

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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PIEPLINE

Holiday photos
could win prizes

Send us your favorite holiday photos for a chance to win a prize.

Go to hometownlife.com (Get Published) and post your favorite holiday photo (or photos) with a short caption, then encourage friends and family to vote by clicking recommend under the photo. The top vote-getter will receive tickets for two to Emagine Theater (Canton or Novi). The second- and third-place winners will receive a coupon for a free four-square cheese and one-topping Buddy's pizza.

Contest ends midnight Dec. 31. Share your holiday spirit with others! Go to hometownlife.com.

Dress request

The Plymouth/Canton branch of American Association of University Women is requesting donations of gently used prom and party dresses.

AAUW officials note, "The prom is a very important event in high school and many girls are finding it difficult to afford that special dress in our current economic climate." AAUW will be having a special sale in April where suitable dresses can be purchased for minimal or no cost. Any profit will go to the group's scholarship fund.

AAUW volunteers will pick up contributions, or donors can bring it to any meeting. To arrange for pickup, contact S. Zaetta at (734) 455-6366 or szaetta@woway.com; K. Bellows at (734) 421-8807 or KiggityKate83@aol.com; or E. Nelson at (734) 981-4938 or enelson1c@att.net.

Ford Facebook

The first- and second-grade students at All Saints Catholic School in Canton were given the opportunity to take part as "actors" in



All Saints Catholic School second-graders Joe Nolan, Mia Zena and Isabelle Leagon ham it up for the camera with the Ford Explorer used to make the Ford Facebook commercial.

an upcoming Ford Explorer Facebook commercial.

School officials said staff and students "were very excited to participate in the filming, which took place in the ASCS parking lot for a greater part of the day."

A new 2011 Ford Explorer awaited the students in the parking lot, as they excitedly departed a school bus, cheering, shouting and "going bananas" as directed by the film crew. The students then took measurements of the new vehicle using their hands and arms, while another student recorded the results.

Union, city, township in fire stalemate

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighters insist they can generate between \$500,000 and \$750,000 a year by doing more patient transports in emergency medical situations. The money, they say, could be used to offset the department's budget — about \$4 million a year — and they are also willing to take concessions amounting to another \$200,000 annually.

Officials in Plymouth and Plymouth Township, however, want to cut the

cost of the department approximately in half, and township officials, who manage the department, question firefighters' revenue estimates and cite a downside to increased ambulance runs.

That sums up the stalemate as the city and the township look to save money by restructuring the department and the unionized firefighters, who lost three men to layoffs early this year, look to save jobs.

Meanwhile, officials in Plymouth, who have a year left in the joint fire department agreement with the township, are beginning to look at creating

a city firefighting service of some kind.

"That model is no longer sustainable," township Supervisor Richard Reaume said of the current 23-man department, in which most firefighter paramedics work 24-hour shifts and can retire after 25 years. Firefighters, he said, are the township's most expensive group of employees.

Instead, Reaume said, the township and the city are looking at a 12-member force that would work 12-hour shifts during peak times and would be supplemented by part-time and on-call firefighters who would not have emergency medical duties. The pri-

vate Huron Valley Ambulance, which currently performs a majority of the hospital transports in Plymouth and Plymouth Township, would play a big role in such a system.

"We're not the only ones facing this," Reaume said. "You can pick up any paper and read any other community. ... Every community is laying off (public safety workers) or asking for an increase in millage."

But Lt. Rick Tefend, president of Local 1496 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which

Please see **FIRE, A4**



Don Green leads the pledge of allegiance with Steve Monaghan.

Living in infamy

Veterans remember attack that brought U.S. into World War II

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Military veterans from the local area paused Tuesday to remember the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 69 years ago.

It was Dec. 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy," as President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it in a speech the next day, when bomber and fighter planes of the Empire of Japan, launched from aircraft carriers, attacked the U.S. Navy's base at Pearl Harbor, destroying ships and planes and killing more than 2,000 U.S. servicemen and civilians and wounding more than 1,000 others.

With the attack, the U.S. entered World War II, which would last for nearly four more years.

"It pushed the U.S. public opinion from complacency and isolationism to acceptance. War was inevitable," said Steve Monaghan of Plymouth Township, the master of ceremonies at the veterans' Pearl Harbor remembrance.

Monaghan, an ex-Marine and a past commander of



Ted Enright of Canton plays Taps near the conclusion of Tuesday's Pearl Harbor ceremony in downtown Plymouth.

American Legion Post 112, spoke to about two dozen people who braved a biting mid-day wind to gather at the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park in Plymouth for prayers, the presentation of wreaths at the park's Veterans Plaza, a rifle salute by an honor guard of veterans and a bugler's playing of Taps.

The event, Monaghan said, was dedicated to those who did their duty by following orders quietly.

Flags at the park — the U.S. flag, the Michigan flag and the familiar black-and-white

flag dedicated to prisoners of war and the missing in action — were at half-staff in memory of the battle, and Monaghan noted an empty chair draped with the POW/MIA flag, which, he said, symbolized the missing from all wars.

"It's a constant physical symbol of the POW-MIAs, for their return or a full accounting," he said.

Monaghan also read the names of local men and women who served in World War II.

Please see **INFAMY, A4**

Charitable groups work together for holidays

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Santa Claus isn't the only one who's making lists and checking them twice as Christmas approaches.

Members of a variety of charitable organizations in Plymouth and Canton, using what they've dubbed The Collaborative Effort, are working together to make sure every child (and family) in the local community has a good Christmas.

The Plymouth Goodfellows, Canton Goodfellows, local churches and groups like Open Door Ministry and the St. Vincent dePaul Society — with the Plymouth Salvation Army acting as a clearinghouse — are comparing the lists of the needy families in the area to make sure as many as possible are taken care of for the holidays.

"It's tremendously important for a couple of reasons," Plymouth Goodfellows President Dave Corliss said of the Collaborative. "As a program that's involved in charitable giving, there are always two concerns, that someone could be missed and that families appear on more than one list."

"By cooperating (in the Collaborative), we're able to get the support they need. Having many sources of information gets us a long way toward making sure no one gets missed."

The Collaborative runs its various lists through the

Plymouth Salvation Army, which services Canton, Plymouth, Belleville and Northville and acts as a sort of electronic clearinghouse for the information. And the lists figure to be fairly long this year. According to Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries for the PSA, the need is greater this year than last.

This year, The Collaborative figures to have some 600 families, including some 1,300 children, on the list. Last year's holiday effort helped 530 families and nearly 1,200 kids.

"More folks have been losing their jobs," Aren said. "There are a lot of (new) names I don't recognize (asking for help). School lunch participation is up, and some of those families are being referred to us."

Aren said she had 110 appointments pending as of Monday, and some 430 families had already signed up for holiday assistance. Those families, she said, will get a holiday "basket" consisting of food, clothing items and a trip to the Salvation Army's "Toy Towne," where they're allowed to shop for Christmas presents for their children.

Aren said the best thing donors could give would be gift cards for teenagers (13 and older), and suggested cards from places such as fast-food restaurants, movie theaters (Canton has the

Please see **GROUPS, 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

Remarkable sky

The Plymouth District Library will again welcome local sky enthusiast, Mike Best on Monday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

Best will illuminate two significant occurrences to take place the next day, Dec. 21 — the winter solstice and a total lunar eclipse (the first one since 2008).

Best hosts the lively and popular "Stars, Moons and Planets" program at the library on the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. For more details, contact the library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or go to www.plymouth-library.org

Christmas carols

The Plymouth Historical Museum presents an "Old World Christmas Carols Show," performed by Simply Dickens, on Monday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. The show highlights the carols that were well known long ago during the Christmas Season but are rarely heard by modern ears, along with a few of the more familiar tunes. There are also comedic holiday skits performed by group members. Simply Dickens is a period-dressed quartet of trained vocalists and musicians that specializes in the music of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Tickets to the show are \$10 per person/\$25 per family in advance or \$15 per person/\$30 per family at the door and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the Museum's website www.plymouthhistory.org using PayPal. Museum doors will open at 6 PM; the show starts at 7 PM. Come early to explore the Museum's new special exhibit "Santa Magic."

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth.

Holiday luncheon

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will present a Holiday Art Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

Featured performer is professional vocalist Noelle Jacquez, who will entertain with caroling favorites and lead a sing-a-long to get everyone in the holiday spirit. The luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m.

Jacquez attended the Interlochen Arts Academy, and has a degree in



Wish you were here!

Fran Toney, former executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, stops to read her Plymouth Observer during a trip to South Korea to visit her son, Bob, who is teaching English as a second language there. The photo was taken at one of the many gates along the castle wall at Hwaseong Fortress in Sumon, some 20 miles south of Seoul. While there, Toney said, "We enjoyed an eight-hour USO guided tour of the Demilitarized Zone." Toney said she "loved South Korea and its people."

Voice from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. She currently teaches voice lessons in the Plymouth area as well as Musical Theater classes at the PCAC.

Tickets are \$15, advance purchase only, and include a gourmet boxed lunch from Jeff Zak Catering as well as the holiday entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased by phone at (734) 416-4278 or by stopping in at the PCAC, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

Blue Christmas

St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth, announced its annual Blue Christmas service, to be held on Sunday Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

The "Blue Christmas" service, which has been adopted by many churches in recent years, is an alternative Christmas service for people who are for any reason uncomfortable attending traditional Christmas Eve and Day celebrations. Understanding that many people find it difficult to feel joyful during the holiday season, St. John's offers this service as a way to help people find peace and solace, and hopefully as a way to bring healing to those who are hurting because of loss or crisis.

St. John's Blue Christmas service includes readings from poetry and

Holy Scripture, prayer, and a special candlelighting litany, during which attendees are given the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of their own special prayers. Holy Communion is also offered, and music will include not only beloved quiet Christmas carols, but also songs from the Taizé tradition.

More information on St. John's Blue Christmas service or on our other Christmas services can be found on our website, www.stjohnsplymouth.org or telephone our church office at (734) 453-0190.

December exhibit

Holiday and winter art is on display at the Plymouth Community Arts Council through Dec. 23 in the exhibit, "Tis the Season," which features art work of Pam Grossman's adult students at the PCAC and work from the adult students of Kay Rowe of the Village Artists.

A variety of media will be included in this year's exhibit including watercolor, pastel, colored pencil and pen and ink. Most of the works will be for sale.

A reception for the artists will be held Saturday, Dec. 18 from 1-3 p.m. The public is always invited. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information.

Folk night

The BaseLine Folk Society preserves and Promotes traditional acoustic folk music every third Saturday of the month.

This month's night is 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

Entertainment includes eight open-mic spots (and lottery if more show up); sign-up is between 6:15 and 6:45 p.m. Also featured is December's featured duo, Alex and Maggie Zakem, with some seasonal sounds done in a traditional way. The event is hosted by Kathy Nieman.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Contact Mike Mullen, president and founder of BaseLine Folk Society, at (248) 347-6881, for more information.

Jazz @ the Elks

This month's Jazz @ The Elks session features the "Just Jazz Trio" with Jerry McKenzie on drums, Matt Michaels on piano and Dan Jordan on bass.

The event takes place at the Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, at 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, from 7-10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 28. Space is limited so please come early. No cover but donations appreciated.

Call (734) 453-1780 or visit www.PlymouthElks1780.com for more information.

Note cards

The Friends of Miller Woods have produced beautiful note cards with the photography of Marcia Fowler for seasonal gift giving. The cards make perfect stocking stuffers or teachers gifts.

There are four note cards to a package, each with a different picture, for \$6. Or save money by purchasing three packs for only \$15.

The cards are available in three different groupings, including: 1) Winter Scenery, 2) Four Seasons or 3) Spring Wildflowers.

Contact Cheryl Bord at (734) 459-7666 to place an order before Dec. 15.

Service of Lessons

St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth, announces its annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, to be held Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4:30 p.m.

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 min-

istry, 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.

Although the concert is free of charge, attendees are encouraged to give generously to a free-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.

St. John's Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent is part of the church's concert series, Resounding Art in a Sacred Space. For more information on this program, the concert series, or the parish, please telephone (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit the church website at www.stjohnsplymouth.org

Holiday concerts

The Plymouth Symphony presents "Home for the Holidays" concerts at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

Concerts are scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6 and 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.plymouthsymphony.com or call (734) 451-2112.

Holiday camp for kids

Join Bilingual Fun for an afternoon of fun, educational, and interactive learning. Children ages preschool-elementary are invited to attend Holiday Camp Dec. 21 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Praise Baptist Church in Plymouth. Children will learn Spanish through winter-themed activities, music, games, crafts, food, and more.

For more info, contact info@bilingualfun.com or 1-877-686-7399.

Seeking vets

The American Legion Beasley-Zalesny Post 112, located at 344 Elizabeth St. in downtown Plymouth at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail, is seeking veterans from all wars.

The post meets 7 p.m., the third Monday of each month, September through June. The active post, along with its Women's Auxiliary, works a number of programs both in Plymouth and at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. The post's efforts are geared toward doing all they can to take care of needy veterans.

For more information please call Joe Burman at (734) 459-7324.

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Robert Hunter unloads furniture from a Goodwill truck.

Jobs the focus as Goodwill opens new store in Canton

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In its sole mission to create jobs, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit will return to the retail business for the first time in a decade when it opens the doors Saturday to its new Canton store.

"We're very excited," Jeffrey Ukraineec, Goodwill director of donated goods, said Monday morning as employees bustled inside the store, 41937 Ford Road west of Haggerty, to prepare for customers.

Goodwill officials say the store, with 11,000 square feet of retail space, has been designed more like an upscale department store rather than a typical resale shop. It has been stocked with 18,000 pieces of clothing and hundreds of other items such as jewelry, purses, shoes, linens, furniture and electronics.

On every wall, customers can see images of once-unemployed people who received a new start after getting the training and jobs they needed through Goodwill, which has its headquarters in Detroit and has a nearly 90-year history in southeast Michigan.

Canton's store alone has created 25 jobs ranging from truck drivers to retail clerks to managers, and its hours will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday, when it's open from noon to 6 p.m.

Goodwill last had an area retail shop in 2000, but Ukraineec said the agency revived the idea as another way to create jobs amid a tough economy and to provide quality merchandise for cash-strapped shoppers looking for good deals.

"It's all about creating jobs," Ukraineec said.

Mark Lane, Goodwill director of public relations and special events, said the organization "touched about 28,000 lives" during the last year, whether by creating jobs, providing job retraining, helping with resumes or evaluating job skills.

"It could be someone with a disability or a displaced auto worker — anybody who has a barrier to employment," Lane said.

Goodwill hopes to expand its efforts with retail shops in a five-county area in southeast Michigan within a decade. It chose Canton to launch its retail effort due to the area's population density and because officials believe they



The new Goodwill store, with 18,000 items of clothing and other merchandise, opens Saturday.

can get top-quality donations of merchandise here.

They haven't been disappointed, and employees scrambled Monday morning to sort through donations and price them, amid plans to start making money Saturday to boost its job-creating programs and services. Ukraineec said Goodwill hopes to earn \$1 million during the shop's first year.

"Without money, there's no mission," he said. Goodwill helps a broad range of people, such as those with disabilities, those who have lost their jobs to an economic recession and those who are trying to rebuild their lives after their once-troubled behavior landed them in prison.

Goodwill chose the Ford Road location in Canton because it is located along the township's busiest retail strip, not far from the IKEA store and other shops that draw customers not only from Michigan, but also other Midwest states and Canada.

The store has become well-stocked following donation drives at places such as Canton's Summit on the Park, and Ukraineec said donations of quality items always are welcome at the store. Goodwill can arrange to pick up items such as furniture if donors call (313) 964-3900.

"We accept items that are gently used for resale," Ukraineec said, "and we don't accept broken furniture." Noting that Goodwill will need to rely on a steady supply of donations, Ukraineec said he hopes potential donors — and customers, too — will remember what they are accomplishing by helping the store.

"When they donate or when they shop here," he said, "they are creating jobs."

For more information or to donate online to Goodwill, go

to www.goodwilldetroit.org.

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

Planners' vision for city gets to commission

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Enhancing residential neighborhoods. Diversifying the economic base. Ensuring trees are planted along every city street. Creating "gateways" at major entrances to the city through the use of design elements.

Those are among the goals on a wish list for Plymouth that were included in the draft of an updated master plan recently released by the city.

The plan, the subject of months of study and debate among city officials and Plymouth Planning Commission members, is being sent to Plymouth Township and Wayne County officials for their review. Those entities have 63 days in which to respond and suggest changes, and a final version is expected to be completed next spring,

to be voted on by both the Planning Commission and the City Commission.

Plymouth is required by the state to update its master plan every five years, but officials stressed the update requires no specific changes, and that practical considerations, such as limited budgets, could prevent many of its ideas from being implemented. It's more of a best-case wish list, officials said.

"This doesn't change any of our existing zoning or any of existing ordinances," said Commissioner Gerald Sabatini, a former planning commissioner, at Monday's City Commission meeting.

The master plan's citywide goals also include requiring parking to be behind buildings or screened, encouraging a variety of housing styles, and seeing that development follow sustainability and energy conservation

practices. The 40-page draft looks at how land is used — and how officials would like it to be used — in specific city neighborhoods, and at the city's different zoning classifications, such as residential, local business and industrial.

The plan was done in-house rather than being assigned to a planning consultant.

"The Planning Commission has done yeoman's work in getting this to us at considerable savings," said Commissioner Ron Loiselle, the liaison to the planning board. The 2009 budget for the master plan review had been cut from \$12,000 to \$6,000.

The plan is available at the city's website, www.ci.plymouth.mi.us, under the heading "Document Center."

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(313) 222-2405

GROUPS

FROM PAGE A1

Imagine and Goodrich theaters, Plymouth has the Penn Theatre) or "box" stores such as Walmart, Target, Best Buy or the Game Stop.

They also need some 400 turkeys (frozen) or canned hams, and they're still collecting new toys and clothing items for boys and girls from infant through age 12.

Donors can "Adopt an Angel," through the Salvation Army, or adopt an entire family through groups such as the Goodfellows.

"Some people call us and are

adamant they want to adopt a family, and I refer them to the Goodfellows," Aren said. "Others can't afford to do a whole family, so they help us."

The Goodfellows operate with the mantra, "No Child Without a Christmas," and their efforts focus on that idea. For instance, both the Plymouth and Canton Goodfellows had their annual newspaper sales over the weekend and, while final figures weren't available, both drives appeared to be successful.

"We put about half-again the number of volunteers out on the street, and that's what drives the money," said Corliss, who said some 50 volunteers

manned the streets Saturday in Plymouth. "That made it very successful."

Christmas distribution takes place Dec. 18-22, and the PSA needs as much food as it can get by next week. Officials are hoping donations will pick up. The Salvation Army announced last week it's some 15 percent behind in its Red Kettle and other holiday giving campaigns.

