3728. You can also visit www.zonta.org or www. zonta15.org/northwest-

### INTERNATIONAL HELP

Randall's background in health care makes Zonta's international component a natural. It includes efforts to prevent HIV transmission at birth to infants in Rwanda, Zonta has consultative status with the United Nations, and 2008-10 biennium efforts include ending violence against

women and children.

There's the issue of obstetric fistulas which result when young girls give birth. Zonta funds a hospital in Libva for treatment of obstetric fistulas, which cause leakage of urine and feces in young mothers, resulting in their being ostracized. Girls gain selfrespect and begin to teach each other, Randall said.

When Zonta International started 90 years ago, it was more behind the scenes with women asked to join. "Now we're realizing that has shot us in the foot," Randall said. "We are not known." She sees her group as hav-

ing a lot to shout about. Randall has two daughters-in-law and a daughter who help out, although they're busy with young families. "I would love to see them join," she said, especially of the couple's daughter. Randall said attracting younger members is an issue.

"Life's been good to me," Randall said. "I have to pay back." The organization has begun to accommodate those who can't always attend meetings, such as a busy tax professional who can't help during tax season. The club has a Web presence now as well.

"I think we're making a lot of progress," Randall said, noting young women today often have a strong service etnic

Barbara Mansfield of Livonia's a 30-year member of the Zonta Club. "I was a charter president," said Mansfield, who retired in 2001 as an elementary school principal in the Southfield school district.

Mansfield liked Zonta's ideals and purpose of opportunities for women worldwide. She's traveled internationally to conventions in Paris, Singapore, Sydney, Australia, and

Please see ZONTA, B7

### **Arthritis Today**

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY



of their discomfort. Certainly, one of the features of arthritis of the hips or knees is difficulty that makes one feel like the joints need oil more than aspirin. The cause of the joint stiffness on arising from a chair or getting out of a car is

similar to the stiffness the same individual feels on arising from bed in the morning The reason for the stiffness is because of the effort needed to undertake movement after rest. In arthritis, when the joints are at rest, they act not as if they were at ease but rather that they are exhausted A person without arthritis, both in bed and in a chair moves frequently, the joints

resting are moving sufficiently to make standing and walking possible

without hesitation. In contrast, a patient with arthritis sinks into the bed or chair; joints want to remain still in an effort to overcome the strain activity places on them. As a result, when the need to move comes, the inert joints find it difficult to return to However, this explanation does not fit the majority of people, particularly the elderly, who feel stiff on standing. The main cause is being in poor physical condition. Standing and walking takes strength and stamina. Lack of exercise

means that the individual loses the reserves needed to undertake unimpeded motion. The main treatment for joint stiffness is not medicine but exercise www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com

> A perfect addition to baby's scrapbook! Place your baby's photo in the Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers for Christmas and let our 912,950\* weekly readers "Oooh and Haaa" over them oo! This special page of "cuties" will run December 20/24.

> > Deadline to receive ads: December 10th

Send photo and info to: "Baby's First Christmas" **Observer and Eccentric/Hometown** Newspapers • Classified Dept. • 6200 Metro Pkwy • Sterling Heights, MI 48312 Or email to: oeads@hometownlife.com

**Elizabeth Smith Mommy's Little Angel** Born 11/13/2009 **Proud Parents** John & Sue Livonia, MI



For more information call: 1-800-579-7355 lines maximum. Must be prepaid. We accept all major credit cards. Photos may be mailed or

emailed but must be received by 12-10-2009. No photos will be returned

### Healthy Legs, Healthy You!

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

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

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



Studies have demonstrated that there is a significant deterioration in the quality of life for persons with chronic venous insufficiency and this can be severe. Don't wait to get You're never too old or young to jumpstart your health and

fitness program with healthy legs! Have your legs treated in under an hour with no-downtime, no scarring and NO STRIPPING using the latest technology. New, safe & effective treatment for

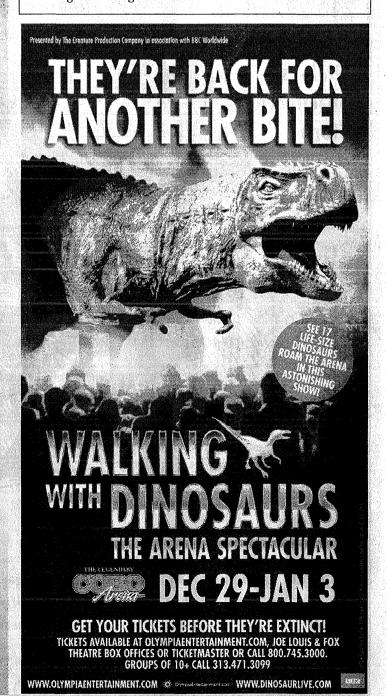
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### ZONTA

Helsinki, Finland, as well as gatherings closer to home.

"I think it would be a great opportunity for them to join and to reach out to women," Mansfield said of young women joining Zonta. She noted two-thirds of money raised stays here.