"Donations are down this year," Aren said. "We had people who adopted last year who aren't adopting this year. I'm not sure why, but it's not far-fetched to think the economy still has a lot to do with that."

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Jeffrey Ukraineec, director of donated goods, talks about the area's first Goodwill retail store in a decade.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, December 9, 2010 hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

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E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

represents the department's firefighters, said the reorganization being discussed would result in reduced service. Firefighters are willing to move, Tefend said, but only so far.

"If they're willing to talk about taking the concessions, then we're willing to give 'em," Tefend said. "We're not willing to jeopardize the safety of the community."

Based on roughly 1,700 ambulance transports in the city and township a year, and at \$380 apiece, the department could bring in more than \$640,000 annually, Tefend said.

"It's better for the community, it's better for the citizens, and we generate revenue to offset the budget," he said. But the township is unwilling to discuss the plan, he said.

The department currently does about 35 percent of such transports, he said.

Reaume said the firefighters' revenue estimates are high, and that gaps in coverage could be left if they spend more time on ambulance runs and with patients at hospitals. That could mean having to call in other firefighters on overtime, he said, increasing costs.

"It's just not the plan that we want to be with," Reaume

said. Both city and township officials have said they will not adopt any plan for firefighting and emergency medical response that they think would put lives at risk.

The part-time firefighters envisioned in a reorganized department, Reaume said, would work 24 hours a week, mostly on nights and weekends, and would also be on call for major fires. They would not be paid as much hourly as full-timers, would not have benefits, he said, and would not be required to have paramedic training.

PCFD firefighters at the top of the scale have a current base pay of about \$60,500 a year; lieutenants and captains are paid more.

Tefend said ensuring HVA ambulance crews are always prepared to respond to medical emergencies, providing more coverage because the fire department would have fewer paramedics, would cost the township, cutting into any savings.

Reaume said officials would be willing to pay HVA for an increased role, but that savings would still be "substantial."

Those on both sides know they're facing a difficult situation.

"I'd rather be talking about whether we're getting 2-percent raises or 4-percent raises," Reaume said.

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

INFAMY

FROM PAGE A1

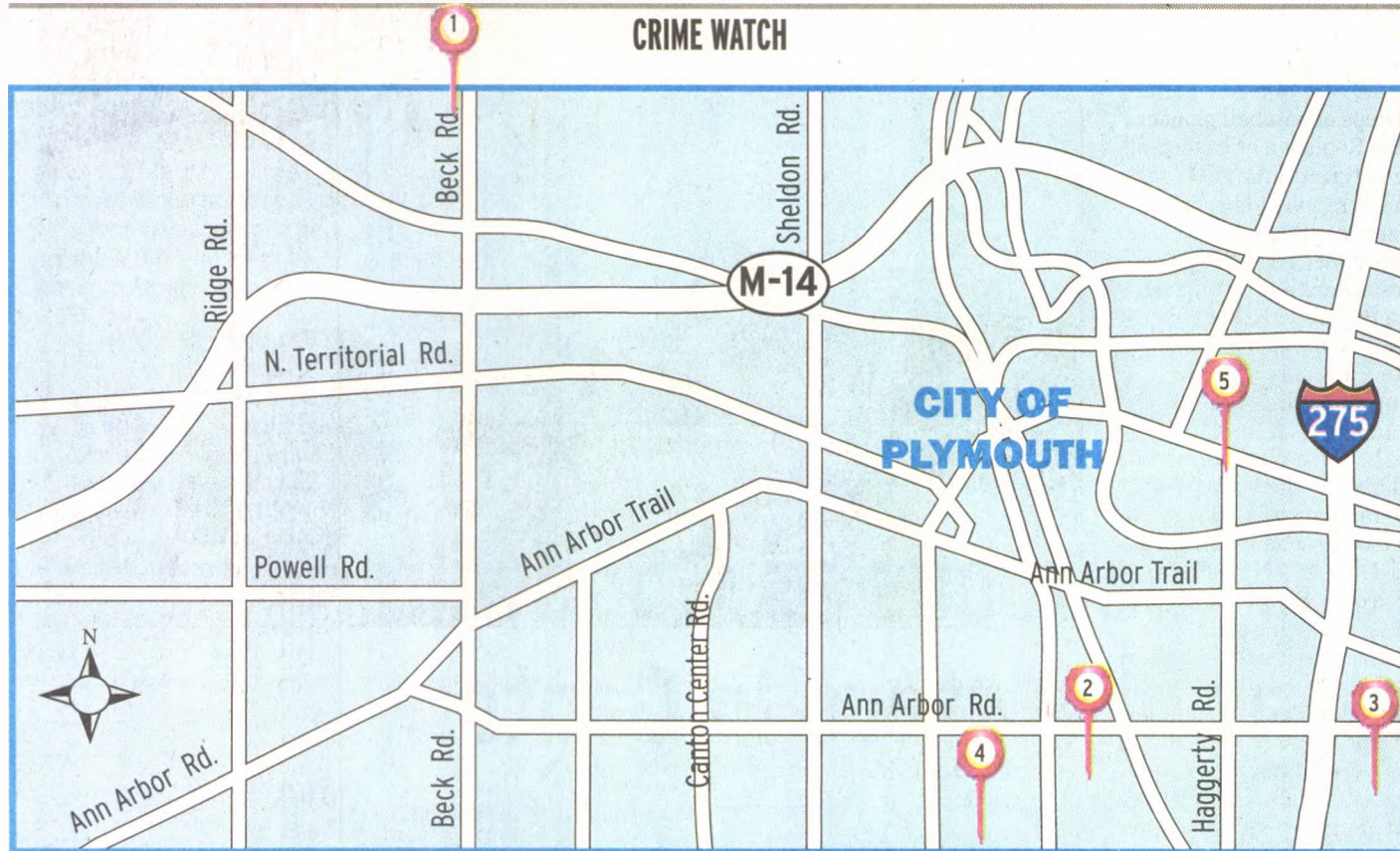
He noted the sacrifices of people in the military and asked the crowd to do its part to protect hard-won freedoms.

"Freedom comes at a tre-

mendous price and it is for us the living to safeguard" it, he said.

The ceremony was sponsored by American Legion Posts 112 and 391, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695 and Vietnam Veterans of American Post 528.

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



Woman busted with pot

1 A 40-year-old New Hudson woman was arrested on a marijuana-possession charge last month after she was pulled over because the license plate on the pickup she was driving had expired.

An officer spotted the woman, in a Ford Ranger, heading west on Five Mile near Beck Road shortly before 2 p.m. on Nov. 24, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The officer noticed the plate on the Ranger had expired in September, police said.

Upon speaking with the driver, the report said, the officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana. He asked how much marijuana she had, and she replied, "Just a joint in my cigarette pack," the report said.

In the Ranger's center console, police said, the officer found a partially burned marijuana "joint" in a cigarette package. The woman was arrested and issued a ticket with a court date, police said.

The suspected marijuana in the "joint" later tested positive for marijuana, police said.

Water, trailer theft

2 A trailer loaded with bottled water was reported stolen Nov. 28 from the Absopure Water Co. on General Drive.

The white 53-foot trailer, a Stoughton model with the number 2555 on the back, was last seen on the morning of Nov. 24, the company told police. It was discovered missing late on Nov. 28.

A police report said the trailer carried cases of Vasapure-brand bottled water.

Vehicle burglary

3 Paperwork and a collection of die-cast model cars were reported stolen Nov. 23 from a vehicle parked outside a house on Tavistock Drive.

The theft occurred between 7 p.m. on Nov. 22 and 5 a.m. Nov. 23, a police report said. The victim told police he was not sure he had locked the vehicle.

Trailer break-in

4 Tools were reported stolen from a Canton Township construction company after the break-in of a company trailer

in Plymouth Township last month.

The trailer was parked behind a building on Joy Road when it was broken into, a police report said. The break-in occurred between 3 p.m. Nov. 19 and 10 a.m. Nov. 22.

A lock had been cut off the trailer, police said.

Wheels stolen

5 Tires were stolen from two cars on the lot at Blackwell Ford, on Plymouth Road east of Haggerty, in two recent incidents.

The most recent theft was discovered Sunday. A township officer on patrol at about 8 a.m. spotted in the northeast corner of the lot a Ford Edge that was missing a tire, a police report said. The car had been raised and left on a jack, police said; the theft had occurred since about 3 p.m. Friday.

The earlier theft was discovered shortly after noon on Nov. 22. Two tires and wheels had been taken from the rear of another Edge, an assistant manager told police.

- By Matt Jachman

ARE SOUNDS DROPPING LIKE SNOWFLAKES?



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Still-growing ministry marks 10th anniversary

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

David Washington Jr. was only 6 years old when his father told him he had the athletic prowess to follow in the footsteps of baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson or basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Washington did become a standout athlete at Brother Rice High School in Birmingham and, after earning a full basketball scholarship, played a year at Iowa State University.

But his dream of becoming an NBA star never came true, because Washington said God had another game plan for him — the ministry. Yet he still has the talent to draw a crowd.

A decade after he and wife Errica — his childhood sweetheart — started an eight-member Bible study group in Canton, the Rev. Washington ministers to more than 400 people every Sunday at Canton Christian Fellowship, a church located in the old state unemployment office at Joy Road and Ronda Drive.

"We had a vision that we've never deviated from, and that vision is to have a real sense of community and authentic leadership," he said, sitting in the church sanctuary.

As the congregation celebrates its 10th anniversary, Washington, a 40-year-old father of five, said God's game plan for him continues to unfold. Canton Christian Fellowship has outgrown its 11,000-square-foot building, and within two years the pastor hopes to find a new place — perhaps five times larger, but still in Canton — for worshippers.

"I feel we've been called to Canton," Washington said.

He also has a radio ministry, Transformed Lives Ministries, that airs 11 a.m. Monday through Friday on WLQV-AM (1500). And he has a self-published book, *Storm Devotions: God's Word To Get You Through*, with WinePress Publishing.

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

If it seems like Washington has a businesslike acumen, he should. After his basketball stint at Iowa State, he earned a business marketing degree from Grand Rapids Baptist College and worked in corporate America for Ford Motor Co. and Eli Lilly & Co., a pharmaceutical firm.

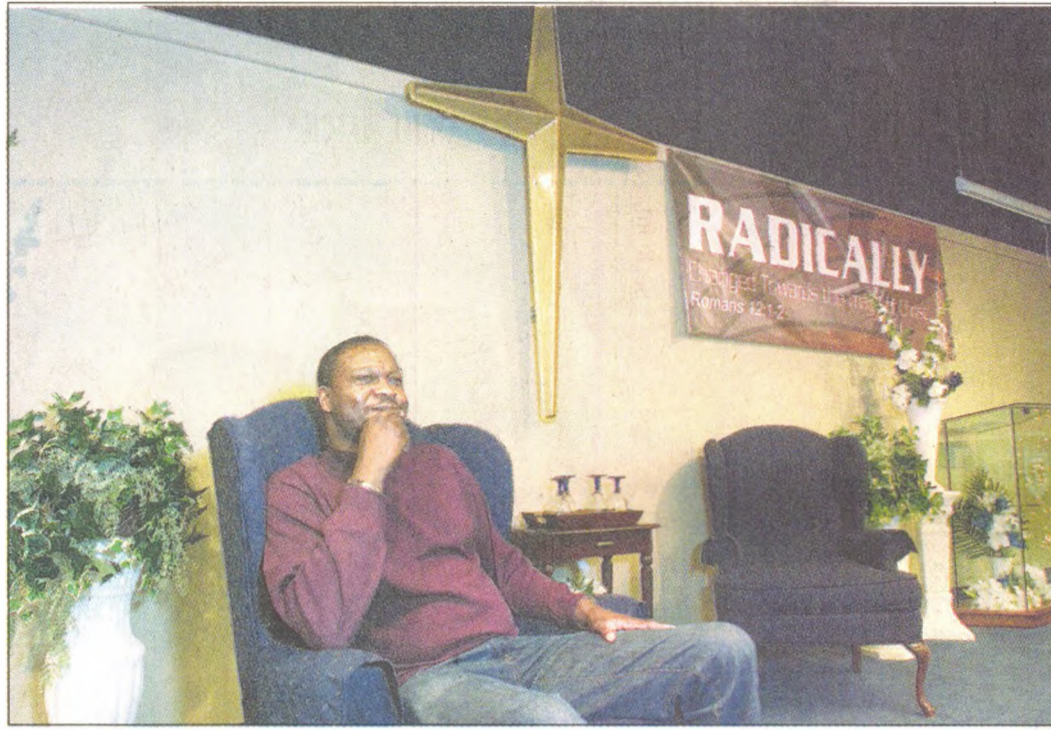
He also earned a master's degree in religion from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., and he is now pursuing his doctorate of ministry from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Washington has blended his love of ministry and his business expertise to help his church flourish, and he has even tapped into social media Facebook and Twitter to engage young people.

DeMarcus Ducre, 25, and wife Shila had searched the Detroit area for a church before they landed at Canton Christian Fellowship two years ago. They saw a billboard at Westland Shopping Center, and they have been impressed by the church's fellowship.

"The people there care about you, and they ask about you all the time," Ducre said. "It's like a family. And it's the word of God that I'm being taught. You can hear it in Pastor Washington's speech, and it comes from his heart. And he keeps you engaged with jokes. One thing I always love is he uses props and church bodies for creative illustrations."

Washington also has helped his church flourish in other ways. It has two Sunday morning services, Wednesday family nights and age-appropriate Bible study groups for young children, students in grades 7-12 and adults. It also offers group ministries geared



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. David Washington Jr., pastor of the Canton Christian Fellowship Church in Canton, is proud of how the congregation has grown as it marks its 10th anniversary.

toward college students, recovering addicts, men, women

and those interested in performing arts.

CLOTHING BANK

The church also has a cloth-

GROWING THE CHURCH

Who: Rev. David Washington Jr.

What: Pastor, Canton Christian Fellowship

Family: Wife, Errica; children Gabriella, 15, Hannah, 13, Faith, 10, Joyelle, 8, and David Washington III, 5.

Why: The church, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, is looking for a larger home

More: For more information, call the church at (734) 404-2480 or log on to www.CantonCF.org. For more on the Rev. Washington's radio ministry, visit www.TLMinistries.net.

ing bank just down Joy Road in Plymouth that serves some 100 people a month, and though most receiving aid don't attend Canton Christian Fellowship, some have joined.

"The need has grown with this economy we're in," Washington said. "What good is it to sit here and not help the community? Christ didn't just stay in his comfort zone. He went out and helped others."

Washington likens the church to a lighthouse — a beacon of light where those in need, whether spiritually or otherwise, can find a friendly hand, a

hug, help. As he sits in the sanctuary, a large poster near his chair reads, "Radically Changed Toward the Image of Christ."

He explains it this way: "We've got to radically be willing to let God transform us. We have to be willing to surrender ourselves."

He has been willing, and his leadership has drawn church members from across western Wayne County and cities such as Southfield and Detroit.

Though most members are African American, he continually reaches out to all people.

"It's everybody's church," he said.

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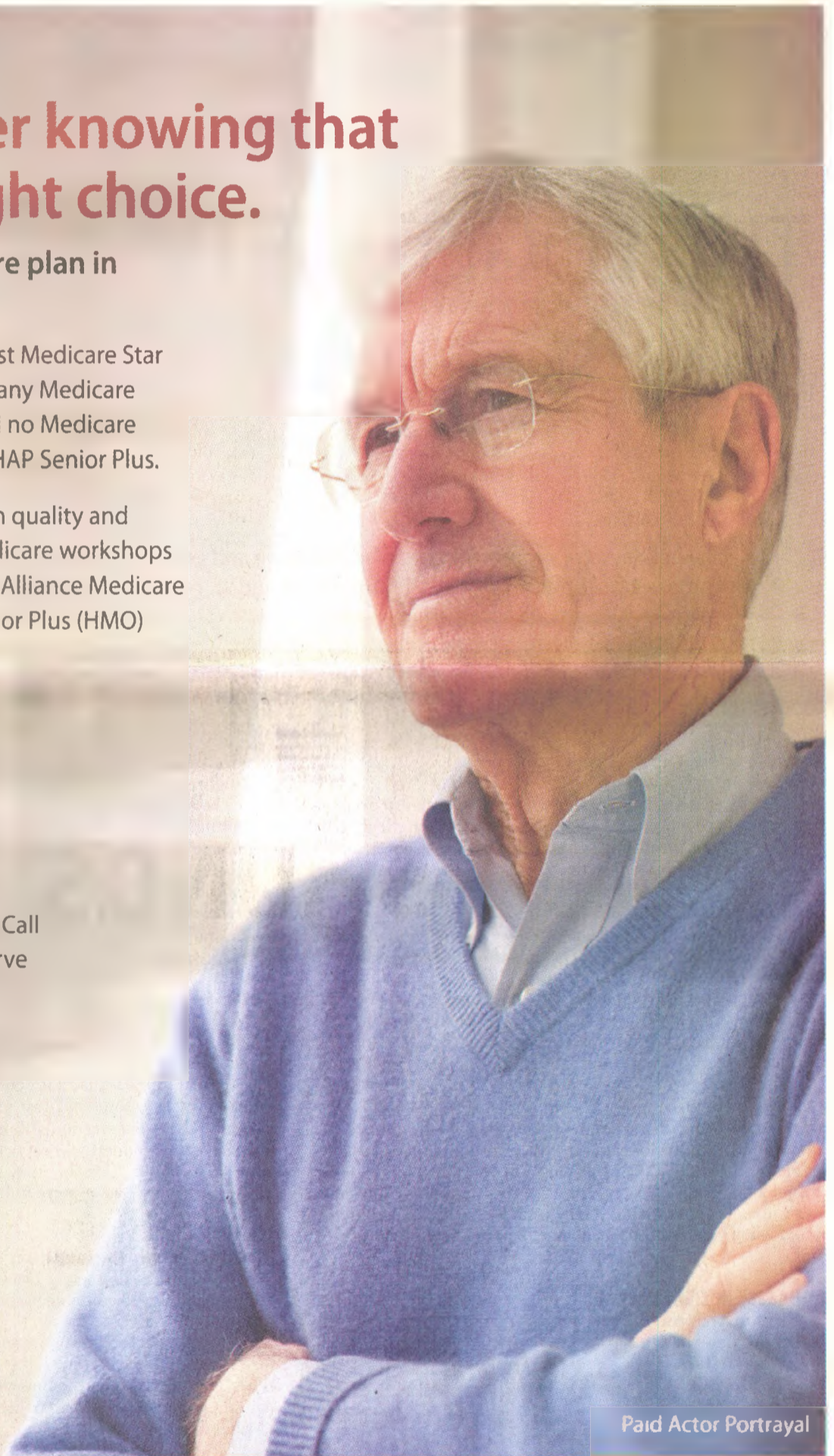
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Workshops are for Medicare-eligible individuals who do not have benefits paid for by a former employer and who pay for their own health care coverage.

†Based on Medicare's Plan Quality and Performance Rating 2009 Survey conducted by the federal Medicare program (2008-2009).

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GETTY IMAGES

THE LOGISTICS OF A hassle-free holiday

The holidays are supposed to be filled with love and good cheer, but the logistics of shopping for gifts, sending out cards, taking family trips and shipping packages can leave even the jolliest of people in a Scrooge-like mood.

Fortunately, there are some ways you can take the hassle out of the holidays and make them a little brighter for yourself and those around you.

SHOP SMART

Avoid long lines, crowded parking lots and out-of-stock items with these helpful hints:

Get Ready — Before you head out to the mall, make a list of the gifts you want to buy and do some online price comparison. Use sites like BizRate, DealTime or Shopzilla, as well as check local ads to find the best price. You may want to call your local store to see if they have your item in stock, saving yourself a trip if they don't have it.

Shop Early — Plan to shop early in the day, and early in the season. Morning crowds tend to be lighter and sales assistants tend to be more attentive first thing. And the earlier in the season you shop, the less you have to deal with long lines and frustrated shoppers. Plus, this year, while there are 29 shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there are only 20 shipping days.

Wrap It Up — Pay a little extra and let a charity group at the store wrap your gifts for you. This saves you time later and frees you up to get other things done — and you help a good cause.

If you do any online or catalogue shopping, avoid having packages left on your doorstep by getting a mailbox at The UPS Store. You get a mailbox with a real street address, which accepts packages from all carriers. And, you can choose to receive an e-mail or text when you have a package waiting, avoiding unnecessary trips.

NO-HASSLE HOLIDAY PACKING

Make sure your carefully chosen gifts get to their destinations intact with these helpful tips:

DO

- Check with experts before shipping fragile items (or items that might be considered hazardous or illegal to ship, such as perfume or cologne).
- Use materials the professionals use — foam packaging peanuts, bubble cushioning and packing tape — to protect your gifts.
- Include a label on the inside of the package with both the destination and return addresses.
- Use a shipping option which provides a package-tracking number.
- Take batteries out of toys, electronics, etc., before shipping.
- Ship wrapped presents ahead to your destination, especially if traveling by air.

DON'T

- Wrap boxes in brown paper or tie with string.
- Use materials like newspaper or real popcorn to cushion items.
- Use old boxes or gift boxes for shipping items.
- Use duct tape, masking tape or cellophane tape to seal your boxes for shipping.

DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS?

Participating The UPS Store locations offer holiday shippers the option to neutralize the climate impact of their packages for a small fee when shipping with UPS. And, many locations accept clean foam packaging peanuts for reuse.

For even less hassle, let the certified packing experts at The UPS Store handle the logistics of getting your gifts safely to your loved ones for the holidays. Participating locations offer the Pack & Ship Promise, which will reimburse customers in the event a center-packed item shipped via UPS is lost or damaged. Details are available at www.theupsstore.com.

DON'T LUG YOUR LUGGAGE

Navigating airport security, crowded terminals and long check-in lines can be stressful enough. Add luggage and gifts into the holiday travel mix and things can get really unpleasant. One solution travelers are turning to is shipping luggage to their destinations.

"Traveling without a suitcase is a tremendous convenience, especially during the hectic holiday travel season. Having your luggage awaiting your arrival and tracking it along the way is even better," said Bryan Vial, The UPS Store franchisee from Phoenix, Ariz. "Ship your luggage as is or place it in a box for shipment. Or, at select locations, you can purchase a luggage box and avoid a suitcase altogether."

Some major airline baggage fees can add up to over \$100. Vial says that a luggage box of comparable size shipped via UPS Ground service is competitively priced and saves you time and hassle at the airport. If you are a member of the Automobile Association of America, you can receive a 15 percent discount off the full retail price of eligible products and services, and 5 percent off domestic U.S. shipping costs. Visit www.theupsstore.com for more information.

LUGGAGE SHIPPING TIPS

- Because of the duties and taxes associated with international shipments, The UPS Store does not recommend shipping luggage internationally.
- Federal Aviation Administration restrictions prohibit shipping hazardous materials, including colognes and perfumes, aerosol sprays, nail polish and cigarette lighters via air.
- Include packaging tape and a return shipping label in the luggage box for use when returning home.

— Family Features

KEY DATES FOR HOLIDAY SHIPPING

- Monday is the busiest shipping day of the week.
 - The busiest shipping week of the 2010 season is expected to be December 13 to 17.
 - If you are shipping international or to military personnel overseas, contact The UPS Store location nearest you to determine the best date to ensure on-time delivery.
 - Most ground packages require five days or less to reach their destination, but if you're shipping coast-to-coast, it may take longer.
- Last-Minute Shipping Dates:
- Tuesday, December 21 — Ship UPS 3 Day Select for delivery Friday, December 24.
 - Wednesday, December 22 — Ship UPS 2nd Day Air for delivery Friday, December 24.
 - Thursday, December 23 — Ship UPS Next Day Air for delivery Friday, December 24.



HAPPY HOLIDAY PRINTING

Take the hassle out of printing holiday newsletters, programs and more. With online printing from The UPS Store, you can easily upload your documents, customize your printing and finishing options, preview the final project, and submit your project from the comfort of your home or office. Then, simply stop by to pick it up when you are shipping off holiday packages.

Great debate

Faux or real – which tree is best?

BY MARY QUINLEY
CORRESPONDENT

Each year, somewhere around Thanksgiving, Tom Diroff lugs a spruce-like tree out of a big box and sets it up in his living room.

With Christmas tunes as a backdrop, he decorates the tree with strands of multi-colored lights and an assortment of bulbs and ornaments. The finished product — full and festive — looks like the real thing.

For almost two decades, Diroff has enjoyed artificial trees.

"They're convenient; can be put up any time; and, I don't have to go out every year and shop for one," said Diroff of Livonia.

Real or real-like? When it comes to Christmas trees, everyone has an opinion. For some, tradition matters. If mom and dad had a real tree, their kids will often follow suit. Space and time restraints, as well as allergies, are other deciding factors.

Like Diroff, Jeanette Sullivan of Plymouth can't imagine dealing with the hassles of a live tree.

"I'm a diehard fake (tree) fan. I can put up my pre-lit tree in a half hour. I never have to water it; and, after three years, it was paid for," said Sullivan, who has been partial to faux Christmas trees for about 15 years.

Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace offers more than 30 styles of life-like trees. Most are pre-lit. Clear lights are a favorite with shoppers, however, multi-colored strings are gaining in popularity. Prices range from \$99 to \$1,000. According to Tim Parker, general manager, most tree needles at Plymouth Nursery are made of polyurethane. "It's a new technique that makes the trees look

WHERE TO BUY ARTIFICIAL TREES

- Lowe's (Canton and Westland); www.lowes.com
- The Home Depot (Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth and two Canton locations); www.homedepot.com
- Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace, 9900 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-5500; www.plymouthnursery.net
- Cornwell Christmas World, 874 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 459-7410; www.cornwellpoolandpatio.tv

WHERE TO BUY A REAL TREE

- Three Cedars Farm, 7897 Six Mile Road, Salem Township, (248) 437-8200, www.threecedarsfarm.org; (pre-cut)
- Waldoack Tree Farm, 3090 Dutcher Road, Howell, (517) 546-3890, www.waldoacktreefarm.com; (U-cut)
- Mutch's Hidden Pines, 303 W. Newark Road, Lapeer, (810) 667-2711, www.mutchshiddenpines.com; (U-cut and pre-cut)

com; (U-cut and pre-cut)
 • Middle Road Tree Farm, 4235 Middle Road, Highland, (248) 887-1494, www.middleroadtreefarm.com; (U-cut and pre-cut)
 • Braun's, 796 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, (734) 663-2717, www.braun-trees.com; (U-cut and pre-cut)
 • Holtz Christmas Tree Plantation, 9381 Day Road, near Maybee, (734) 587-3155; (U-cut)
 • Barsons Greenhouse, 6414 Merriman, Westland, (734) 421-5959, www.barsons.com; (pre-cut)
 • Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-2925; and, through Dec. 19, Riley Park, south side of Grand River Avenue, east of Farmington Road in Farmington; (pre-cut)
 • Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace, 9900 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-5500; www.plymouthnursery.net (pre-cut)
 For a list of all tree farms and retail lots in Michigan, contact the Michigan Christmas Tree Association at (800) 589-8733 or online at www.mcta.org.

real. We have a life-like tree that looks identical to a blue spruce."

The store also carries an extensive selection of fresh trees that cost from \$15 to \$250.

There are two important factors that customers consider when they shop for an artificial tree, said Jeff Drews, store manager at Cornwell Christmas World in Plymouth: tree size and most natural looking tree.

"We carry a little bit of everything from Fraser and Douglas firs, pine trees, and spruce, to blue needle, green needle and multi-tip trees (more than one type of needle)," Drews said.

But if fresh and fragrant are more your style, consider a tree farm.

Ranking third in the nation in number of holiday trees harvested, Michigan produces more Christmas tree varieties than any other state. And that's a plus for "live" tree lovers like Julie Grau of Livonia and her family.

For almost 20 years, the Graus have trekked to a tree farm on the fringes of Saginaw.

"We started cutting down our own Christmas tree because of the kids. And, now, it's a yearly tradition," said Grau, the mother of four.

With handsaw in tow, the band of tree cutters — often



MARY QUINLEY

Scarlett, 4, and Katie Flynn, 8, of Grosse Pointe Woods, pick out a Christmas tree with the assistance of Fred Stempky of Cheboygan. The Fred Stempky Nursery, located on the south side of Plymouth Road, one block west of Wayne Road in Livonia, offers nine varieties of fresh cut trees.

accompanied by cousins from the neighboring town — will meander out into the wintry woods to search for the best-looking 7- to 8-foot spruce. And they always find it.

Closer to home, the Middle Road Tree Farm in Highland and Braun's in Ann Arbor offer family-fun adventures where patrons can either choose-and-cut a tree or pick out a pre-cut tree.

U-cut trees are also available at Waldoack Tree Farm

in Howell; Holtz Christmas Tree Plantation near Maybee; Mutch's Hidden Pines in Lapeer; and Three Cedars Farm in Salem Township.

Fraser firs are a crowd pleaser at Barson's Greenhouse in Westland. "They have short, soft needles that last," said Debbie Barson, co-owner.

Ornaments don't sag on Fraser firs because the branches are nice and sturdy, she added. A 6- to 7-foot pre-cut tree costs \$29.99; a 7- to 8-foot

tree is \$55.

When choosing a fresh tree, most people are "looking for symmetry, shape and height," said Lisa Steinkopf, a sales manager at Steinkopf Nursery. All trees at this Farmington Hills nursery, except for one variety, were grown in Michigan. Prices range from \$24 to \$150.

New this year, through Sunday, Dec. 19, Steinkopf will be selling trees at Riley Park in downtown Farmington.

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Canton Police are asking for help identifying a male and female they suspect of trying to obtain cash using false identification at area banks.

Police seeking help identifying suspects

The Canton Police Department is asking for assistance with the identification of a black male suspect who, along with a female companion, are suspected of using false identification to obtain/fraudulent cash from banks around the metro area. Last week, police said, they were in the TCF Banks on Ford Road and Michigan Avenue.

Police are asking anyone with information on the identity of the suspects to contact the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400. Crime Stoppers will also take anonymous tips at 1-800-SPEAK UP, or online at www.1800speakup.org. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for a tip that leads an arrest.

Lighting up the holidays

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

As a military veteran, Dan Lyden knows how difficult the holidays can be for a family who has a loved one on active duty. Traditions that were started one year may not happen the next, and opening gifts without that person there is often hard. So in an effort to brighten up the holiday season, Novi-based Eradico Services — specifically the Christmas Decor division led by Lyden — decorates a local military family's home with Christmas lights and also provides them with pest control and various lawn care services throughout the next year. "This started at the corporate level, and they got a bunch of us together saying they wanted to

do something for soldiers who are in harm's way," Lyden said of the program that is heading into its fifth year. "It's an extremely rewarding experience." The search is on now for their next family, and the requirements are the family must have at least one spouse who is on active duty and they must live in Oakland or Livingston counties or in Northville, Plymouth and Canton in Wayne County. Anyone who wishes to nominate a family or nominate themselves should e-mail Lyden at lyden@eradicoservices.com. They should include their name, address, family members with ages and the service member's name with where they are serving.

nmueller@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011 ext. 255

A Christmas classic

Players take on Dickens in holiday production

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Chelsea Westmoreland wasn't worried all that much about making her high school debut in this weekend's Park Players' production of the Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

Instead Westmoreland, a 15-year-old Salem High School sophomore from Canton, had to worry about the way she talked, about the way she moved, and even the way she sat as she crafted her character in preparation for the show.

That's because Westmoreland, whose only other acting credit was in a Forever After Productions presentation of *High School Musical*, is playing one of the best-known male roles in theater history when she takes the stage as Ebenezer Scrooge.

"I thought it would be a fun role to do, because it's so far from what I actually am," said Westmoreland. "It's not just that he's a man. He's cranky and mean to everyone, and I like to try to be nice to people whenever I can."

"It's been interesting," added Westmoreland, who said she was sitting to femininely in one scene and adjusted her position. "Trying not to be a girl is a bit of a challenge."

It's a challenge being taken on by a large portion of the 26-member cast, because director David Krzysnik decided to use a gender-blind casting effort to fill the roles in the classic play about the old man who learns the meaning of Christmas.

Krzysnik said it's occasionally difficult to get enough males for a project, and using a gender-blind cast can be a challenge for the actors.

"The story is more about the humanity and spirit of the characters than it is the gender," said Krzysnik, directing his first play at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. "It's also a nice challenge for the actors. It's a way to get them to look at the characters from a different perspective."

Krzysnik said he picked *A Christmas Carol* at least partly because it's script is



Cast members hit the right notes during rehearsal for the Park Players' production of "A Christmas Carol."



Chelsea Westmoreland (center) stars as Ebenezer Scrooge in the Park Players' production of "A Christmas Carol" Friday and Saturday at Canton High School.



A 26-member, gender-blind cast of Park Players takes on "A Christmas Carol" this weekend.

in the public domain, which means the district didn't have to pay for the rights. The cast and crew spent time adapting the dialogue to fit their desires, with everyone chipping in.

"The cast had a lot of say as to what lines worked and what lines didn't work," Krzysnik said. "It was a nice, collaborative effort."

A Christmas Carol is the first production for Salem High School senior Chanty Witkowski of Canton. She'd never really had an interest in the theater, but heard friends raving about being on stage and decided "I wanted to try something new."

She said the cast has worked hard since starting rehearsals in October, and

TAKING THE STAGE

What: Park Players' production of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"
When: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
Where: DuBois Little Theater, Canton High School
Tickets: \$10

everyone is excited for the curtain to rise.

"It's been very fun," said Witkowski, who's playing the Ghost of Christmas Past. "We put a lot of time into it, but it's been worth it. I can't wait to see the finished product."

It's also the first production for 17-year-old Salem High School junior Meghan Jones, who is playing the ebullient Ghost of Christmas Present. She said she wasn't sure she could get into the production.

"I like speaking in front of people, so I thought maybe I'd be good at this," Jones said. "Staying in character is the toughest part. I'm (playing) a jolly giant, so I have to be happy the whole time I'm on stage."

Krzysnik said he's OK with the selection of a play that has been produced so many times. The classics, he said, are always good.

"I've always been a fan of the classics," he said. "It all comes back to this: There's still something to be learned from the various productions, of Scrooge's redemption."

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060872247

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 20th, 2010 TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: **Extra Space Storage, 6729 N Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187 @ 9:00 AM.**

C82	Angela Kolhagen	Household goods, furniture, appliances, etc.
C89	Thomas McLeod	Office goods, furniture, appliances, etc.
D111	Ryan Oddo	Household goods, furniture, appliances, etc.
I338	LeeAnn Decker	Household goods, furniture, appliances, etc.
J347	Tracy Looper	Household goods, furniture, appliances, etc.

Publish: December 2 and 9, 2010

060872205-242

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1995 Buick	Rio Cinco	KNADC165236167976
2003 KIA	300c	2C3JA63H05H568522
2005 Chrysler	Malibu	1G1ND52J2Y6146754
2000 Chevrolet	Grand Prix GT	1G2WP52K0WF257512
1998 Pontiac		

1179 Starkweather St
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-459-0053

1999 Ford	Taurus Se	1FAFP53U6XA313100
1988 Chevrolet	Cavalier/vi	1G1JC1114JJ240309
2006 Chrysler	300	2C3KA56G564527679
1992 Dodge	Dakota	1B7FL26X0NS616469

Publish: December 9, 2010

NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
WINTER TAXES - 2010

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2010 and payable through February 28, 2011 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page - www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Thursday, December 23, 2010 and Friday, December 24, 2010 also Thursday, December 30, 2010 and Friday, December 31, 2010.

During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be **OPEN** on **Monday, December 27th, Tuesday, December 28th, and Wednesday, December 29th** for your convenience.

Teresa Cischke, CPFA, MiCPT
City Treasurer

Publish: December 5 and 9, 2010

Ford volunteers help feed the hungry

The Ford Volunteer Corps cooked, delivered and collected food last week throughout the metro area to help feed the hungry.

During Ford Accelerated Action Day, Dec. 3, hundreds of employee and retiree volunteers stocked shelves in food storage warehouses, packed holiday food boxes for families in need and served meals in soup kitchens.

Ford volunteers are answering an urgent call to help. Each day, hundreds of thousands of people in southeast Michigan struggle to find food. Ford employees — in partnership with local nonprofit hunger relief agencies — are helping to distribute food and feed people in shelters, missions and family centers.

"Hunger is a painful reality for many people in our local communities," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Co. Fund and Community Services and a Canton resident. "We are thankful that we have the resources to share with our neighbors in need."

Many of the organizations participating in the Dec. 3 effort also received Ford mini-grants of up to \$5,000 to buy food and other items needed to complete their projects. More than \$50,000 in mini-grants has been awarded to partici-



Ford volunteers (from left) Mike Vandenberg of Farmington, Andrae Davis of Southfield, Scott Langley of Canton and Warren Stobbe of Plymouth were among those building food pantry shelves at the Go-Getters Drop-In Center in southwest Detroit, part of Southwest Solutions Human Services and Community Building program.

pating agencies, including:

- Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Detroit — assembled 750 food boxes that feed a family of four.
- Fish & Loaves Food Pantry, Taylor — sorted 168,000 pounds of food purchased with Ford grant.
- Focus HOPE, Detroit — assembled 4,000 food boxes for area seniors.
- Food Gatherers, Ann Arbor — packed 750 food boxes con-

taining 25 meals each.