Over the years, Zonta's helped the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College with women returning to school. Seniors have received help with prescriptions, Mansfield said, and visually impaired children have received books through the Seedlings organization.

Zonta's helped First Step for domestic violence victims and women and children at the Wayne County Family Shelter in Westland. That includes gifts and books, along with cleaning supplies for women going out into their own homes and apartments.

"I have had some friends who have joined," said Mansfield, who's unmarried. "I've been very happy to be a Zontian." She cites "lasting friendships, many of them."

#### PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

Karen Milton of Farmington Hills has been in Zonta since 1981, having joined when she was a school principal in Perry, Mich., and joined in Owosso. She transferred to the Northwest Wayne club in 1994 with her job, and retired as a Livonia elementary school principal in 2005.

"When I joined, you were invited to join" as a community leader, Milton said. She liked the focus on improving status of women, ranging from wells in Sri Lanka to immunizing children in Nepal. Overseas, women are given tools, such as a farm animal, to help them become economically independent.

"That kind of thing gives them power then to be more independent," the club president said.

"It's not a male-bashing thing, it's just a matter of



Betteann Casemore, Karen Milton, Sally Randall, Barbara Mansfield and Helen Jeter are among Zontians marking the 30th anniversary of the local group.

#### **PART OF HISTORY**

Amelia Earhart was a member of Zonta International. Earhart was lost in 1937 and in 1938 Zonta International set up grants for women in graduate-level study in aerospace-related subjects in her honor. Since the inception in 1938, there have been 1,262 Fellowships totaling U.S. \$7 million given to 880 Fellows from 59 countries.

The Amelia Earhart Fellowships focus on eliminating the gender bias that women face in pursuing doctoral degrees in the sciences. Women are beginning to demonstrate a progression from limited representation in aerospace-related sciences to being leaders in the field. During the start of the program, the awards committee had trouble finding qualified applicants, and worked as mentors with potential applicants to help them become qualified.

Today, as evidence of the increasing numbers of women in aerospace-related sciences and engineering, the challenge is choosing the most promising women from among the many qualified applicants. In 2009, Zonta International provided 35 grants of \$10,000 each to women from 12 countries. Applications and more information are available at www. zonta.org.

Anoosheh Niavaranikheiri, a doctoral student in the mechanical engineering and Fluid Mechanics program at Michigan State University, has been awarded a 2009 Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship. This is her second award which she will use to continue her research of flow behavior in micro-fluid devices for aerospace application.

against violence aimed at

women. The Northwest Wayne

club has been dynamic, gen-

erating District 15 governors

Milton agreed signing up

younger women is a challenge

difficult to get people to com-

for organizations like hers. "It's

who oversee Michigan and

part of Canada.

helping women to become independent." Milton lives with her mom, a former "Rosie the Riveter" now in her 80s. "We kind of take care of each other," said Milton, who completed her doctorate at Oakland University the same year as retirement. That had been a longitime goal

been a longtime goal.

Milton appreciates the work

a month meeting schedule helps.

Milton was a Fulbright scholar who taught overseas, and has a world view; she took a leave from Zonta for doctoral work and missed the club.

"It's fantastic," she said of the conventions, of which she's attended U.S. gatherings. "You meet people from all over the world."

Women from Third World countries bring fabric and clothing to help pay their way. "It's really interesting to find out about people from throughout the world," Milton said of conventions.

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Friday, Dec. 4, at the Embassy Suites, Seven Mile and I-275 in Livonia. The meeting begins 6 p.m. and will feature comedian/Zontian Meghan Meyer.

For tickets or more information, call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728 or e-mail her at rsrand521@sbcglobal.net.

Regular business meetings are held the fourth Monday of most months (some changes due to holidays) at Papa Vino's at Haggerty and Six Mile roads (northwest corner). You are asked to R.S.V.P. to the above number if you wish to attend.

### CHRISTMAS FROM PAGE B6

retired from GM, said he has "a minimal amount of input" in the annual decorating scheme. He proudly pointed out that Toni strings the lights on each branch as she puts the trees together.

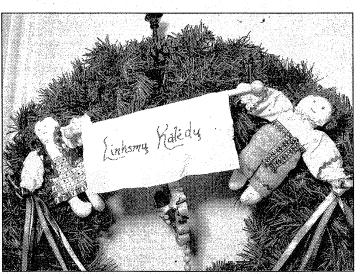
"It's build up. It's not putting up the tree and trying to put the lights around it," he said.

the lights around it," he said.

The 9-foot, ornamentpacked tree is her favorite.

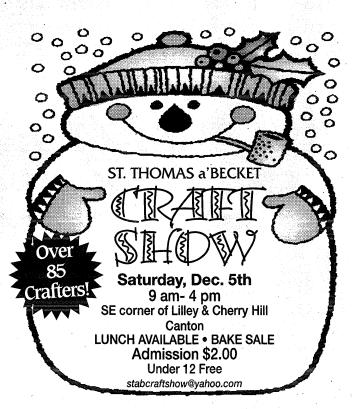
"My favorite thing down here is the cardboard fireplace," she said, pointing to the simulated fire and mantle in the basement. She bought the piece for a few dollars from a thrift store.