- Gleaners Community Food Bank, Pontiac — filled 950 weekend meal backpacks for children.
- Ruth Ellis Center, Highland Park — stocked food pantry and packed meals for street outreach.
- St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, Detroit — prepared and served lunch for more than 200 people.
- Salvation Army-Harbor

Light, Detroit — served meals to 3,000 homeless people.

- Southwest Housing Solutions, Detroit — cooked and served holiday meals for residents.
- Veteran's Haven, Wayne — coat drive and food for distribution to 225 veterans and their families.

In addition to the Ford Accelerated Action Day, Ford is a sponsor of the holiday Meals on Wheels program for thousands of seniors in Michigan.

Nine specially equipped vehicles recently were added to a fleet of 98 refrigerated trucks that are being used to collect and distribute food in all 50 states. Part of a 10-year partnership with Newman's Own and Feeding America, the trucks have traveled more than 5.7 million miles and delivered more than 130 million meals.

Ford also created a fun way for high school students in southeast Michigan to get involved through Dec. 12. Students in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county high schools can compete for a school-wide pizza party and school supplies by collecting canned goods and nonperishable packaged food items and using them to build a look-alike Ford Explorer. Contest details are available at www.clickondetroit.com. Pictures of school entries will be posted



PHOTOS BY ERIC MITCHELL/PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FORD/AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS HOLDINGS, LLC

Packing sandwiches for the Salvation Army's Bed and Bread Club are Mark Smith of Canton (front) and Mark Bentley of Northville. They packed meals and then went out on the Bed and Bread Club truck to distribute meals to the hungry and homeless in Detroit.

on this site, where the public can vote on the three finalists Dec. 13-14. Tips for building the Explorer can be found on facebook.com/pages/Ford-in-the-Community. After the contest, Gleaners Food Bank will pick up and distribute the donated food in the tri-county area.

"Ford is continuing a long tradition of caring and community service by addressing

one of the most basic of human needs," said Janet Lawson, director, Ford Volunteer Corps. "Collecting food and feeding people is an important step toward creating a better world."

In 2010, more than 20,000 Ford employees and retirees have volunteered to help people in local communities around the world. For more information, visit www.community.ford.com.

Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Three seats are open to students entering 7th grade in winter 2011
 Three seats are open to students entering 8th grade in winter 2011
Limited Registration window: Dec. 6, 2010 – Jan. 6, 2011

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2010-11 school year, second semester. This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience. Registration will open from Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011 at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Rd, Livonia 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, Contact Doug Coates at Churchill High School at 734-744-2650 ext. 46132

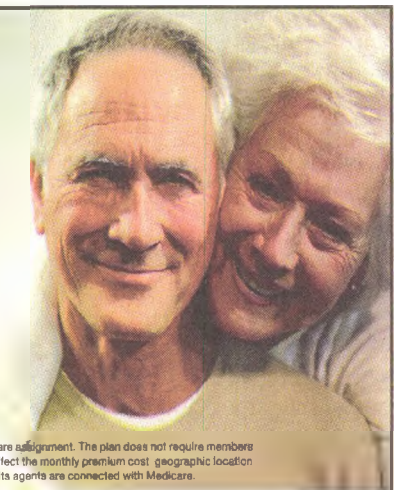
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Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Shop locally

Patronizing small businesses bolsters city's economy

Just 15 shopping days left until Christmas! If you haven't bought all of your holiday gifts yet, plan to shop locally and benefit the Plymouth economy.

When you shop at local small businesses, 68 percent of what you spend is reinvested in the community, according to Small Business Saturday.

Patronizing small local businesses helps to keep unemployment and property taxes low and property values high.

In light of the local and state budget shortfalls, strengthening the local economy is perhaps more important now than ever before.

Small Business Saturday is a new initiative established this year between Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

The idea is to promote a day to shop at home for people to realize how important local retailers are. Of course, you can shop locally any day of the year — not just on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

According to the Small Business Saturday website, there are four reasons to shop at small businesses:

- For every \$100 spent at local small businesses, \$68 returns to the community. The taxes local businesses pay help support the city's infrastructure and services, maintaining a safe and high-quality lifestyle for residents.

- Small businesses employ half of all private sector employees.

- Small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms.

- During every year of the last decade, 60-80 percent of new jobs were generated by small businesses.

If that isn't reason enough, consider that you're likely to receive more attentive, personal service. Small business owners get to know their customers by name and often stock merchandise according to their customers' preferences. They're also more likely to special order items for their customers.

In addition, you'll save time and money on gas shopping close to home.

Henry Ford had a saying above his fireplace: "Chop your own wood and it will warm you twice."

Shop locally and give twice — once to the intended beneficiary and again to your community.

Heed MADD's message this holiday season

Whether it's intentional or not, there's a good chance that many of us have taken the risk once or twice, maybe even more of driving after drinking.

We're not talking about falling down drunk amounts, but maybe one or two drinks. Doesn't sound like much, but according to Michigan State Police Capt. Monica Yesh, commander of Traffic Safety, having one or two drinks, "does impair judgment."

Each year, during this holiday season, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) conducts the Tie One On for Safety public awareness initiative, to encourage us all to "Drive Safe, Sober and Buckled Up." Tie One On for Safety, originally named the Project Red Ribbon Campaign, was created in 1986 to help heighten public attention to drinking and driving during the holiday season.

The program was designed to encourage the public to become actively involved in the fight against drunk driving by tying a red ribbon to a visible place on their vehicle such as the antenna or side mirror. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving, and promotes always wearing your seat belt, which remains the best defense against a drunken driver.

It is a campaign we urge our readers to join.

According to MADD, in 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in alcohol-impaired traffic crashes across the U.S. The organization also reports that three of every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lives and on average, someone is killed by an intoxicated driver every 45 minutes. Not a startling statistic, considering that more than 1.46 million impaired drivers were arrested in 2006 — an arrest rate of one for every 139 licensed drivers in the nation.

This is the season when we gather with family and friends to celebrate. It's a time when we ring in the New Year with a toast or two. We are not saying the drinking can't be a part of the revelry. What we are saying is that if you plan to share a bottle of wine over dinner or have a few drinks with a friend at the neighborhood bar, be responsible — not just for yourself, but for others on the road.

If you're holding the car keys after drinking, you're also holding a life in your hand. You may not reach the state's BAC level of .08 or above for driving while intoxicated, but you can be considered driving under the influence of alcohol-impaired driving — if your BAC is .07 and below. Either way, you shouldn't get in a vehicle and drive.

During this holiday season, one split-second decision can be fatal. Don't become a statistic. Put don't drink and drive at the top of your holiday wish list, not only for you but for your family and friends.

Go ahead: Tie One on for Safety this holiday season.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you favor preserving the so-called Daisy Wall in Plymouth, or tearing it down, as the developer wants to do?"

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



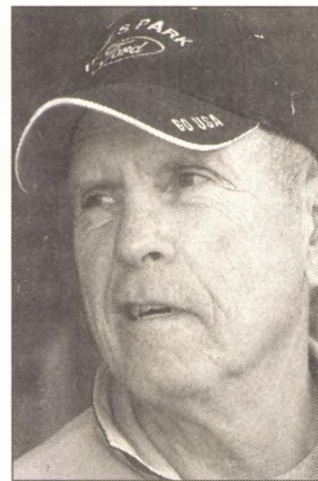
"Keep that up. It's the last thing of an icon. We can't tear that down."

Sean Twohig
Plymouth



"I think what they should do is tear it down and put the pieces in the museum so everybody can see it. ... It looks awful."

Elizabeth Bouffard
Plymouth



"I have no opinion on that. ... Probably tear it down, I suppose."

John Burczyk
Plymouth Township



"I suppose they could tear it down provided the developer (pledged) — in blood and money — they could do something for the community."

Martin Brosnan
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Where's the motivation?

Thank you for the great article "Fracture on board breaks wide open." I was wondering if this situation was ever going to be openly discussed in the press and really appreciate the direct, honest assessment.

This situation and the behavior of "the big four" is very disturbing. One of the most disturbing things (beyond the damage they are doing to the district), as a parent in this school district, is that they are so secretive about their motives.

It appears in the absence of any information from them that, as you said, they hope to gain some political advantage. Maybe I am naive and unable to see some obvious motivation, but it appears all so mysterious.

Tim Roraback
Plymouth

Firefighters necessary

I have been hearing a lot lately about the township of Plymouth wanting to look at a completely different way to provide fire protection to its citizens.

The board of trustees feels that the need for 24-hour fire protection by professional firefighters is no longer warranted. The program they are looking at is the same type of protection offered in the city of Novi, where the fire stations are manned Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. and the night hours and weekends are covered by part-paid staff if they are available, along with the closing of Fire Station Two (located in Lake Point on Wilcox Road). Their reasoning is that there are so few fires in our community, that fire protection is an area that can be cut with little to no effect on the citizens.

First, let's talk about the Novi model. The fire chief of Novi will be the first to tell you that their system is extremely difficult to manage and that there are many times when fire stations are unmanned due to the lack of part-time staff that is available to work in them. It is well known in the fire industry that 24-hour staffing is the most economical way to staff a fire station.

More than 30 years ago, Fire Chief Larry Groth started a fire inspection/education program that the firefighters of the Plymouth community have been using to educate not only the business community, but also our grade school children about the need for fire safety and how by using these safety tips, they can help make their community fire safe.

Now we find ourselves at a point where our elected officials think that the reason our community has so few fires is "because we just don't!" The reality is that our community is enjoying the fruit of 30 years of education and inspections that have been provided to us through our professional firefighters.

For one to think that the Plymouth community is somehow immune to fire and the tragedy that it brings only shows how little understanding of the fire service our community leaders have.

Having close to 40 years experience in the fire service, I know and understand the need for firefighters to arrive in a timely manner

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

and with sufficient staff to save one's life and property. National studies show that a single-family house fire takes 14 firefighters arriving on the first alarm to be 100-percent effective in extinguishing the fire. The Plymouth Community Fire Department only provides six to seven firefighters on duty each day. This only allows for two to three firefighters on duty in each fire station.

Our community is also blessed with having our firefighters trained as paramedics, who are at our call 24 hours a day and have saved countless lives in our community.

I understand that these are hard economic times and, yes, we all have to tighten our belts, but I'm not willing to place my family's lives at risk to save a few dollars. Our fire stations are grossly understaffed as they are. We don't need a new system for our fire service, and we need more firefighters.

Our leaders shouldn't think that we are not willing to pay for protection when it is warranted. Perhaps by educating the public about the importance of our fire department and all the services it provides us, they would see willingness on the public's part to support it.

Randolph Maycock
retired fire chief
Plymouth Community Fire Department

Word of caution

This letter was meant to be read aloud as a citizen's comment at the recent (Nov. 29, 2010) school board meeting. I refrained from speaking at that meeting as there were no teachers in attendance. I am sending this letter to the paper as I now feel that it is the best way to reach the intended audience before some potentially rash decisions are made.

These words were written to address the PCCS teachers and their union. First of all, I want to thank you for all of the time, effort and work that you put forth for and with our children. My children attend your schools, and I genuinely appreciate all that you do. Thank you also for continuing to work despite the absence of a new contract. Your actions underscore your commitment, and I want you to know that parents in this district take notice of what you do for the students.

I believe that a new contract agreement will

be reached soon. Unfortunately, I also believe that some board members will, or already have, offer their support to you in exchange for your support of them. I also believe that the settlement will be timed to generate some positive news stories to counteract the recent underhanded maneuvers of certain board members.

In this light, I offer a word of caution. Beware the person who offers to save you from a problem they themselves created. Don't forget who has controlled negotiations from the start, and who made "toughness with the union" a hiring criteria for the new superintendent. Don't allow yourselves to be pawns in someone else's game. It should now be quite obvious what happens to those that do not fully comply with the board's wishes.

I genuinely hope that you achieve a fair contract. I urge you not to make any promises that will hurt you in the long run. I, along with the not so silent majority, am deservedly concerned for the future of this district. We support you in ways you see every day, and we ask that you support us in return. Get the best contract you can, but get it because you deserve it — not because of pledged support to people who only work in your interest when it is to their advantage.

Allan Doute
Plymouth

Example set?

Four Plymouth-Canton school board members meet in private and then refuse to schedule a workshop to discuss as a group the change in duties for Dr. Fiegel and Mr. Jacobs?

How ironic coming from a board that determined one of Dr. Fiegel's weaknesses to be that he didn't collaborate with the board and his staff. Perhaps Dr. Fiegel has just been leading by the example set for him by his bosses?

Debbie Stefforia
Canton

GM, Chrysler weren't saved

Many believe the government saved GM and Chrysler. I disagree. The president has no right to fire the head of a corporation. Both companies went through bankruptcy, and shareholder investment was illegally given to banks.

Bankruptcy permitted companies to shutter plants, improve labor contracts and eliminate unprofitable models. GM now produces fewer vehicles with less labor, but no longer loses on products sold.

Without government intervention, GM and Chrysler would have rallied or failed, and investors would continue what they do best — invest.

GM is selling stock again. The Volt might be exciting, but the \$10,000 subsidy per car costs taxpayers more than GM earns. New mileage regulations mean major engineering problems in the future, and gasoline is still at the mercy of environmentalists.

Experienced developers sit on their money and do not create jobs, fearing intrusive government.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Happy Holidays from these Plymouth Area Businesses!

We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in 2011!

A portion of the proceeds from this page will be donated to: **Plymouth Area Veterans Memorial Park**

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Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays

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Happy Holidays

Seasons Greetings

Merry Christmas

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Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

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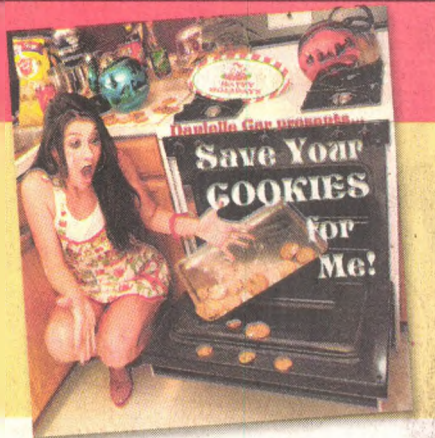
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Home cooking

Bridges scores 26 in Canton's romp

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tuesday's home opener for Canton's girls basketball team featured senior power forward Kayla Bridges and a host of supporting performers as the Chiefs pummeled Bloomfield Hills Marian 65-36.

The 6-0 Bridges could not be stopped under the Mustangs' basket, especially in the first half when she scored 18 points to spark a 38-14 halftime edge.

Although the Mustangs (1-2) battled and actually won the third quarter by a 13-9 score, that was about it against the deep, talented Chiefs.

"The first half I thought we were a lot more sound offensively and I thought we were better defensively," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "In the third quarter, I didn't think we had great focus and concentration."

It didn't carry over into the fourth, however. The Chiefs (2-0) finished strong with an 18-9 final quarter.

"We don't have a lot of mental toughness," Marian head coach Mary Cicerone said. "Once we decided to get down and play dirty — but by then we're down by 20-some points — then we competed with them. I thought we played a great third quarter."

HOT HAND

Bridges finished with 26 points for the second straight contest to open the 2010-11 season, and chipped in with six rebounds.

"They (Mustangs) were in a zone for the majority of the game and when you're in a zone, it makes it hard to block people out," said Bridges, who recently signed to play women's basketball at Wayne State University next year. "So I was always there to get the rebound. I had good position."

She added that it felt good to start strong in front of the home fans, which she did with a mix of layups, bank shots and jumpers.

"First home game, the nerves are there," Bridges said. "It's our court, but there's more pressure there because no one can beat us on our court."

"That's what our coach says all the time. So the pressure's there and to get that out of the way it feels good."

Samulski said the way Bridges has opened the season is no surprise considering her strong off-season work ethic.

"Kayla had a great spring, summer and fall," Samulski said. "She's put a lot of work in and she's reaping the benefits of that right now."

By no means was Bridges a one-person wrecking crew for Canton.

ON THE BOARD

Eight other players hit the scoresheet, led by senior forward Kari Schmitt (11 points, five rebounds), junior guard Robyn Mack (eight points), senior guard CarolAnn Sexauer (six points) and freshman guard Paige Aresco (six points).

Please see **CANTON, B3**



Canton's Kari Schmitt (No. 25) battles for a loose ball with Bloomfield Hills Marian players Michelle Perkovic (No. 31) and Brittany Heffernan on Tuesday.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SIDELINES

Moose to face DRW alumni

Fans of the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association hockey team will want to come out to Canton Arctic Edge at 4 p.m. Saturday as the alumni face off against the community-minded, Canton-based Detroit Moose.

Proceeds from \$10 tickets and \$50 dinner/ticket packages will go to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

For those choosing the dinner-with-a-game option, the dinner will be at Kickers, located across the parking lot from the rink.

Canton Arctic Edge is on the south side of Michigan Avenue near Canton Center Drive.

Who's your captain?

Hey prep varsity coaches, do you have a captain who deserves a special mention for his or her leadership skills?

The Observer is looking for candidates for the Captain's Corner feature. If you have a nomination, please send an e-mail to Tim Smith, sports editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers, at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Altman All-America

Madonna University junior Karie Altman was named honorable mention on the 2010 Tachikara-NAIA Volleyball All-America Team.

The Taylor native, who was named to the ESPN Academic All-America Team last week, became the 45th MU volleyball student-athlete to earn the All-America honors.

An All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first-team and Academic All-WHAC selection, the 6-foot middle hitter from Allen Park St. Frances Cabrini led the WHAC with 488 kills this season while ranking second in the league with a .360 attack percentage.

Lady Ocelots fall

Host Kalamazoo Valley Community College used a 17-9 second-half run Saturday to upend the No. 12-ranked Schoolcraft College women's basketball team, 71-66, in the championship game of the Gillette Classic.

The loss drops Schoolcraft to 8-3 overall, while Kalamazoo Valley improves to 4-3.

Kendall Dow and Taylor Reed each scored 14 points for the victorious Cougars.

Shanequa Braggs and Kimberly Bee each tallied 14 points for the Ocelots, who shot only 36.2 percent from the floor, including 3-of-15 from 3-point range.

Shawnicka Thomas contributed 13 points.

Schoolcraft was 13-of-22 from the foul line, while Kalamazoo Valley hit 20-of-33.

MU men edged

The third-ranked Cornerstone University men's basketball team sank five free throws down the stretch Saturday to escape with a 64-61 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory over visiting Madonna University.

The Golden Eagles (9-1, 2-0) led by as many as 10 points in the second half before Bryant Slaughter (Westland) tied the game for the eighth time at 57-57 with less than two minutes remaining.

Justin Yoder's layup with 50 seconds left gave Cornerstone the lead for keeps, 59-57.

Caleb Simons and Ronald Bates scored 14 and 11, respectively, for Cornerstone.

Freshman guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) finished with 14 points and four assists as the Crusaders fell to 1-9 and 0-2.

Josh Gay and Slaughter chipped in with 12 and 10 points, respectively.



Dietrich Lever II puts his name to the paperwork, finalizing his decision to play Division II basketball at Ferris State University. At right is his Canton coach, Jimmy Reddy.

Ferris suits Lever just fine

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Dietrich Lever II, shown in this 2009-10 file photo, will play college basketball at Ferris State. But first, he has some business to attend to during his senior season at Canton.

Big talent comes in small packages, and Canton senior point guard Dietrich Lever II fits that description.

The 17-year-old Lever, who Tuesday scored 28 points in the Chiefs' 63-60 season-opening loss to West Bloomfield, signed to play Division II basketball at Ferris State University.

But Canton coach Jimmy Reddy still sees his offensive catalyst as a player who should have found a Division I program to come calling.

"If Dietrich was 5-11 or 6-0 he'd be a D-1 player," Reddy said. "I've actually had a couple college coaches tell me he's a D-1 player in a D-2 body."

According to the 5-10 Lever, who averaged 19.5 points, 7.5 assists and 3.5 steals in 2009-10, he waited until the last possible hour to commit to Ferris because of hopes for a bigger opportunity.

"I was waiting for a Division I look, because I was pretty sure I could play Division I, it was just my size," Lever said. "At first, I was going to risk it and just wait until after the season. But I didn't want to pass up an oppor-

'I went over all the pros and cons and I decided it was a good fit.'

DIETRICH LEVER II, Canton guard

Please see **LEVER, B3**

Zebari hat trick lifts 'Cats

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

BOYS HOCKEY

When Plymouth senior forward Chase Zebari got a taste of finally scoring a varsity goal, he couldn't get enough.

In fact, Zebari scored a hat trick Saturday afternoon to pace the host Wildcats to a 6-1 victory over Livonia Franklin in a KLAAs South boys hockey matchup at Compuware Arena.

Other standouts for Plymouth (1-0-2, 1-0-1) included sophomore forward Nick Schultz (3 assists) and senior goalie Mike Justus, who stopped the first 26 shots he saw and lost his shutout with just one-tenth of a second to go.

Franklin's Tyler Satkowiak threw a seemingly harmless shot from the right boards of Compuware's Olympic ice sheet that deflected over Justus' shoulder.

"I feel bad for Mike (Justus), he had a great game," said Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender.

But Zebari was all smiles outside the Wildcats' locker room, talking about his scoring splurge. It started at the six-minute mark of the second period when a wrist shot from the right of the Pats' cage found the twine to give Plymouth a 2-0 lead.

EFFORT PAYS OFF

"Yeah, that was my first-ever high school goal and then I got three goals in that game," Zebari said. "That last goal was a perfect pass from (junior forward) Zach Gambrell."

Zebari jumped out of the penal-

Please see **WILDCATS, B2**



Plymouth winger Chase Zebari (No. 21), shown standing his ground against Livonia Franklin's Jerome Schlaff (No. 12) during Saturday afternoon's game, scored the first goals of his varsity career in a 6-1 Wildcats win.

Whalers make it two in a row

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Make it two wins in a row since Mike Vellucci tinkered with his lines.

The Plymouth Whalers' coach and GM put speedy Farmington Hills native Alex Aleardi on the top unit with left wing Tyler Brown and center Robbie Czarnik for two weekend games at Compuware Arena.

Although that combo didn't cause the red light to short-circuit in either game, the Whalers came out victorious both times — 3-2 Friday against Owen Sound and 4-1 Saturday against London.

And the Brown-Czarnik-Aleardi line clicked with top-drawer chances against the Knights, with Aleardi scoring two goals (although he jokingly said he didn't actually score the second tally).

"I think it's speed, that's what the key is," said Vellucci, talking about what the new line brought for the two games. "All three of those guys can fly."

"It's got to be the fastest line in the league. That was the key, I just think if they use their speed and get it behind the 'D' it's tough to contain them."

According to Aleardi, who leads the Whalers with 15 goals, the main thing was for the Whalers to win back-to-back games.

"It's a big weekend for us," Aleardi said. "We know we're kind of in the middle of the standings right now and we moved up with two huge wins."

Plymouth (15-10-1-1) briefly climbed to fourth spot in the Ontario Hockey League's Western Conference thanks to the win over London, before 2,812 fans and plenty of stuffed animals on the team's annual Teddy Bear Toss Night.



Tom Wilson of the Plymouth Whalers (No. 10) jostles with London defenseman Jarred Tinordi during Saturday night's game at Compuware Arena.

But Windsor regained that spot later on with a 7-1 rout over Peterborough.

Aleardi, meanwhile, noticed that his new line can motor. "We've got good chemistry right off the bat and it seems like things are working," Aleardi noted. "We got two big wins so hopefully we can get her going."

Vellucci smiled when asked if the line was going to remain intact.

"If they keep scoring, sure, you always try different stuff," Vellucci said. "The (Rickard) Rakell's line been really good ... and (Mitchell) Heard's line has been doing great defensively in shutting down the top line, so it's been good."

The Whalers did struggle at times against the big, physical Knights, however.

"I didn't think we played very good in the first," Vellucci said. Plymouth netminder Scott Wedgewood (20 saves)

needed to come up big throughout the first period, stopping 10 of 11 shots while his teammates put two past London goalie Michael Houser (26 saves) to lead 2-1 after one stanza.

CUE THE BEARS

Aleardi put the Whalers on the board at 3:44, which triggered the launch of teddy bears over the glass. He dished a shot from the right side of the London net and the puck glanced in off a skate.

London (13-12-2-1) knotted the game up 1-1 at 7:48, just 38 seconds into a power play. Daniel Erlich walked the puck out of the right corner and shot it across the goalmouth where linemate Jared Knight slammed it in.

The Whalers regained the lead on an unassisted goal by defenseman Dario Trutmann at 17:57.

Switzerland-native

Trutmann checked a London player inside the Knights' blue line, then carried the puck into the high slot before ripping a high shot over Houser's glove hand.

"It was a great shot, it was top shelf and his mom was in town to see him play this week, so that was great for him," Vellucci said. "He's not flashy but he gets the job done."

Plymouth picked up the intensity in the second period, with waves of pressure on Houser.

The Whalers outshot the Knights 16-3 in the frame and padded their lead to 3-1 on Aleardi's second goal. It came as a London penalty was expiring.

A hard drive from defenseman and Farmington Hills native Austin Levi was turned aside by Houser, but the puck pinballed over to forward James Livingston. His backhandler from in front got past Houser, apparently tipped along the way by Aleardi.

"I took a whack at it, it hit my stick (and then) landed on Livvy's and he threw it into the empty net," Aleardi insisted. "They gave me the credit for it, but we were joking around in the room already and he definitely got it."

After killing off a London power play early in the third, the Whalers shut the door for the rest of the way — although Wedgewood had to come up big to stop dangerous scoring bids from Victor Terreri and Stephan Sanza.

An empty netter in the final minute by forward Stefan Noesen from defenseman and captain Beau Schmitz capped the scoring.

The Whalers are idle until 7 p.m. Friday, when they host Sault Ste. Marie.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Rocks keep on rolling, winning

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Continuing to shrug off a tough one-goal loss to Canton, the Salem Rocks' varsity boys hockey team won back-to-back games behind a potent offense.

Salem (3-1) defeated Farmington Unified 6-4 on Saturday, following an 8-3 drubbing of Clarkston two nights earlier.

"For the fourth game in a row we won the third period," Salem head coach Ryan Ossemacher said. "Which is one of our goals going into each game."

"We struggled again with our shift-to-shift consistency, but found a way to win against a very good team."

Goalie Brandon Price stopped 29 of 33 Farmington shots, and his teammates provided some late fireworks with goals in the final period by Matt Downey (shorthanded), Michael Manser and Connor Berlin.

Manser started the night's scoring for Salem, with a marker in the first period. Assisting were Mark McGee and Austin Sartorius.

Berlin then made it 2-0, converting a feed from Downey.

Salem's lone goal in the second period was scored by Nick Hayes, from Downey and Ryan Quigley (two assists).

Kyle Eggenberger and Garrett Berg also collected assists for the Rocks.

Against Clarkston on Dec. 2, Salem tallied three power-play goals in an offensive display.

Alek Zultowski's first varsity goal was a highlight for Salem. He was set up by Jake Fedel and Maxx Coral.

Also lighting the lamp were Manser, Matt Downey, McGee, Quigley, Berlin, Kyle Downey and Wes Carr.

Berlin, Sartorius, McGee and Manser each chipped in with two assists. Evan Patton drew the lone assist on Carr's goal while Downey and Hayes assisted on Berlin's marker. Carr also assisted on a goal.

"Clarkston is a good team, and this was a good win for us," Ossemacher added.

CANTON 4, CHURCHILL 2: Canton kept its unbeaten boys hockey record intact Friday night with this KLAAsouth triumph over visiting Livonia Churchill at the Arctic Edge.

The Chiefs improved to 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the division, while Churchill falls to 2-2 and 0-2.

Canton led 1-0 after one period on A.J. Rosales' goal from Matt Rodgers and Jimmy Lafontaine.

The Chiefs led 3-2 after two periods as Rosales scored an unassisted short-handed goal followed by Matti Prasad's unassisted effort.

Mike Rybinski and Mike Kutek countered with goals for the Chargers in the middle period.

Parker Pakula then put it away for Canton with a third-period goal from Dugan Tear and Brandon Grillo.

Canton goalie Spencer Craig made 17 saves, while Alex Estes had 10 stops for Churchill.

WILDCATS

FROM PAGE B1

ty box and joined a 2-on-1 rush with Gambrell in the final minute. His shot went top shelf past Franklin goaltender Travis Ferrier (30 saves).

Sandwiched between those goals was his second of the contest, with 11:21 left in the game to open up a 4-0 lead. He banked a shot in from the right post, with assists to Schultz and sophomore defenseman Cam Nadell.

"I focus a lot on working hard," Zebari said. "I know I don't have the most skill out of all the players on the team, but ... I've been known to have a pretty hard work ethic and I take pride in that."

The Wildcats overcame a slow start, with Justus shutting the door on several dangerous Franklin opportunities in the first. One of his best stops was on a backhander in close from Mike Diaz.



Plymouth's Justin Bauer (No. 28) gets the jump on Livonia Franklin's Danny Donahue during Saturday's game at Compuware Arena. At left for the 'Cats is Zach Gambrell (No. 25).

But Plymouth got on the board with 3:58 to go and never looked back. Gambrell (one goal, one assist) tapped a rebound into the wide-open

net. Collecting the assists were senior forward Tyler Sanders and sophomore forward Mitch Claggett.

"The first part of the first period, and the first part of the second period, (the Wildcats) came out flat and probably played way overconfident," Fassbender said. "Once we finally established something going I think the majority of the game was in their zone."

"We had a lot of pressure, a lot of back-door chances."

Zebari's first of the game, from Schultz and senior defenseman Justin Bauer (one goal, one assist), came shortly after the Wildcats killed off a two-man disadvantage.

During Franklin's 5-on-3, the Patriots did not even manage a single shot on goal and had trouble even keeping the puck in Plymouth's zone.

"And they scored right after that," Franklin head coach Scott Wirgau said.

It was a 3-0 lead before the end of the frame when junior forward Sean Smiatcz tipped in a low shot taken from the bottom of the right circle by junior forward Matt Goertz. Also assisting was junior forward Cody Staub.

But Wirgau said his team (2-2-0, 0-2-0) skated hard and stayed with the Wildcats for much of the game, enough for him to have a rally in mind.

"We came back into the locker room at the end of the second period," he said. "We still had 17 minutes (and) I thought we could put three or four in."

Besides Zebari's two goals in the third period, the Wildcats scored on a power-play marker by Bauer at 7:47 from Sanders (2 assists) and Schultz.

Franklin had another 5-on-3 power play late in the game, but could not solve Justus.

ALL-OUT EFFORT

Plymouth senior blueliner Tyler Lazorka slid near the blue line to block a blast, epitomizing how hard the team wanted to protect Justus' shutout.

"Our whole team needs to give that attitude the whole game," Lazorka said. "Drop down and block shots, work hard, go to the corner, dump and chase."

"We're not the biggest hitting team. But we'll outwork a lot of teams that we play against."

Fassbender said it was a good win because of the contributions of many players, a list that began with Zebari and linemates Schultz and junior Richie Mitchell.

"Everyone played well," Fassbender said. "We just had a couple little lapses, not making simple plays and that gets us in trouble."

Plymouth has a big week ahead. After Wednesday night's game against Livonia Churchill (which took place after this issue went to press), the Wildcats will visit Arctic Edge at 8:30 p.m. Friday to battle campus rival Canton. They will then host Novi 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Compuware in a makeup game.

Penguins hang tough against D-1 rivals

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins split two games last week and nearly won again Tuesday, only to drop a 3-2 decision in overtime to host Grosse Pointe University Liggett.

Winning the game for the Division 1 Knights with an unassisted goal at 5:10 of sudden death OT was Aria Ganz-Waple.

The Penguins (3-2) took a 2-0 lead in the first period on tallies by Sarah Coleman (from Rhianna Fleisher and Beth Johnson) and Marissa Sullivan (from Rebecca Majszak and Johnson).

But the Knights rallied to tie the contest on markers by Haleigh Bolton and Ganz-Waple.

"The girls played a great game and the teams were very evenly matched," said PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson, adding that the team again missed the services of forward Amanda Heisler "and

GIRLS HOCKEY

we could have used her aggressive style of play on the fore-check."

Meanwhile, the Penguins lost to another D1 team Thursday at Detroit City Arena. Grosse Pointe South earned a 3-0 triumph despite a superb goaltending effort from sophomore Cortny McAdoo (32 saves).

"She (McAdoo) is the main reason we were able to hang with them for so long," Johnson said.

On Nov. 30, the Penguins earned a 4-3 victory over Farmington Hills Mercy at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

Alissa Novak's goal early in the third period, on an assist from Sullivan, provided the winner.

Other Penguins' goals were scored by Jenna Carter, Heisler and Sullivan.

For the Marlins, Anna Mondrusov scored a pair of markers with Madeline McClain also finding the mark.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
Friday, Dec. 10
Det. King at Canton, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Ann Arbor Skyline, 7:30 p.m.
Henry Ford at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Our Lady of Lakes at Ply. Christian, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 10
Plymouth at Ann Arbor Skyline, 6 p.m.
Salem at Ann Arbor Huron, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Our Lady of Lakes at Ply. Christian, 3 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 10
Salem at Liv. Stevenson, 6 p.m.
Plymouth vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 9
Luth. N'west at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.

- Saturday, Dec. 11**
Garden City Invitational, 9 a.m.
Northville Varsity Invite, 9 a.m.
Salem '10' Team Tourney, 9 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Saturday, Dec. 11
EMU Relays, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 10
(Kalamazoo Valley CC Tournament)
Henry Ford vs. Grand Rapids, 5:30 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Kalamazoo Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Siena Heights at Madonna, 3 p.m.
(Kalamazoo Valley CC Tournament)
Schoolcraft vs. Grand Rapids, 1 p.m.
Henry Ford vs. Kalamazoo Valley, 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Dec. 10
Soo Greyhounds vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

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Salem gets first win

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After coming out cold for Tuesday's KLAA crossover girls basketball game at Brighton, the Salem Rocks turned up the offensive heat to open the second stanza.

The Rocks, trailing 7-3 after one, went on an 18-8 scoring binge and never trailed the rest of the way en route to a 45-32 victory.

"We settled down and finally got into a rhythm in the second quarter," said veteran Salem head coach Fred Thomann. "Then we controlled the rest of the game."

A key performer for the Rocks during the second frame was senior guard Heidi Schmidt, tallying eight of her team-leading 12 points.

Other key performers for Salem (1-1) included junior guards Bri Berberet (11 points), Katelynn Krause (eight points), junior forward Kate Heitmeyer (six points) and sophomore forward Breanne Beaver, who only scored four points but chipped in elsewhere with nine rebounds and three blocked shots.

Salem freshman Kayla Kavulich also helped out with four points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sarah Goodwin scored seven points for 0-3 Brighton, who really couldn't get untracked offensively after the Rocks took over in the second quarter.

"Our defense was better than it was last Friday," said Thomann, referring to a 43-29 loss to Farmington Hills Mercy. "We battled a little better."

Salem trailed 17-1 after one frame to the Marlins, and that night there was no coming back despite 13 points and six boards from Schmidt.

"Obviously, we got a little better each quarter," Thomann said. "Mercy is a veteran club, with six seniors in their top eight. We have one, Heidi Schmidt. So we hung in there pretty good and we're going to continue to grow as a team."

Chipping in with four points and four boards each were Jennifer First and Beaver while Heitmeyer pulled down four rebounds.

Next up for Salem is another road test, Friday at Ann Arbor Huron.

WLC 31, PLYMOUTH 27: The Wildcats had too much trouble at the free throw line Tuesday

night, and it cost them a chance to win the KLAA crossover girls basketball matchup.

Plymouth (0-3) made just three of 17 attempts from the charity stripe while Walled Lake Central made 14 of 16 tries. Junior guard Tori Duffey (19 points) was the biggest thorn in the Wildcats' side, making all 10 of her attempts.

For Plymouth, Isis Haywood led in scoring with seven points.

PCA 51, BUENA VISTA 24:

Plymouth Christian Academy rolled Friday night to a 51-24 victory over Saginaw Buena Vista, with a 24-6 first half setting the tone.

Karen Windle and Bethany Hale each scored 11 points for the Eagles (2-0) with Brianna Harris and Emily Gerulis adding eight points each.

Gerulis was outstanding on the glass, with 18 rebounds (13 on the offensive end) and also tallied four steals. Meanwhile, Jenna Abraham (five assists), Harris (four assists) and Windle (five steals) also provided more than scoring for PCA.

"Overall we played pretty consistent," said Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis. "We moved the ball well and everyone had scoring chances."



What a Force!

Celebrating with their trophy after winning the Turkey Day Run Off Tournament are members of the Plymouth Canton Force sixth grade red basketball team. In the back row (from left) are Jason Arnold, Jack Smith, Justin Dolney and Blake Preston. In the front row (from left) are Zack Gruczelak, Camren Barden, Jake Cesarz, Kyle Burnette and Jackson Sartain. The PC Force entered and won their first tournament of the year by going 3-0 and outscoring opponents by a total of 128-to-85. Meanwhile, the squad continues to parlay balanced scoring and tough defense, going 3-1 in league play. On Sunday, the squad will compete at a tournament in Saline.