"I was just thrilled," she said. The couple has lived in the house 22 years and participated in the homeowner association's annual Christmas house walk. This is the first time they've opened their doors to the Livonia Christmas tour, which raises funds for Historic Greenmead. "My friends and I have been going on the tour for probably 10 years," Toni said, "and I loved the houses and I'd think maybe some day I'd love to do that."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The message on the wreath is 'Happy Christmas' in Lithuanian.



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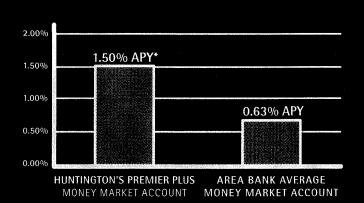
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### A picture is worth a thousand words.



MMA market rate comparison source: Informa Research Service, Inc., Calabasas, CA, www.informars.com. Although the information has been obtained from the various institutions themselves, the accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

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### NOV. 29-DEC. 2

### Advent service

go to hometownlife.com.

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people pre-

pare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655. **Christmas ornament** 

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 29, 2009

The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit/Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442.

### **Lessons and Carols**

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

ing the carols of Advent. Childcare provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

#### Toy collection

Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia, is collecting gently-used toys including complete games and puzzles and books, through Dec. 13. The toys will benefit needy children at Webster Elementary School. If a toy has multiple parts, all pieces should be placed in a baggie or sealed bag. Toys may be placed in the donation box under the canopy at the front of the church. (248) 476-8222

### **DEC. 3-9**

#### Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at

> buildmydreamteam.com or 1-877-Fill-A-Job

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

#### Breakfast

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, presents Breakfast with Angels, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 5. The special event for families with children age 3-7, will include breakfast, crafts, singing and a special visit from the angels. Contact the church office at (734) 464-0211 for more information.

#### Clothing closet

Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank will be open to people in need 5-6:30 p.m.., Wednesday, Dec. 9, and noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty. Donations of winter coats, gloves, boots accepted. The church also can schedule appointments to shop if your need is urgent. For more information, call

#### (734) 927-6686 Concert

■ Christmas concert featuring the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. A reception will follow. Tickets \$12 each in advance; \$14 each at the door; \$10 each for groups of 10 or more. Go to SeatYourself.biz/stmatthewslivonia or call (734) 422-6038 to purchase tickets or for more information.

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington presents the men's choral society Measure for Measure in a special joint concert with the Wayne State University Concert Chorale at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile. There is no admission fee for this event, open to the general public, but donations of \$10 per person or \$25 per family are suggested. (248)

#### 474-6170, Ext. 208 Drop and shop

6-8 p.m., Dec. 8 and 15 at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Mothers and Grandmothers will take care of children while their parents are out doing last minute errands for Christmas. No charge for the service. For information call (734) 421-5406.

### Gift shop

Congregation B'nai Moshe Sisterhood of West Bloomfield presents a Holiday Gift Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6. Discover gifts for all ages, including items such as handbags, clothing, toys, jewelry, works of art, Judaica and more. Congregation B'nai Moshe is located at 6800 Drake, between Maple and 14 Mile Roads in West Bloomfield. For more information, call Linda Mondrow at (248) 682-0471 or e-mail

#### to imonarow@aoi.com Special needs event

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and their caretakers to attend a Christmas "Sing & Ring" event 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Participants will sing carols, ring bells, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy dessert and beverages. RSVP to Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to judy@ emmanuel-livonia.org no later than Friday, Nov. 27. If local schools are closed because of heavy snow or inclement weather, the event will be

#### cancelled. **Swedish Christmas Shop**

5-8 p.m. Friday Dec. 4 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat. Dec. 5 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, corner of Drake, in Farmington Hills. Swedish Christmas ornaments and decorations, along with homemade cardamom bread and crafts from Thailand and South Africa.

### DEC. 10-16

### Advent celebration

Traditions of Christmas will be presented at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church will present "Traditions of Christmas," 4:30-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 9601 W. Hubbard, Livonia. The evening will be an all ages Advent celebration including family keepsake craft stations, Christmas and Dickens Village displays and formal family pictures by the family Christmas tree. There will be storytelling by members of the Detroit Storytelling League and the Northville High School Singers will perform. A family-style dinner will be served at 6 p.m. An Advent musical, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," will be presented by the RGPC Chancel Choir at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Dec. 5. Adult tickets are \$7; children under 12 pay \$5. Advance tickets only. Call the church office at (734) 422-0494.

### Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. The service is 45 minutes long. For information, call (313) 532-8655.

### Advent speaker

Sister Mary Finn, faculty member from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will speak at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Her topic is "So Gifted, So Responsible." RSVP via e-mail or phone to David Conrad at davidjconrad@staidanlivonia.org or (734) 425-5950.

#### Christmas craft

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia will host a Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12 for grades kindergarten through 6th. Kids will enjoy a morning of creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. The event is free. To sign up, call (734) 422-1470 by Thursday, Dec. 10. St. Paul's is located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road.

### Christmas musical

"The Name Jesus," a Christmas musical, runs at 7 p.m., Dec. 11; 10:45 a.m., Dec. 13; 7 p.m., Dec. 18 and 6 p.m., Dec. 20, at First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill, Canton. (734)981-6460 Christmas open house

decorations, enjoy Christmas carols

and refreshments. (313) 534-7730

#### 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 west SIX MIIE, Regtorg. See Unristmas

Concert The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Mr. Ray Schmidt, will present its 28th Annual Christmas Concert, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, in Livonia. Admission cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission in its efforts to aid those in need during the Holiday

Season. (734) 425-5950. Christmas Cantata, "Only Love," 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12 and 3

p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main, Milford. (248) 684-2805.

#### Cookie walk

10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 12, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia, Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound, along with various baked goods. (734) 427-2290

#### Readings and carols

Kneeling in Bethlehem - A Festival of Readings and Carols will be presented at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. The combined Adult, Children's and Handbell Choirs of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Lutheran church along with strings, flutes, percussion, organ and narration will tell the Christmas story through the music of composer Michael Burkhardt and the poetry of Ann Weems. Christmas cookie reception will follow the concert. For information call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at (734)

#### **ONGOING**

#### **AWANA**

Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays, at the church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 426-0096.

#### Classes/study

Antioch Preschool, an academic program complemented by Christian education, is enrolling 3- and 4year-old children for the 2009-2010 school year. A new toddler class is offered Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Extended stay enrichment for 3's and 4's is offered Wednesdays - children bring their lunch and enjoy literacy activities until 3 p.m. Antioch Lutheran Church is at 13 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills, For information contact Sharon Detter, preschool director, at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antiochpreschool@ sbcglobal.net.

■ New Life Community Church, 42200 Tyler, Belleville, offers a jobs seminar, 8-9 am., Fridays, a reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays. (734) 846-4615.

Orchard United Methodist

Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is designed to reduce stress and is great for overall health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

■ Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone num-

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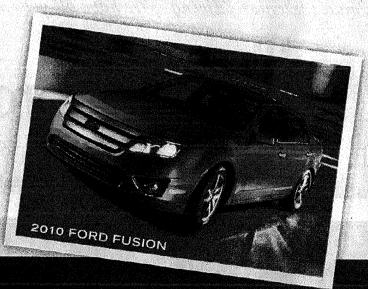
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### (\*)\_(FReLCP)(B8-WGc) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 29, 2009

### Holidays can be tough time to cope with grief, loss, change

ore than 40 events in people's lives can create feelings of grief: the death of a loved one, a divorce, an estrangement, financial changes and health issues are at the top of the list. The holidays are often a time where grief can start or for someone who already is grieving this time often increases

In-House Hospice offers solutions on coping with grief during the holidays: Q: I have lost my job and am unable to find work. Now

A: The loss of a job is just as devastating as the loss of a close family member. Feelings of loss, sadness, anger and fear are very common. Embrace your feelings, realize that they are just feelings, and share them with a friend or loved one. Writing in a journal also helps deal with feelings, but be honest. Remember the old saying, "when one door closes, another one opens." Know that when you expect good things, good things happen. A positive attitude can make all the difference in the world. Q: With the holidays arriving soon how can I cope with not being able to give my children the gifts that they

have been accustomed to? A: Holidays are the time many of us are extravagant and extend our budgets. This year, maybe it's time to refocus our attention on the actual meaning of the holiday, instead of what I can buy someone. It may mean changing rituals your family may have, but making new ones can be fun. Maybe just a family get together with everyone bringing a covered dish instead of the huge meal. Making homemade gifts is also fun, and children really enjoy helping. Enjoy your family and friends, and the time you have together, focus



Teresa Ridley is a bereavement coordinator for In-House Hospice, working with patients in Western Wayne County.

on the spiritual side of the holiday, and fill your home with love.

Q: My spouse and I divorced. Why do I feel grief this first holiday without him/her?

A: In a divorce, the same feelings arise as if the person had died because essentially it is a death; the death of a relationship that had started with so much promise and love. Now you are faced with creating a new "normal" and the holidays can be stressful. Understand the anticipation is probably a lot worse the reality of the day. Perhaps you can find friends in a similar situation and make plans to celebrate with them, rent your favorite films and make it a movie day, if expenses allow, plan a trip somewhere and if you feel like

being alone and sad, that's okay too. Maybe you can look upon this as an opportunity to abandon what you hated about the holidays and create new traditions.

Q: I've lost a pet. What can I do to alleviate the grief?

A: Pet owners have very close relationships with their animals, and the loss of a pet can be very painful. Feelings of overwhelming grief and sadness may be triggered, plus trouble sleeping, weight loss, feeling tired, or having difficulty focusing may occur. These feelings are much the same as losing a family member. Like grief for humans, grief for our animals can only be dealt with over time and in stages. Realize that your best support may come from outside your circle of friends and family. Seek out others who have lost a pet, they will appreciate the loss you are feeling and may suggest ways of getting through your grieving process.