Wildcats nipped in opener

The hot shooting of Adam Coric in the second quarter Tuesday proved too much for visiting Plymouth, as the Wildcats dropped their season opener, 57-49 to Walled Lake Central.

Plymouth fell behind 33-23 at halftime because of Coric, who finished with 18 points.

"They were real tough, they played harder than us the first half and they beat us to some loose balls and effort plays," said Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup. "They had a kid (Coric) who hit four threes on us in the second quarter."

Although Plymouth whittled the deficit down to four points in the fourth quarter, the Wildcats could not make up the deficit.

Leading Plymouth with 20 points was Pat Salo, with other big contributions from Mike

BOYS BASKETBALL

Nadratowski (15 points) and Brennen Beyer (eight points, 15 rebounds).

"I can't fault the kids for their effort (it) was tremendous tonight," Soukup said. "I'm very pleased about that. So if you can take something away from a loss, that's what it would be."

SALEM 62, RU 32: Host Salem broke open a close game in the second half to hand Redford Union this lopsided defeat in the season opener for both teams.

Chris Dierker led the Rocks with 13 points and 11 rebounds while Tyler Stewart added 12 points.

"We pretty much led wire-to-wire," said Salem head coach Bob Brodie. "We came out with some intensity right

off the bat."

Junior Tre Goynes paced RU with 17 points and junior Dwight Pooler added eight, all in the first quarter.

The Rocks held a slim 17-15 lead after one period and were ahead 23-17 at halftime. They took control in the third period by playing solid defense and outscoring the Panthers 19-7 and put the game away in the final frame with a 20-8 scoring differential.

"They took it to us in the second half," RU head coach Brett Steele said. "They sped us up and we kind of collapsed. Their pressure caused us to make a lot of mistakes and turnovers."

Brodie added that it was a good sign to see "a lot of scoring from a lot of players and overall we had good intensity in the game. I'm looking forward to the next one."



Celtic Green wins title

The 10U Celtic Green soccer team finished off their very successful season by going 3-0 in the playoffs to capture their tournament championship. They outscored their opponents by a score of 23-to-3 in the playoff games. The team, coached by Matt Smith, also placed first in their league play by compiling a record of 6-1-1, setting the tone for a first place seed for the playoff tournament. Pictured are the victorious 10U Celtic Green with their championship shirts: (back row, from left) Paul Schmidt, Ethan Touma, Brett Tolinski, Nathan Fronckowiak, Nicholas Ontko and Ryan Metz; (front row, from left) Nolan Waligora, Jake Arnold, Hudson Shields and Daniel Wang.

LEVER

FROM PAGE B1

tunity to go to Ferris State, because it was a good fit."

The decision was one his parents (Dietrich Sr. and Brenda) were thrilled with. Both were at Canton High School when the younger Dietrich signed his national letter of intent.

"That's what they wanted me to do," he said. "At first I wasn't for it, but I had to think about it. I went over all the pros and cons and I decided it was a good fit. So they're very proud of me for making that decision."

Besides playing college basketball, he will eye sports management as a potential career path.

But that won't begin until 2011-12. For now, Lever wants to be a catalyst for a big season at Canton.

"We've got a good chance of going far this year," Lever said.

BRIGHT FUTURE

Meanwhile, Reddy said the ceiling is high for Lever when he joins the Bulldogs.

"I couldn't be happier for him. I think it's a real good situation," said Reddy, who



Canton senior point guard Dietrich Lever II, flanked by proud parents Dietrich Sr. and Brenda, flashes a happy grin after signing to play at Ferris State University.

has coached Lever throughout high school. "I've talked with a number of coaches and I think Dietrich can have a great career as a Division II player in that conference. The GLIAC is a super conference for men's basketball."

Reddy said Lever should be able to continue doing what he's done so well at Canton — where he has a solid chance to surpass the 1,000-point mark for his prep career.

"He's been able to attack the lane and create shots for other people ever since I've seen him play," Reddy said. "And I think at the next level he's going to be a great assist guy, somebody

that can score around the rim.

"His shooting has really improved, so he'll be able to make an open three as well. But I think the No. 1 thing he'll bring to Ferris is he'll be able to run a team."

Lever, however, has some unfinished business with the Chiefs. At the top of that list is getting some postseason revenge against Novi.

"That (2010) was the third time we played Novi in the districts and we lost every time," Lever said. "We're trying to get them back at least one time before I leave."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

CANTON

FROM PAGE B1

"I thought (Aresco) had a solid game," Samulski said. "She did a nice job."

Although senior forward Sara Schmitt only scored two points — she tallied the first bucket of the non-conference tilt — she led the Chiefs with five steals and pulled down four boards.

For Marian (1-2), 6-0 senior center Mara Mulroy scored 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Guard Brittany Heffernan and senior forward Michelle Perkovic added eight and five points, respectively.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Bloomfield Hills Marian senior center Mara Mulroy (No. 33) tries to dribble past Canton senior forward CarolAnn Sexauer during Tuesday's fourth quarter.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

MU/Total Baseball camp

The Madonna University baseball program will stage a holiday baseball camp (session II) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, at Total Sports in Wixom. The camp features instruction by the MU baseball coaching staff and players. For more information, call (248) 668-0166; or visit TotalSportsComplex.com.

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White and his staff will hold two sessions of winter camps, specializing in individual instruction, including: Fundamental Camp No. 1 — 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, at the MU Activities Center, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia; Fundamental Camp No. 2 — noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 6, 13, 22 and 27, at the MU Activities Center. The cost is \$150 for each camp. For more information, call White at (734) 432-5783; or assistant coach Steve Gentilia

at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

MU men's honors

The 8-6 Madonna University men's soccer team landed three players on the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference second team including senior midfielder-defender Ogbemudia Iyoha, sophomore defender Franco Giorgi and freshman striker Mustapha Olorunnimbe.

Named to the All-WHAC third team was sophomore goalkeeper Parker Laabs (Canton), who had three shut-outs and a 1.42 goals-against average, along with senior midfielder Jacob Rosiek. Junior midfielder Mosato Morioka (Northville) earned the WHAC's Champions of Character team as the student-athlete who best displays the NAIAs five core values of respect, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

Baseball coaches wanted

• University of Detroit Jesuit High School needs a varsity baseball coach for the 2011

season. If interested, fax or e-mail U-D High athletic director at (313) 862-3299; mickey.barrett@uofdjhsuit.org.

• The 13-Under Great Lakes Cardinals (formerly the Canton Cardinals) are looking for an experienced travel baseball player for the 2011 season. The team competes in seven tournaments as well as league play, totaling more than 50 games for the season.

Those interested in playing should contact head coach Dan Hejka, Sr. via e-mail at cardscoach13@gmail.com.

Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season will be Sundays, beginning Jan. 20, at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome. Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and NUC testing protocols.

To register, visit www.coach-jacksonspeed.com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

Salem tough at weekend tourney

Salem's new wrestling coach, Pete Israel, liked what he saw out of his team at Saturday's Grover Memorial Tournament in Concord.

Freshman Peter Contos, for example, rallied to win a match at 152 — pinning Lumen Christi's Sean Leigh. Another freshman, Conner Thornbury, pinned Lumen Christi's Wes Smith.

There were solid showings from Salem vets, too. Nick Kim finished first

PREP WRESTLING

at 119 with a major decision (18-4) over Goble's Jamie Summerville.

Other top showings included a third-place finish by Tyler Gross (160) and fourths from Dylan Hatcher (160) and Jake McCabe (189).

Israel impressed Jordan Zhou with two pins at 189.

CANTON 49, RIVERVIEW 18:

The visiting Chiefs opened the season in fine fashion with this rout of Riverview on Dec. 1.

Canton victories were scored by Ben Griffin (103 by pin), Richard DeMarois (112, 12-3), Alec Pantaleo (119, 20-5), Keshav Patel (125, 18-0), Daniel Filippelli (140, by pin), Zach Marsh (152, 17-2), Jevon Hill (171, by pin), Anthony Abro (189, by pin in 34 seconds), and Ben Poirier (285, by pin).

Take a peaceful, prayerful break from holiday shopping



The Parish Choir and other musical groups will sing at the Service of Lesson and Carols Sunday at St. John's Episcopal Church, in Plymouth.

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

You won't hear any popular Christmas carols Sunday, Dec. 12 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth.

But you will find a peaceful atmosphere, along with the sound of bells, beautiful music, uplifting voices and prophetic scripture readings.

"We're trying to remember it's not just about Christmas trees and Santa Claus," said Julie Ford, music minister. "It's easy to get caught up in that. How do we find a balance and remember Jesus is the point of this, and not get caught up in hectic gift-giving?"

"If someone does come to our service we hope they'll think of it as a chance to be quiet and pray and think about God. We want to provide an opportunity for people to reflect on their spiritual life and I think music is a great way to do that."

St. John's Children's and Youth Choirs, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir and SonShine contemporary music choir will perform at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Admission is free, although donations will be accepted for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

The service, which follows a format popularized by King's

College of the University of Cambridge, England, alternates readings from scripture with Advent songs.

"It's a very popular tradition in the Episcopal Church," Ford noted.

She said many churches schedule an Advent Lessons and Carols service the Sunday before Christmas. Some offer a Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols instead of the Advent service. St. John's does both, in addition to offering a Blue Christmas service at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 19.

Ford said the Blue service is designed as an alternative "for those who aren't up for a big celebration."

"Maybe they have sorrow in their life or they can't deal with the crowd. It's a small group and it incorporates a lot of readings and prayer. It's very peaceful and we keep it low key."

SINGING CAROLS

The church holds its Christmas Lessons and Carols service the Sunday after Christmas. This year it's at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 26.

"We found it's great to do the Sunday after Christmas when everyone is a little low on energy and everyone has had the great high of Christmas Eve. And it gives us an opportunity to sing Christmas carols."

Ford saves Christmas carols for Christmas Eve and then

tries to "fit in as many" as she can during the 4 p.m. family service and 11 p.m. traditional service. The family service includes a pageant with carols throughout. It will include a guitar ensemble and some contemporary music, including a piece by Christian pop artist Michael W. Smith.

ORIGINAL MUSIC

The more traditional late service starts with carolling at 10:30 p.m., followed by worship. Ford plans to feature an original piece by a group of church musicians who recently moved from Minnesota to the Detroit area.

"They were at a Catholic Cathedral in Minneapolis. It's original music, a fabulous marriage of poetry and music," Ford said. "I try to include what is familiar and what's off the beaten path."

The Christmas Lessons and Carols service includes lots of familiar carols sung by both the choir and the congregation. Scripture readings focus on the birth of Jesus. The Advent service will include readings from Isaiah and Luke.

"I think people appreciate the two services for different reasons. I think they appreciate the Advent one as an opportunity to pray," she said. "I hope people will come out for prayer and reflection and to benefit Gleaners."

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Submit items at least a week before expected publication date. Be sure to include a contact telephone number for readers, as well as any ticket prices for an event.

DEC. 9-15

Blue Christmas service

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: This service is designed for people who struggle with the holidays, including those who are grieving, dealing with the loss of a

loved one, loss of a job or struggle with the holidays in general. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service.

Contact: (734) 422-1470

Concert

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, in Livonia

Details: The annual Christmas concert will feature the Festival Choir, Jubellation Handbell Choir,

children's choir, the Cantate Choir, the Brass Ensemble and solo and ensemble groups. The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken

Contact: (734) 522-6830

Concert

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: St. Hugo of the Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills
Details: The Detroit Concert Choir presents "Sing We Now of Christmas" concert. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for young adults. The choir also will sing at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Old St. Mary's Church in Greektown, 646 Monroe, Detroit.
Contact: (313) 882-0118

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: Garden City Presbyterian Church, located on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road, in Garden City
Details: "Men of Grace" from the Grace Center in Pontiac will perform Christmas favorites, gospel and other inspirational songs. Refreshments in the fellowship hall follow the free concert
Contact: (734) 421-7620

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 11

Location: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7575 N. Hix, between Warren Road and Joy, in Westland
Details: The Michigan Concert Choir performs its annual Christmas concert; free
Contact: (734) 266-0533

Concert

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: "A Christmas Tapestry" concert will feature an eclectic blend of musicians and vocalists from the church with a variety of Christmas favorites, from standards to modern pieces. Tickets are a suggested \$10 at the door
Contact: (734) 425-2800

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 11

Location: Ward Presbyterian Evangelical Church, 40000 Six

Mile, Northville

Details: The Detroit Handbell Ensemble, along with area handbell choirs, will perform music of the Christmas season in this free concert
Contact: (248) 374-5969

Concert

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Dec. 11

Location: Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Free concert by Robert Gary
Contact: (734) 524-0880

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Dec. 11

Location: Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne
Details: Sounds of Life Benefit Concert, featuring Bishop RJ Shackelford; \$20 donation with proceeds benefitting Life Pointe Church
Contact: (734) 486-3210

Concert

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 12

Location: 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia
Details: The St. Aidan Adult Choir, along with the St. Aidan Children's Choir, and St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 29th annual Christmas concert. Admission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items.
Contact: (734) 425-5950

Cookie walk

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman, Garden City
Details: Christmas cookies and crafts will be sold
Contact: (734) 421-8628

Cookie walk and bake

Time/Date: 10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail in Livonia
Details: Christmas cookies of all varieties will be sold by the pound along with bake sale items
Contact: (734) 427-2290

DEC. 16-22

Concert

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19

Location: Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford
Details: A Christmas cantata, "Silent, Holy Night"
Contact: (313) 537-7480

Concert

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18200 Merriman, between Six and Seven Mile Roads, Livonia
Details: Holy Land Christmas Concert features Diana Al Barchini with Arabic carols, Rassem El Massih with seminarian chanter, St. Mary's Choir with hymns of the Nativity, a violin trio and guest vocalists singing classical and traditional songs. A free-will offering will be accepted and will benefit the International Orthodox Christian Charities
Contact: (734) 422-0010; www.saintmarylivonia.com

Concert

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main in Northville
Details: Men of Grace from the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac will sing original compositions as well as contemporary, spiritual and gospel and blues music. Dessert will be served after the concert. A \$5 donation is requested.
Contact: (248) 349-0911

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 21
Location: First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham
Details: This worship service is a place to bring the grief, anxiety, and pain that often surfaces during the holidays. Worship is held on the longest night of the year in recognition that sometimes the holidays bring sadness in the midst of celebration because of missed loved ones, struggles with financial stress, and the thought of happier days. Child care will be available for children up to age 4
Contact: Call (248) 646-6407 Ext. 3141 by Dec. 18 to reserve child care; for more information about the service call (248) 646-1200

Longest night

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 21
Location: First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham
Details: This worship service is a place to bring the grief, anxiety, and pain that often surfaces during the holidays. Worship is held on the longest night of the year in recognition that sometimes the holidays bring sadness in the midst of celebration because of missed loved ones, struggles with financial stress, and the thought of happier days. Child care will be available for children up to age 4
Contact: Call (248) 646-6407 Ext. 3141 by Dec. 18 to reserve child care; for more information about the service call (248) 646-1200

DEC. 23-29

Christmas Eve

Time/Date: Friday, Dec. 24
Location: Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
Details: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. family services; 10 p.m. traditional candlelight service
Contact: (248) 626-3620

Please see CALENDAR, B5



Passages

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ROBERT "BOB" W. COX

Age 91, passed away peacefully at home on December 5, 2010. He will be forever loved and remembered by his loving wife of 66 years, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Minth); his children, Lynn Cox of Del Mar, CA; Carol (Robert) Pearsall-Stetler of Milford; Nancy (Robert) Brown of Wilmington, NC; Larry Cox of Farmington; and Sally (Michael) Wujczyk of Farmington Hills; grandchildren, Bradford (Jeanne) Orr of Vista, CA; Christian (Ginger) Brown of South Bend, IN; Tim Brown and Lindsay Brown of Wilmington, NC; Carey Pearsall of Denver, CO; Chase Pearsall of Playa Del Rey, CA; and Alexandra Wujczyk of Farmington Hills; and two great grandsons, Robert and Wesley Orr of Vista, CA. Bob, a 50 year resident of Farmington, was born on March 27, 1919, in Detroit, to Frederick and Clara (Theel) Cox. He graduated from MacKenzie High School in 1937 and began working for the Jervis B. Webb Co. in Detroit in 1938. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 and served as a 1st lieutenant and navigator until the end of World War II. He then returned to the Webb Co., retiring after 40 years, in 1984, as an executive vice president. After retirement, he and Betty split their time between Farmington and Stuart, FL from 1984-2004. Bob was a life member of Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield and a longtime member of the Huron River Fishing and Hunt Club in Farmington. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and golfer and above all, a loving and caring family man. Memorials may be made to The Farmington Goodfellows or to Forgotten Harvest. Arrangements for a spring memorial, through Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, will be announced separately, and at a later date. www.thayer-rock.com



ARTHUR GERISH

Age 82 of Northville, December 4, 2010. Beloved husband of the Janet. Loving father of Bruce (Bridget), Susan, David and Amy (Steve) Katz. Dear brother of Evan C. (Susan). Dear brother-in-law of Edwin (Leni) Hancock and Joan (Donald) Clark. Proud grandfather of Kristin, Katelin, Evan, Kayla, Colin, Brianna and Hannah. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Founder and President of Gerish Building Co. Mr. Gerish was awarded the 2004 Developer of the Year Award by the SE Michigan Builders Assn. Long time youth baseball and basketball coach in the Plymouth/Canton community. Member of the Alma College Board of Trustees. Visitation Tuesday 5-9 PM and Wednesday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Thursday 10 AM until 11 AM Funeral at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (at Godfredson). Interment at Rural Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alma College Baseball Endowment Fund or the charity/church of your choice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

MICHAEL "MIKE" MATTSON

48, of Calumet, Mich., a former resident of Garden City, died Thursday, December 2, 2010, at his home. Mike worked as a cook, carpet installer and at Calumet Electronics. Mike loved his Rottweiler dogs, football, the seasons of fall and winter in the Upper Peninsula. Mike is survived by his mother, Laurel Johnson of Calumet; his four children, Michael, Jr. (April), Brandon, Dustin and Holly Noel; aunts, Carole (Lynn) Beerbower, Ella (Jim) Landini, Linda (Mike) Gosdzinski, and Kaye Mattson; uncles, Dennis (Sue) Mattson, Glen (Ann) Mattson, Clyde (Judy) Mattson, Dale (Linda) Mattson and Chris Mattson; cousins, friends and Cassie Johnson. A private family service will be held at a later date for all those who loved Mike. Arrangements were handled by the Jukuri-Antila Funeral Home of Hancock. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at antiafuneral.com.