Q: How can I cope with my first year of disability or chronic sickness?

A: Dealing with a chronic illness or disability often makes traveling or visiting people in their homes much more difficult, and may limit your chances of meeting up with friends and family for the holidays. You may be physically unable to host the holidays at your place this year as well. Feelings of loneliness and isolation often accompany the holidays for those of us who are unable to function at our usual capacity. However, giving people a chance to spend time with you individually and at their own convenience may be the way to have the holidays come to you. You may not be able to get out to the festivities on Christmas day but your friends and family can come to see you throughout the season,

stopping by after work or when they're out shopping. Let them know it is okay to drop in, make themselves a cup of tea, and have a chat, bringing some holiday cheer to your door. Q: What can I do to alleviate grief from home foreclosure?

A: For those who lose their homes to foreclosure it can be a time of uncertainty and change. Not knowing what the future holds and how your life is going to change can be very sad and frightening. These feelings are normal when experiencing such a big loss in your life. At times like these it is helpful to lean on people you trust or get community support. It can also be helpful to learn as much as you can about the process of foreclosure, your rights, and any options or organizational help you may utilize. Getting as much knowledge about your situation and vour options can help you gain a sense of control, relieve some of the stress and fear you may have and help cope with the upcoming changes you have to make. Keep in mind that the most pressing issue is to make sure you and your family has a safe and adequate place to stay. There are potential housing options you may be eligible for until you are able to get back on your feet.

In-House Hospice provides nearly 90 percent of hospice care to patients in their homes. When hospice care is provided in the home, a registered nurse visits regularly. coordinates care and stays in contact with the patient's own doctor. Other team members visit as needed and as the patient desires. Most patients and families choose to receive care from several team members, who include social workers, home health aides, chaplains, volunteers, music and massage therapists. www.in-househospice.com

### New breast care center at Botsford offers digital mammography

Botsford Hospital opened its new Dr. Louis and Lucille Spagnuolo Breast Center on Friday, Nov. 27, offering patients digital mammography and other of the latest technologies for breast care, screening and

Digital mammography allows radiologists to review electronic images

of the breast using high-resolution monitors. The digital images can be stored easily, copied without loss of any information, transmitted easily without relying on one set of original films, and highlight specific areas of interest by manipulating brightness, contrast and zoom.

In addition to digital mammog-

raphy, the center offers stereotactic biopsy — which uses a computer to guide a needle to an abnormality seen on a mammogram - and highresolution breast ultrasound with 3D reformat capability, which can show all areas of the breast including the area closest to the chest wall, which is harder to study with a mammogram.

The hospital campus also offers breast MRI for detection of breast cancer as well as to evaluate the integrity of breast implants.

The Botsford Breast Center is located ion the Botsford Hospital campus at 27900 Grand River Ave, in Farmington Hills. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday

and Thursday-Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday; and 7:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Early morning appointments also will be available for men.

For questions about the Botsford Breast Center, call (248) 442-7986. For appointments, contact Botsford Hospital's Central Scheduling at



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### STOP BEING DRAINED BY A CO-WORKER



**WORKWISE** 

Mildred L.

avoid a coworker who drains vou. People with a psychological bent often suggest detaching. "That's a

Some people

will tell you to

pipedream," comments librarian Gina Gallo of Sophie B. Wright Charter School Library in Lacombe, La. She also states that avoiding the person will create stress for you.

"We don't have the choice of disengaging, remarks Raphael Lapin, president of Conflict Management Inc., in San Jose, where he consults worldwide with large organizations, including difficult individuals and teams. If you must work face-to-face, you need specific tactics to deal with

Lapin, author of "Working With Difficult People" (DK Publishers, \$8.00), maintains that difficult people are motivated by "the intent of dominating you. . . . Unless you have a process of your own, you are likely to be drawn into playing the game their way." **IDENTIFYING** 

Recognizing behaviors that cause you to feel drained is a first step. Gallo, who's worked where teachers constantly complained, identifies them as people "who, when you say hello, can't just chitchat. They always have to bring you into their personal life or drama. This information is always horrible and it's draining. They're often people who bring their personal problems to work. Those unhappy with one aspect of their job let one thing

Caroline Miller of Bethesda, Md.'s Caroline Miller Coaching L.L.C., coaches people to make their work environment as positive as possible. She says to watch for people who:

-- "don't always have a smile on their face; -- "use critical, contemptuous and cynical words;

-- "treat other people with contempt, cynicism and eye-rolling.

COUNTERACTING

You have more alternatives than you think to keep a co-worker from draining you. Lapin remarks, "You have to deal with it and not allow it to continue." For example, he advises people who blame other people to "engage them in problemsolving to solve their own problem by saying, 'Let's talk about ways to streamline the process." your co-worker is defeatist, respond with, 'What specifically makes you think it won't work? Give

me some ideas about how we can improve on it." Miller would agree, recommending that you elicit their opinions: "Create more questions where you put things out that are more positive, such as What do you think of this?' and 'How do you think

this would play out?"

However, some people don't think quickly on their feet, especially when they're in conflict. Lapin advises that you "delay your reaction and give it some thought . . . at least a few minutes. Think of yourself as a coach, not a judge. Ask yourself how you can coach the person to be more effective and productive. Fill the process vacuum in a quiet and powerful way."

Gallo uses a very different method. She savs that you can focus on being positive even if you're not an optimist. When someone complains, change the focus with, "You know, I'm having a great day. Maybe I can help." She observes that people who drain other people aren't focused on the work. Drawing them into it will compel them to redirect their thinking. She says that even small questions can be effective. If the bad news is that the person's brother was fired, she advises turning that into something positive, such as, "Oh, your brother got fired? I am so sorry. Thank goodness we still have jobs.

Sometimes being subtle won't change the focus. In that case, Gallo recommends, build a bridge to



Librarian Gina Gallo engages colleague Darryl Cook in conversation at Sophie B. Wright Charter School Library in Lacombe, La. Her tips on handling draining co-workers are exceptional.

the work by saying, "Maybe we can talk about that later, but right now, I would like to give all of my focus to this project." If the person rambles, Lapin says to "interrupt, summarize their relevant points and then ask a closedended question to regain control.

That's what it's all about -- regaining the control you let slip away.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp welcomes your questions at culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2009 Passage Media.)



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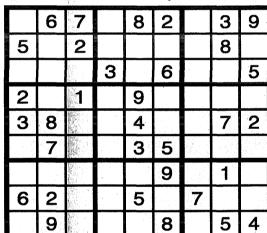
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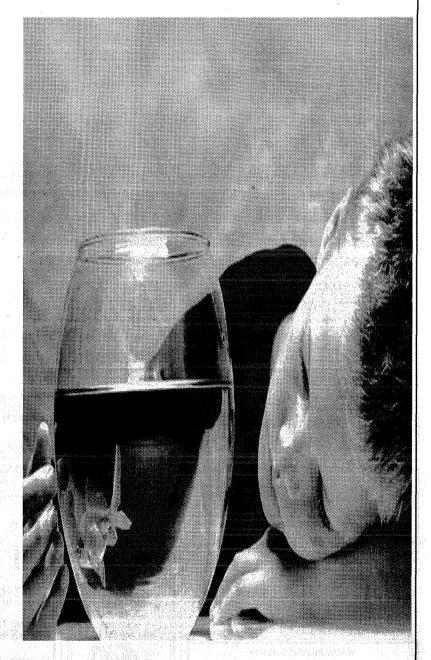
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\$599<sub>/mo.</sub> All Appliances including W/D and C/A!

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4 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt

garage, appli, C/A, DR, LR. \$1250/mo, 248-231-0074 WESTLAND - 2 bdrm, bsmt blinds all appliances A/C Section 8 OK. 734-397-8187 Homes For Rent

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**BINGHAM FARMS** Full Suite, 1st floor. Use of conference room. Separate phone line, computer, printer,

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WESTLAND/LIVONIA 25x40 shop with 11x14 office, security system, \$550/mo. + utilities. 1 mo. free. 313-304-6697

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Starting at \$629 NO RENT UNTIL 2010 on select homes\* Over 1,000 sq. ft. & all appliances including washer/dryer! Academy/Westpoint

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 Abundant Amenities

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SONY 27" Console TV with

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WESTLAND: Huron Valley Lutheran High School Craft Vendor Show. Dec. 5th, 10-3pm. 33740 Cowan.

N. of Warren, E. off Wayne

### LARKETPLACE



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

Sidney Sumpter, Unit D03
Sports Equipment, Misc. Household Hardware Michelle Williams-Slaten, Unit 027 Household Items Kids Toys, Lg Play Gym. Deshawn Hood, Unit 1B10

Aaron Harris, Unit 2A28 Household Items.

Debra Tanton, Unit 2F02 Bernetta Lowery Unit 3B10

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**Public Auction at** 

**Auction Sales** bids and to refuse bids. Notice is hereby given that on CASH ONLY Dec. 16, 2009 at 12:00pm the following will be sold by com-petitive bidding at National Storage Center of Redford, 9125 Telegraph Rd, Redford, MI 48239. Unit (s) may or may not incl the following: Household Items, Recreation Items, and/ or Misc. Goods. Recreationa

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Through Dec 2

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ANTIQUE Kling, maple, pineapple post, full size bedroom suite. Exc. cond, must see \$850/best. 248-889-8526 **DINING ROOM SUITE - 9 piece** Henredon, table, china cabinet, hutch & 6 chairs, \$450/best

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inches wide & 29 inches high

Advertise 1 item of

As little as \$19.99\*!