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric
Call 1-800-579-7356

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B4

Christmas Eve

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Worship service
Contact: (734) 421-0749

ONGOING

AWANA

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten-fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096

Classes/study

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

Livonia Unity

Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine – rid the body of toxic pathogens and painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615 for information

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location:YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank

Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Fellowship dinner

St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals
Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Food Bank

New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.

Moms

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m., first and third Thursday, MOPNext. Both programs run through May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPNext supports mothers of school-aged children. The theme will be "Momology - The Art & Science of Mothering" for MOPS and "Boundaries" for MOPNext
Contact: Rebekah Creeden at (734) 524-0283 for MOPS and Susan Magner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPS

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Pet-friendly service

Time/Date: 1 p.m., Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as non-denominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs
Contact: (313) 563-0162

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

Sunday, December 12, 2010
North Congregational Church
36520 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

10:30 a.m. Vivaldi's Gloria
performed in Worship by the Chancel Choir and soloists, with a Chamber Orchestra.

4 p.m. "Blue Christmas" Service
A time to share our pain, receive comfort, and hear anew the message of love and hope that is at the center of the Christmas story. All are welcome.

St. Michael's Church of Livonia

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday
Location: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia
Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows. (734) 261-1455

Senior citizens

Riverside Park Church of God
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., third Thursdays
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Senior adults, age 50 and over, enjoy social interaction and food
Contact: (734) 464-0990

Singles

First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry meets; cost is \$5
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.
Contact: (313) 534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Song Circle

Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m., every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West

Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (traditional Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net.

Support

Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: (248) 433-1011

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<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 <small>OE08712266</small></p>	<p>GREEK ORTHODOX</p> <p>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostas. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org <small>OE08712267</small></p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org <small>OE08712266</small></p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth 1 1/2 mi. W of Skokholm (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info <small>OE08712249</small></p>
<p>LUTHERAN-ELCA</p> <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584</p> <p>SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 P.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY SERVICE - ALL AGES 11:15 A.M. CONTEMPORARY SERVICE - NURSERY AVAILABLE - BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS <small>OE08713027</small></p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org</p> <p>Traditional Worship 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11 a.m.</p> <p>Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m</p> <p>The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM <small>OE08712402</small></p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1360</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org <small>OE08713041</small></p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p> <p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron <small>OE08712402</small></p>

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

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, December 9, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Bridal Couture sells bridal gowns, both special-order and stock, along with bridesmaid, mother of the bride, evening and flower girl gowns.

Bridal shop focuses on friendly service

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Bridal Couture: We sell bridal gowns, both special-order and stock, we also sell bridesmaid, mother of the bride, evening and flower girl gowns.

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

Bridal Couture: Years ago, when I got married, I visited some not-so-pleasant bridal stores. Some would only let you try on five or six dresses and some showed me dresses that were way over my budget. When the right time and store came about I purchased it to work to create a friendly store that worked with the bride to find her perfect dress within her budget.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Bridal Couture: I grew up in a small town in northern Michigan called Petoskey. I love towns that have a downtown area to stroll through and enjoy. Plymouth reminds me of my childhood town; the people

BRIDAL COUTURE

Business name and address: Bridal Couture of Plymouth, 408 S. Main in Plymouth

Your name and title: Amy Pohlod, owner

Your hometown: Grew up in Petoskey, now live in Birmingham

Business opened: I purchased the store Nov. 1, 2007

Number of employees: 6

Hours of operation: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Your business specialty: Bridal gowns and bridal party attire
Phone | website: (734) 455-1100 | www.bridalcouturemi.com

are wonderful and friendly and the stores and restaurants give you a small-town, warm feeling.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Bridal Couture: We are a full-service bridal salon that provides quality apparel and personal service.

Observer: How has it changed

since you opened?

Bridal Couture: When I first purchased the business it was down the street. Last May, we moved to 408 S. Main Street. The salon now has a boutique feel. It is a bright and warm environment. We have a wonderful staff that all work hard to make our customers enjoy their time with us. We have also focused on bringing in new designers that focus on romantic gowns.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Bridal Couture: More people are working to maintain a budget for the wedding day, especially with this economy. We have focused on bringing dresses in that cover a broader price point. We also have begun selling discontinued stock gowns at 50-percent off the original retail price. It is a great opportunity for brides to buy a dress for less.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Bridal Couture: We are continuing to work with new designers to bring our brides gowns that are unique and romantic.

Global marketplace influences domestic employment picture

When the disappointing employment numbers were announced last week, many people were probably thinking the stock market would tank. After all, the jobs situation is the linchpin to growing the U.S. economy.

The general consensus was that the economy in November would have produced well over 100,000 new jobs. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Unemployment rose from 9.6 percent to 9.8 percent. So why didn't the stock market negatively react to the disappointing job numbers?

As I've always said about the market — good news is bad news, and bad news is good news. It is impossible to predict how certain events will affect the market.

The market is always looking forward, while economic numbers are looking in reverse. That explains some of the differences. However, when it comes to jobs there is more to consider.

In the past, U.S. companies depended upon the U.S. markets for the majority of revenue and profit. Think back 20-30 years, it was irrelevant what Ford and General Motors sold abroad. Today that is not the case. Companies like Ford and General Motors need, and depend upon, foreign markets. Ford now has more employees abroad than in the U.S. and GM sells more cars outside the United States than it does inside this country.

Bottom line is that for many companies listed on the stock exchange, their revenues and



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

profits no longer solely depend upon just the U.S. markets. These companies are generating substantial revenues and profits from around the world.

Therefore, companies can show a profit and make money even though the U.S. economy continues to move along at an anemic pace. Americans sometimes forget that U.S. companies are competing and doing business in many foreign markets. Whether it is China, India or Eastern Europe, these economies are growing and are providing opportunities to many U.S.-based companies. It is because of what has been happening in these foreign markets that our companies are no longer solely dependent upon the U.S. economy. Is this good or bad, I don't know but it is the reality.

The recent unemployment numbers certainly were dismal and it doesn't appear they will significantly improve anytime soon. There are many reasons why unemployment remains high and why it will remain high into the future.

The first is technology. There has been an explosion in technology over the last 10 years and American companies are taking advantage of it. American businesses need fewer employees because of technology.

Another reason for the high

unemployment rate is outsourcing. In the past, when we thought of outsourcing, we thought of factory jobs. However, that is no longer the case. Just about every type of job — including professional services — is being outsourced. The world is a much smaller place, and most corporations go across country borders like you and I go across city lines. Many U.S. corporations consider themselves multi-national and have no problem moving jobs around the world. This is a trend that will continue.

And finally, unemployment will remain high because of the atmosphere in Washington. Many businesses believe the current administration is anti-business and they are reluctant to increase payrolls in this uncertain environment.

Employers don't know the effect health care legislation will have or what additional tax burden they will encounter.

There is no doubt we've entered a new economic reality that will take some adjustment. It is important to remember that the stock market no longer solely reflects the U.S. economy. Therefore, it is possible that the U.S. economy will continue to struggle while the stock market continues to perform well.

Good luck!

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Newest VP

SKF, the world's largest producer of bearings and seals, has appointed Jim Seta vice president of the newly formed Powertrain and Electrical Business Unit North America.

Seta is responsible for leading technical and commercial



sales efforts for all powertrain and electric motor applications for the passenger car and light truck industry. The new business unit is part of SKF's Automotive Division and is dedicated to addressing the current and long term needs of powertrain technologies as well as the emerging global alternate drive systems vehicle market.

Targeted market segments include traditional powertrain and electric motor applications as well as battery electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and fuel cell vehicles.

Seta is based in SKF's North American Technical Center in Plymouth.

Seta joined SKF in 2000 and has over 19 years of automotive related experience.

LaRiche DADA officer

The Detroit Auto Dealers Association, one of the nation's largest and most influential dealer organizations, announced its new slate of



Gathering food

Plymouth Salvation Army Capt. Dan Hull (from left), body shop assistant manager Sylvia Abdel and LaRiche Chevrolet general manager Scott LaRiche pose with one of the barrel's LaRiche staffers will man as the dealership hosts a food drive for the Plymouth Salvation Army. The dealership will host the food drive through the end of the year. Donors can drop off non-expired, non-perishable items to help those in need, not just at Christmas, but into the New Year. LaRiche is located at Plymouth and Haggerty in Plymouth Township.

officers for the 2010-2011 Board of Directors.

Newly elected officers include Plymouth's Scott



LaRiche

LaRiche, named treasurer-secretary. LaRiche is executive manager/vice president of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth, which was established in 1970 by Scott's father, Lou. Scott LaRiche is a third-generation dealer and has been part of the family business with his father and brothers, John and Robert, for more than 30 years (all of whom are

active in day-to-day operations at various locations). LaRiche is active in the Plymouth-Canton and Northville communities, and is a member of the Plymouth Rotary Club. LaRiche attended Eastern Michigan University where he was part of the 1978 National Championship Forensics Team.

The DADA was founded in 1907 by 17 local car dealers, and has grown to more than 220 member car and truck dealers, who donate their time and resources to a host of community activities. Currently, the DADA members collectively employ approximately 16,000 people.

Sara is 36 years old. She's at the top of her game at work and enjoys a little retail therapy on the weekends.

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Country Christmas

Singer hopes promo releases will attract record label

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Just in time for the holidays, Danielle Car is making a name for herself with a Christmas song, *Save Your Cookies For Me*, that's getting lots of regular air play.

It's the perfect gift for the 31-year-old Canton resident who has worked hard to establish herself as a country singer-songwriter the past decade.

"Trying to do country music in Detroit taught me no one is going to discover you. A lot of young performers see *American Idol* and they see success stories — 'I was in the mall and someone plucked me out' — that doesn't really happen. You have to carve your own path and work hard."

That's exactly what she has done since graduating from the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) program at Churchill High School in Livonia.

"CAPA gave me the courage and motivation to pursue performing in the Detroit area. It wasn't until after high school that I paid homage to my inner 'Dolly,'" she said. "I've been writing songs my whole life. I didn't set out to write country songs but looking back, most were a country music theme and the chord progression could be viewed as country."

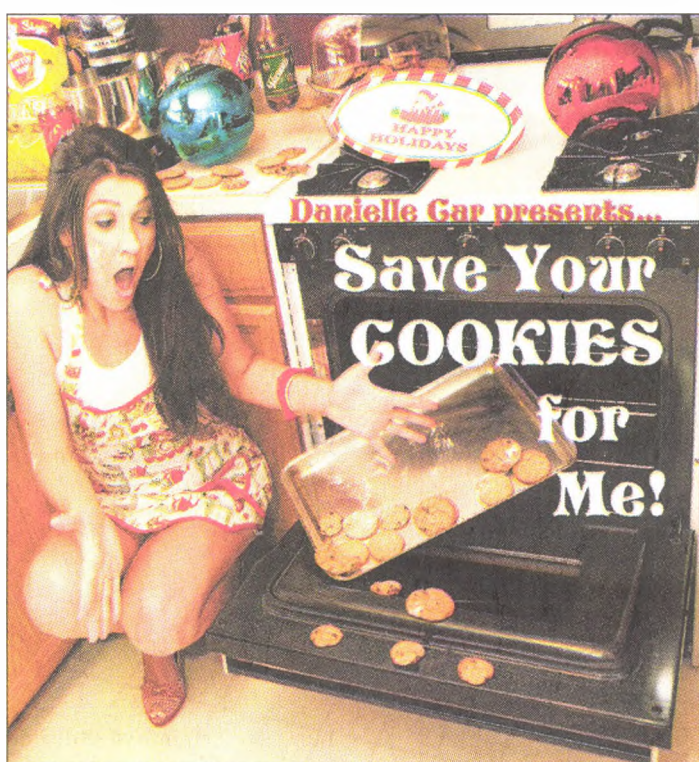
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

She spent a year studying vocal music at Eastern Michigan University and then earned certification through Henry Ford Community College to work as a paraprofessional. Her day job, teaching developmentally delayed preschoolers, allowed her to spend time at night and on the weekends performing the music she loves.

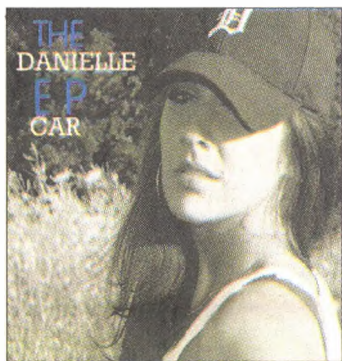
She's a veteran of the annual Hoedown at Hart Plaza in Detroit and developed a following at the Diamondback Saloon in Belleville, where she sang, played fiddle, guitar and banjo for four years — about 900 shows.

"I wouldn't trade those four years for anything. I got to play four and five nights a week. It taught me how to perform for a country music audience," she said, explaining that fans tend to become involved in the performance.

"They'll yell out their requests and they are ready for a good time. Rarely do you see a fair weather country music fan."



Danielle Car's Christmas song, "Save Your Cookies for Me" is getting in the holiday song rotation at WNIC.



"Walk of Shame," one of five songs on Danielle Car's extended-play recording, is included on a promo release of hot new country songs.

RADIO AUDIENCE

Save Your Cookies for Me "went over well" with the audience when she performed it at the Diamondback four years ago. Today it's reaching radio listeners and has been included in WNIC's (100.3 FM) rotation of holiday tunes.

It's among six songs that she recorded for promotional purposes and one of two that have been picked up by Promo Only, a firm that distributes new music to subscribing radio stations and clubs. Promo Only included *Save Your Cookies for Me* on a compilation disc along with music by such artists as Mariah Carey, Brad Paisley, and the Christmas songs from the *Glee* soundtrack.

Walk of Shame, one of the other five songs on an extended play recording, is included in Promo Only's hottest new

country tunes for January 2011. Car is the only independent artist on the entire disc, which includes such performers as Kelly Clarkson, Sugarland, and Darius Rucker. Songs on the extended play recording range from rockabilly to ballad to blues to rock. She describes *Save Your Cookies for Me* as "not so much country as blues and rock." It's listed on CDBaby.com as one of the top five holiday songs.

RECORD LABEL

"I retired from Dearborn Public Schools after 10 years in September. I wanted to take time to promote the music. I knew it would pay off," Car said. "I wanted to record the five (extended play) songs as an appetizer — a little ham and cheese for everyone — to see if anyone was hungry for more."

"Ultimately I'm hoping for someone, some record label, to come and scoop me up."

In the meantime, she'll continue to promote her songs, along with the video she recorded for *Walk of Shame*.

Married to Bill McAllister, morning show host on 97.1 The Ticket, Car also has her own weekend shift on 106.7 The Beat. Listen to her from noon to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Visit Car's Web site at www.daniellecar.com or view her MySpace page at www.myspace.com/daniellecar. Her music is available at CDBaby.com, iTunes.apple.com and Amazon.com



Danielle Car is a veteran of the Hoedown at Hart Plaza in Detroit.

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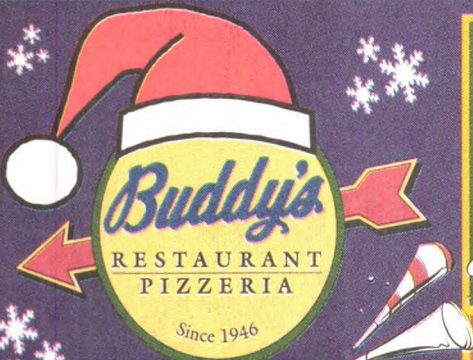


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Fiddler Mick Gavin of Redford and friends will perform A Celtic Christmas concert Saturday, Dec. 11, at Monaghan Knights of Columbus in Livonia.

Put a museum or concert under the Christmas tree

Need a holiday gift idea? The Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan has posted more than 30 ideas for special presents through its online guide, "Give the Gift of Art and Culture."

Shoppers can find unique gift ideas and special performances that also support southeastern Michigan's arts and cultural institutions, at www.culturalconcerge.com. The guide offers "Things to Do," "Gifts of Membership" and "Unique Gifts" and includes 31 of the region's museums, galleries and stages.

"Gifts of art and culture truly are special because they open new worlds to the receiver," stated Maud Lyon, executive director of the Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan. "The experience of a live event, a year-long membership at a museum, a unique work of art or a special book is not only a perfect gift, it can change the inner world of the recipient."

Performing arts and visits to museums are also a way for families and friends to spend time together, creating memories long that will last after other gifts may have been discarded or forgotten. A membership gives the recipient — a person or a family — an entire year of opportunities to pursue their personal interests and to explore new ideas.

Each organization features

a single item in the Gift Guide, a taste of many other options that they offer. For example, a theater may offer a season subscription, a museum may offer a family membership, and an art center may encourage shopping at its gift shop. The Gift of Art and Culture features events that are available or take place through Dec. 31, 2010.

The "things to do" listing includes such local organizations as the Plymouth Historical Museum and University Musical Society. The "unique gifts" category suggests the Detroit Zoological Society and Huron Valley Council for the Arts, among other organizations. Gifts of membership lists such venues as the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

The Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan is a professional association comprised of more than 100 nonprofit arts and culture organizations. In addition to advancing the programs and services of its member organizations, the Cultural Alliance connects audiences to new experiences, funders to organizations, and member organizations to new opportunities.

For more information about the Alliance, visit www.culturalalliancesemi.org or call (313) 831-1151.

Celebrate Christmas the Celtic way

The Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, Crossroads Ceili and friends will present "A Celtic Christmas" celebration from 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven and Eight Mile Roads, Livonia.

Admission is \$10. A cash bar and food will be available.

Call Mick Gavin at (313) 537-3489 or John Heinzman at (734) 754-3404 for more information.

Gavin, a fiddler from Redford, will be among the performers at Crossroads Ceili at the Ark, at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec.

17-18 at The Ark, 316 Main, Ann Arbor.

Admission is \$15 and will include special guest Brian Hart, along with Michael Gavin on banjo, fiddle, and guitar, Colleen Gavin on flute, whistle, and pipes, Kelsey Lutz on fiddle, Holland Raper on fiddle with

dance, Siobhan McKinney on harp, Ray Maguire on flute, whistle, and guitar, Tom MacNeil on piano) and the Dolowy Sisters on fiddle, piano, songs, and with step-dancing.

For more information call Gavin or the Ark at (734) 761-1818.

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BROADWAY IN DETROIT

Get into the holiday spirit at arts council lunch

Vocalist Noelle Jacquez will entertain at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Holiday Art Luncheon 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Jacquez will sing carols and lead a sing-a-long to get everyone in the holiday spirit. She has a degree in voice from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. She currently teaches voice lessons in the Plymouth area as well as musical theater classes at the Council.

Tickets are \$15.00, advance purchase only, and include a

gourmet boxed lunch from Jeff Zak Catering as well as the entertainment.

Buy tickets at the Council office or by calling (734) 416-4278.