Your item will be advertised in

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Household Goods

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7160

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Just \$20\*

Deadline to receive ads: December 10th Send photo and info to: "Baby's First Christmas" **Observer and Eccentric/Hometown** Newspapers • Classified Dept. • 6200 Metro Pkwy • Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Or email to: oeads@hometownlife.com

**Elizabeth Smith** Mommy's Little Angel Born 11/13/2009 **Proud Parents** John & Sue Livonia, MI



Observer & Eccentric

\*6 lines maximum. Must be prepaid. We accept all major credit cards. Photos may be mailed or emailed but must be received by 12-10-2009. No photos will be returned

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ESCAPE 2008

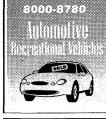
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8070

EBIKE 2 bikes for 1. One bike fully operational. 2nd bike for parts. \$450. 248-646-5696

8145 **Auto Auctions** 

**AUCTION** 12/4/09, 9:00 AM **Keford Novi Towing** 39586 Grand River Novi, MI 4837 1-248-478-2380

2003 Mercury, Sable, black, Vin # 1MEFM55S93A628657 1999 Mercury, Cougar, black, Vin # 12WFT6038X5601175. 2004 Ford, Taurus, white, Vin # 1FAFP53U04G112690. 1999, Ford, Taurus, white, Vin # 1FAFP53U8XG286883. 2008 Ford, E-350, blue, Vin # 1FBSS31L48DA20015. 1989 Ford, Econoline, blue, Vin # 1FBJS31HOKHA66769. 1993 Ford, Taurus, tan, Vin # 1FACP57U6PA201717. 1994 Ford, F-250, white Vin # 1FTHF26H1RLA52503. 1996 Old's, Siloute, white, Vin # 1GHCU06D7LT312132. 1989 Buick, Century, white, Vin# 1G4AH51ROKT453670 1999 Pontiac, Sunfire, red Vin # 1G2JB1249X7522135

2001 Chrysler, Voyager, greer Vin # 2B4GP44G4XR378618. 1992 Plymouth, Voyager, Vin # 2P4GH2535NR583499. 1993 Land Rover, Range

Rover, black, Vin # SALHC1340PA631035. 2000 Pontiac, Grand Am, silver, Vin # 1G2NF52T7YC545295

1999, Chevy, Blazer, green, Vin # 1GNDT13W9X2138687 8190 **Autos Wanted** 

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Mini-Vans

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Buick

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Chevrolet

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**CAVALIER LS 2004** 

Victory Red, CD, ABS, and

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Classic! Only \$5,673!

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8400 Chevrolet

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Treasure Gold, Remote Start

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8420 Ford

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By Tenisha Mercer **Avanti NewsFeatures** 

Advertising Feature

The once almighty Ford Taurus met a tragic demise in 2007, when Ford Motor Co. scuttled the popular sedan from its lineup. Now, the venerable Taurus is back with a vengeance and an all new redesign. And it's clear that Ford is taking no prisoners with the re-launched Ford

Can the Ford Taurus reclaim the title that it once held?

If the 2010 redesign is any indication, Ford just may have a fighting chance. The Dearborn automaker has set its sights clearly on its import brethren – and its target may be in reach

Indeed, the Taurus has gone through many changes. It went from frumpy to frumpier and was eventually relegated to rental car fleet status. By the 2007 model year, the once mighty moniker was replaced by the smaller Fusion and the Five Hundred.

A few years can make all the difference. Now, Ford is pulling out all the stops. The Ford re-launch isn't just about a car; it's about the glory that a best-selling sedan can once again bring. For more than two decades, the Ford Taurus reigned sedan supreme, selling more than 7.5 million cars.

But can it rule again?

The revamped Taurus has a new look, a new platform and a host of other features that Ford hopes will set it apart from the rest – and help it regain its crown as the most popular sedan in the United States (It lost that title to the Toyota Camry in 1997.).

The revamped Taurus might help Ford regain ground lost to Japanese automakers with an appetizing package that combines luxury and performance.

Let's start with the Ford Taurus SHO (Super High Output). It's big, it's bad and it's

bodacious. It packs a powerful punch, thanks to a new drivetrain - the V6 EcoBoost engine with direction injection V-6 and twin turbochargers. You'll need all that power, because the SHO is built for speed with a 3.5liter Ecoboost engine. And that's what makes the SHO so unassuming; you might not ever know it has this much speed, since it doesn't differ much look wise from the standard

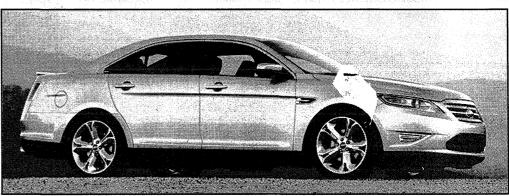
But some things aren't as they appear. The engine doesn't lie. Take a passenger with you; she might not believe that all that power exists under the hood of the Ford SHO. Take the SHO out for a friendly whirl in the carpool lane, but then take it out for a high throttled spin – without the kids! – when you're pushing it to 60 mph in just 5 seconds.

The SHO cabin doesn't scream luxury, but it doesn't scream cheesy budget car, either. That's because from the roof to the floor, it's bathed in quality materials. Automakers can go cheap on the finer, interior parts of an automobile, and usually you can tell.

With the SHO, it's the finer details that make the difference. The dashboard of the SHO is made of soft plastic, but patterned metal insets give it a richer appeal. Even the basic steering wheel is special. It comes with a few extra touches such as an touch-screen LCD with a map, audio system and climate

Now let's get to the seating. The SHO feels, in a word, comfortable. Comfortable enough to ride Grandma in the front seat, but also comfy enough for a girls' night out. The seats are

The Taurus SHO earned a reputation as a workhorse sedan. Yet, it wasn't particularly an exciting design aesthetic. Functional? Yes.



The Ford Taurus SHO (Super High Output) is built for speed with a 3.5-liter Ecoboost engine.

Ooh-ahh in the design department? No, just hohum. Now that the high-performance SHO is on the market, things have changed.

The SHO design is strong and muscular. It's nothing like its wimpy Taurus predecessor design. And check out these details: HID headlamps with nickel-finish lamp bezel; a rear decklid spoiler; and 19-inch aluminum wheels. It gets even better inside with aluminum foot pedals and dash trim, suede seats and an adjustable seven-color ambient lighting.

The SHO is, dare we say, right at home with its foreign counterparts such as Audi and Lexus. And that's exactly where Ford wants to

Out on the road, the Taurus SHO feels comfortable. Its plush seats feel like overstuffed easy chairs. There's also an option for multi-contour seats with massage functions. Feels so comfortable that you might not want to leave. The Taurus has a nifty new feature called BLIS, a blind spot warning system borrowed from Volvo. You know those blind spot mirrors that you buy from the auto store? Toss 'em. This safety feature will issue a warning if a car is in the lane next to you.

The Taurus SHO also comes equipped with a navigation system turned tricked out onboard information system. Enter an address without lifting a finger, thanks to the voice commands. View maps in 2D or 3D or listen to directions in text-to-speech. This isn't your average navigation system.

It comes equipped with an external feature that makes listening to morning drive time traffic obsolete. A live traffic feature on the onboard information system shows traffic incidents and streams live traffic info. It won't direct you around the traffic obstacles, though, unless your route is programmed.

So long as your local traffic powers provide updated traffic information, it's immediate traffic gratification. That's not all, though. This GPS works with the Sirius Travel Link feature to show nearby gas stations along with gas prices. You also get access to weather reports, movie times and sports scores.

One more mention about the power: You get 365 horsepower at 5500 rpm and 350-poundfeet of torque at 3500 rpm. Usually, this would mean low fuel economy, but not in this case. EPA numbers aren't public for the SHO yet, but we think it's likely that fuel economy can reach 21 mpg on the highway

Not bad for a turbo-charged V6 engine. We can't say enough about the impressive engine output. Its all-wheel drive keeps suspension respectable, but it could deserve a bit more fine tuning. We expected the Taurus to be a bit more nimble, especially during turns. The Taurus is chock full of safety features such as BLIS and a rearview camera.

Will the Taurus reign again? With this allstar lineup, it might only be a matter of time.

Write Avanti NewsFeatures auto critic Tenisha Mercer at avanti1054@aol.com or

tenishamercer@yahoo.com 2010 Ford Taurus Vehicle class: Sedan.

Power: EcoBoost, twin turbo, 3.5 liter V6 Mileage: Anticipated 21 mpg highway. Where built: Chicago. **Base price:** \$37,170

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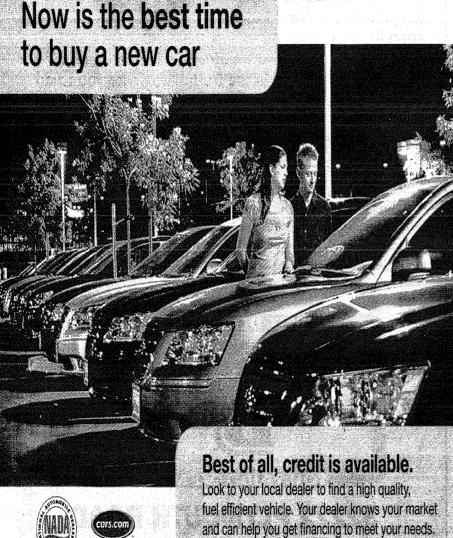
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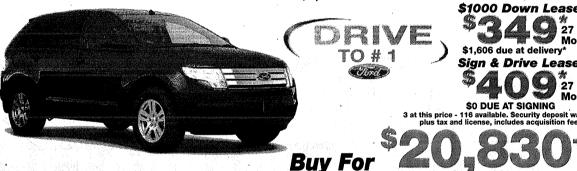
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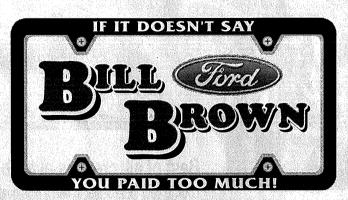
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