The next Art Luncheon is scheduled for March 15, 2011 and will feature a presentation by the Detroit-based Sphinx Organization, dedicated to increasing diversity in classical music.

The Council's mission is to develop and to promote the appreciation and accessibility of the Arts for everyone in the greater Plymouth community. Find out more at www.plymoutharts.com.

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8-4 Mid-Am Conf.

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TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Saturdays, 1-7 p.m., through Jan. 29, 2011
Location: 15095 Northville Road, Plymouth Township, between eastbound and westbound 5 Mile intersections
Details: "Time Tells All" holiday-season art exhibition, a multi-artist retrospective of 2010 exhibitions. Artwork on display through Jan. 29, 2011; free
Contact: (734) 420-0775 or visit www.artandideasgallery.com

Detroit Artist Market

Time/Date: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through Dec. 23
Location: 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit
Details: Annual Art for the Holiday Show includes jewelry, glass, metal, ceramic, photography, accessories, paintings, drawings, sculpture, books, cards, framed prints and more for sale. Admission to the pre-view party are \$10 for Detroit Artist Market members and \$20 for non-members
Contact: (313) 832-8540

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Jan. 7-29, 2011; artist reception 6-9 p.m. Jan. 7
Location: 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville
Details: Erik Olson shows oil portraits of homes and structures in various stages of repair in a show called "An Outside View"
Contact: (248) 344-0497

The Gallery@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Jan. 2, 2011
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: Photos, including black and white still life and flower images, by Jason Nichols
Contact: (734) 394-5300

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield



"The Last Stop" by Erik Olson. His oil paintings will be on exhibit beginning Jan. 7, 2011, at Northville Art House.

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Russ Meneve, through Dec. 11; Roz G., Dec. 15-18; Billy Ray Bauer, Dec. 22-23; Steve Bills, Dec. 29-30 and Jan. 1; Tom Segura, Dec. 31
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: O'Brien & Valdez, Dec. 9-11; David Dyer, Dec. 16-18; Dan Grueter, Dec. 30-31
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedy-castle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: 9th Annual Concert for Peace, Dec. 9; Lucy Kaplansky, Dec. 10; The Electric Guitar Summit, Dec. 11; Cairn to Cairn, Dec. 12; Decembersongs, Dec. 14; Delbert

McClinton, Dec. 15; Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, Dec. 16; Crossroads Ceili, Dec. 17-18; Riders in the Sky, Dec. 19; Fred Eaglesmith, Dec. 31
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group perform. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts
Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Jazz @ The Elks

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Just Jazz Trio with Jerry McKenzie on drums, Matt Michaels on piano and Dan Jordan on bass; no cover, but donations accepted
Contact: (734) 453-1780 www.PlymouthElks1780.com

Jazz Cafe

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18
Location: Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: Freddy Cole Christmas, tickets \$27
Contact: www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500

Penn Theatre

Time/Date: 6 p.m. family concert and 8 p.m. traditional concert Thursday, Dec. 16
Location:
Details: The Plymouth Symphony presents "Home for the Holidays" Christmas concert. At the Family concert, members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra will join the symphony for a musical number and the orchestra's trumpet section will be featured at the 8 p.m. performance for "Bugler's Holiday" and a spectacular Vivaldi Concerto
Contact:

Redford Theatre

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 3 p.m. Dec. 12
Location: Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit
Details: The Motor City Theatre Organ Society presents "The Wonderful Music of Christmas" featuring Lance Luce at the Redford's Barton pipe organ. Luce will play holiday favorites, lead a sing-along

and introduce special guest performers; admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children, 12 and under. Santa will visit during the Dec. 11 performance
Contact: www.redfordtheatre.com

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Chris Trapper, Jan. 7, 2011; Ruth and Max Bloomquist, Jan. 8, 2011; Dave Boutette and the Folk Brothers, Jan. 14, 2011; Jay Stielstra Trio, Jan. 15, 2011; Sheila Landis featuring Rick Matle and Blues in the Night, Jan. 21, 2011; Billy Bynum and Company with Billy Brandt and Sarana Verlin, Jan. 22, 2011
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinity-house.org

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program
Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit
Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free
Contact: (248) 541-5717

FILM

Penn Theater

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:10 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Dec. 10-11 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "Life As We Know It," all seats \$3
Coming up: "The Polar Express," 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 17-19 and 5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19
Contact: (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com

Redford Theatre

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18
Location: 17360 Lahser, Detroit
Details: "White Christmas," tickets \$4
Contact: www.redfordtheatre.com

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FOOD

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Scene-Stealing Holiday Stuffing

Roasted Vegetable & Cornbread Stuffing

While turkey is in the spotlight at most holiday meals, the prize for best supporting dish definitely goes to stuffing. People often reach for the stuffing before any other side dish on the table. This season, why not serve more than one variety? In addition to a traditional favorite, try something new. According to the team at Campbell's Kitchen, who create and test recipes year-round, there are numerous combinations of flavors appropriate for a great stuffing recipe. Dress your table and your taste buds with a Roasted Vegetable and Cornbread Stuffing, which is made easy with a Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned stuffing base, fresh butternut squash, sweet onions, ground cumin and chopped cilantro. The secret ingredient is Swanson Chicken broth, which adds layers of flavor and keeps stuffing from drying out. Other delicious options include Caramelized Onion with Pancetta & Rosemary Stuffing and a Roasted Fennel with Lemon Stuffing. All are sure to delight holiday guests gathered around the dinner table. For more scene-stealing stuffing recipes visit www.GreatStuffingDebate.com. To find great holiday menu ideas and cooking tips visit www.campbellskitchen.com/swansonbroth.

CARAMELIZED ONION WITH PANCETTA & ROSEMARY STUFFING

Prep: 20 minutes

Cook: 30 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 12 servings (about 3/4 cup each)

6 tablespoons butter
2 large sweet onions, diced (about 3 cups)
1 package (4 ounces) cubed pancetta (about 1 cup)
4 cloves garlic, chopped
2 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary leaves
3 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic) 1/4 cup sherry
1 package (14 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned stuffing

1. Heat the oven to 350°F.
2. Heat the butter in a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add the onions and cook for 15 minutes or until well browned, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir the pancetta, garlic, celery and rosemary in the saucepan and cook until the pancetta is well browned, stirring occasionally. Stir in the broth and sherry and heat to a boil. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Add the stuffing and mix lightly. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Cover the casserole. 4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot.

ROASTED FENNEL WITH LEMON STUFFING

Prep: 25 minutes

Roast: 30 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 12 servings (about 3/4 cup each)

2 medium fennel bulbs, trimmed and diced (about 3 cups)
2 medium sweet onions, chopped (about 2 cups)
4 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 cup olive oil
4 teaspoons grated lemon zest
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
1/2 cup pine nuts, toasted
3 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic)

1 package (14 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned stuffing
1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Place the fennel, onions and garlic into a large bowl. Add the oil and toss to coat. Spoon the fennel mixture onto 2 rimmed baking sheets.
2. Roast for 30 minutes or until the fennel mixture is lightly browned, stirring occasionally.
3. Reduce the oven temperature to 350°F. Stir the fennel mixture, lemon zest, parsley, pine nuts and broth in a large bowl. Add the stuffing and mix lightly. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Cover the casserole.
4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot.

ROASTED VEGETABLE & CORNBREAD STUFFING

Prep: 30 minutes

Roast: 30 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 16 servings (about 3/4 cup each)

1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced (about 6 cups)
2 medium sweet onions, chopped (about 2 cups)
4 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
2 teaspoons ground cumin
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves
2 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
3 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic)

1 package (14 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Cornbread stuffing
1 package (about 4 ounces) chorizo sausage, chopped (optional)

1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Place the squash, onions and garlic into a large bowl. Add the cumin and oil and toss to coat. Spoon the squash mixture onto 2 rimmed baking sheets.
2. Roast for 30 minutes or until the squash mixture is lightly browned, stirring occasionally.
3. Reduce the oven temperature to 350°F. Stir the squash mixture, cilantro, celery and broth in a large bowl. Add the stuffing and mix lightly. Stir in the sausage, if desired. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3 1/2-quart casserole. Cover the casserole.
4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot.

CHESTNUT, FIG & HONEY STUFFING

Prep: 20 minutes

Cook: 10 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 12 servings (about 3/4 cup each)

1/2 cup butter (1 stick)
1 cup thinly sliced shallots
1 jar (7.4 ounces) roasted peeled chestnuts, coarsely chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
16 dried figs, stems removed, cut in quarters (about 1 cup)
2 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
2 tablespoons honey
4 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic)
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
1 package (12 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Cubed stuffing

1. Heat the oven to 350°F.

2. Heat the butter in a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add the shallots, chestnuts, figs and celery and cook until the celery is tender, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir the honey and broth in the saucepan and heat to a boil. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Add the parsley and stuffing and mix lightly. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Cover the casserole.
4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot. Easy substitution: You can substitute 1/2 cup chopped walnuts for the chestnuts.

- Family Features

Remember walking into grandma's kitchen and smelling that first whiff of holiday dinner in the oven? You can recreate that same warm holiday feeling for your family with a mouthwatering, hickory smoked ham.

There are a surprising number of ham cuts — how do you know which one to choose? These tips from Cook's Ham will help you find just what you need:

Spiral Sliced Hams

- Pre-sliced in a spiral fashion, so it's easy to serve
- Available as quarters, halves and wholes
- Quarter serves 7-10 people, half serves 15-20 people, whole serves 30-40 people

Half Ham

- No center steaks removed for more premium lean meat
- Larger than a portion ham
- Serves 15-20 people

Semi-Boneless Ham

- Fewer bones and less fat for more carvable lean meat
- Two of three bones removed so it's easier to carve
- Half serves 15-20 people, whole serves 30-40 people

Skinless Shankless Ham

- Less fat, less bone and more lean meat
- One of three bones removed so carving is easier
- Half serves 15-20 people, whole serves 30-40 people

Portioned Ham

- Best value for great bone-in ham flavor
- Since steaks have been removed, it is smaller than a half ham
- Serves 10-15 people

Ham Steaks

- Premium center cut slices
- Heat up in minutes for a quick and tasty meal
- Approximately 1 pound
- Serves 3-4 people

Thick Cut Ham Steaks

- Great for throwing on the grill
- Approximately 2 pounds
- Serves 6-8 people

Old-fashioned holiday ham



Like a time machine that takes you back to the holidays of old, naturally hickory smoked Cook's hams have been the centerpiece of holiday meals for more than 65 years. When your kitchen fills with that sweet aroma, you'll think about holidays gone by and the memories about to be made.

For more quick and easy recipes, visit www.CooksHam.com

HONEY-GLAZED HAM WITH CRANBERRY RELISH

1 Cook's Bone-in Spiral Sliced Half Ham (about 9 pounds)

Glaze

1/2 Cook's Sweet Ham Glaze and Dipping Sauce package, heated 20 seconds in microwave (reserve 1/2 package for dipping sauce if desired)
1 teaspoon ground mustard (may add additional ground mustard for stronger flavor)
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice

Cranberry Relish

1 large Granny Smith apple, peeled, finely chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
1 cup cranberry juice cocktail
1 package (6 ounces) sweetened dried cranberries (about 1 1/2 cups)
2 tablespoons orange marmalade
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Begin by preparing ham according to heating instructions on package label. Approximately 45 minutes before end of heating time, prepare glaze by mixing glaze and dipping sauce, mustard and lemon juice in small bowl until blended. Set aside until the last 10 minutes of heating time.

Make Cranberry Relish: Combine apples and juice in medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add cranberries; simmer an additional 5 minutes, or until fruit is tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in marmalade and pecans. Set aside until ready to eat. Or, if made in advance, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Uncover ham and brush with glaze for the last 10 minutes of the heating time. Let stand 10 minutes. Carve and serve with Cranberry Relish and reserved sauce.

- Family Features

Add zing to holiday dishes with cranberries

Think cranberries are just for sauce? Think again with your taste buds.

Holiday favorites, cranberries are loaded with Vitamin C and make a perfect addition to side dishes, desserts, appetizers and drinks. They even hold their own in main dish recipes.

Here's a sampling of ways to use fresh and dried berries that will take you from appetizer to dessert:

CRANBERRY BRIE APPETIZER BITES

Makes 24 appetizers

Ingredients:
 ¾ cup Ocean Spray Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce
 1 teaspoon lemon juice
 ½ teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel
 24 (3¼- by 3¼-inch) wonton wrappers
 1 (8-ounce) brie round
Directions:
 Place ¾ cup Ocean Spray Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce in a 1½-quart saucepan. Cook over medium heat until hot, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in lemon juice and lemon peel.
 Meanwhile, heat oven to 350. Spray 24 miniature muffin cups with nonstick cooking spray.

Press one wonton wrapper gently into each sprayed cup, allowing ends to extend above cups. Spray edges of wonton wrappers with nonstick cooking spray. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes or until bottoms of cups are beginning to brown; remove from oven.

If desired, remove rind from brie. Cut brie into 24 cubes, about ¾-inch each. Place one cube in each cup; place sheet of aluminum foil over each pan to prevent excessive browning. Return to oven. Bake 3 to 5 minutes longer or until brie is soft. Remove from oven; top each with about 1 teaspoon cranberry mixture.



Cranberry Brie Appetizer Bites

CRANBERRY MARGARITA MOLDED SALAD

Makes 10 servings

Ingredients:
 1 6-ounce package wild strawberry-flavored gelatin dessert mix
 1½ cups boiling water
 1 14-ounce can Ocean Spray Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce
 1 8-ounce container frozen sliced sweetened strawberries, thawed slightly
 1 10-ounce can frozen margarita mix, thawed
 ½ cup tequila, optional
Directions:
 Spray 6-cup gelatin mold with nonstick cooking spray. Combine gelatin dessert mix and boiling water in a large bowl, stirring until gelatin has dissolved. Place cranberry sauce in a small bowl and beat with a fork until smooth. Stir into gelatin mixture. Add remaining ingredients, mixing well. Pour into mold. Cover with plastic

wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours or until serving time.

When ready to serve, dip mold into warm water for 7 to 10 seconds or until gelatin loosens. Place serving plate on top of mold, invert and remove mold.

Serving Variation: For individual servings, dip the rims of 10 margarita glasses in Cranberry Sugar 2 or 3 times or until rims are thickly coated with cranberry sugar. (No need to moisten rims first). Prepare molded salad recipe as directed, and divide salad mixture into glasses. Store in refrigerator. Just before serving, garnish each glass with a lime twist.

Cranberry Sugar:
 Place 1 cup sugar and 3 tablespoons fresh cranberries in a food processor. Process until smooth and evenly-colored. Spoon sugar into shallow dish.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS SALAD WITH PANCETTA AND CRANBERRIES

Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients:
 6 ounces pancetta, cut into small dice (1½ cups)
 2 pounds baby brussels sprouts, leaves separated
 ¼ cup Ocean Spray Craisins Original Dried Cranberries
 3 tablespoons shallots, finely chopped
 1 clove garlic, minced
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 ¼ cup chicken stock
 4 slices of white bread, cut into cubes and made into croutons
 kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
Directions:
 In a large saute pan over medium heat, add a 2 count of olive oil and add the pancetta. Cook until the fat renders, 2 to 3 minutes and the pancetta is nice and crispy. Add the garlic, shallots, cranberries and separated brussel sprout leaves. Toss well to combine all the ingredients. Add the balsamic and chicken stock and continue to cook until the brussel sprouts have just wilted, 3-4 minutes. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper then serve.

HOLIDAY GLAZED HAM

Makes 2½ cups of glaze

Ingredients:
 1 14-ounce can Ocean Spray Whole Berry or Jellied Cranberry Sauce
 ½ cup apricot preserves
 2 tablespoons sweet honey mustard
 1 8-pound fully-cooked whole boneless ham
Directions:
 Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Cook on medium heat, whisking occa-

sionally, until preserves are melted and sauce is smooth. Remove from heat. Set aside. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place ham on rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake, uncovered, for 2 hours or until a meat thermometer registers 140 degrees. Liberally baste ham with glaze during the last 45 minutes of baking.

GINGERBREAD WITH WARM CRANBERRY COMPOTE

Makes 9 servings

Ingredients:
 1 14.5-ounce package gingerbread cake mix
 2 cups Ocean Spray Fresh or Frozen Cranberries
 3 cups pineapple chunks, cut in half
 1 cup brown sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
 Whipped cream
Directions:
 Prepare gingerbread as direct-

ed on package. Cool completely. Combine remaining ingredients, except whipped cream, in a medium saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil and cook just until the cranberries begin to pop, stirring frequently. Cool sauce slightly. Spoon warm compote over each serving of gingerbread. Top with whipped cream.

Recipes and photos courtesy of Ocean Spray

Easy-to-make berry bowl dresses up dinner table

In addition to adding cranberries to your cooking, you can set the table with berries to create a festive mood.

Here's an easy way to add light and color to the dining room:

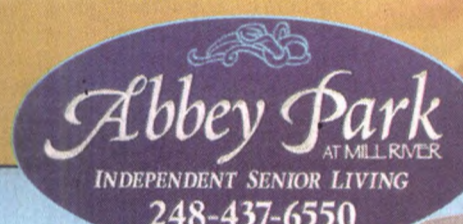
CRANBERRY CANDLE FLOAT

Supplies:
 1 clear punch bowl or other wide-mouthed, low bowl
 2-3 12-oz. bags Ocean Spray Fresh Cranberries (depending on size of bowl)
 3-4 floating candles
 1 live flower, stem cut to 1-inch
 Water
Directions:
 Fill bowl ¾-full with water. Add cranberries and floating candles. Arrange candles so they are evenly spaced amidst the berries. Add a single



Floating cranberries, candles and flowers create an interesting centerpiece for the dining room table.

spectacular bloom and light candles. Replace berries when they become soft, which can range from a few days to about a week. Caution: do not leave lit candles unattended.



Abbey Park
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Festival of Trees

18 trees decorated by:

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- Citizens Bank
- Chapman Academy/Red Apple Preschool
- Gayle's Dance Phase
- Henry's Collision
- Huron Valley Ambulance
- The King Family
- Lyon Area Rotary
- Lyon Township Firefighters
- The Medical Team
- The Miner Family/Miner's Barber Shop
- Seasons Hospice
- South Lyon Herald
- South Lyon High School Band Boosters
- Tamra Ward

Vote for your favorite tree -- voting tickets are \$1 each, 100% of your donation benefits 18 local charities.


Contest closes at 3:00 pm on December 12th, donations to local charities accepted until Christmas Eve.


Community Christmas Celebration, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Sunday, December 12th.

Join us for live entertainment provided by the Silver Eagle Trio and our beautiful dessert buffet. Photos with Santa are available.

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 (across from Coyote Golf Course)
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REAL ESTATE

SECTION C (*) Thursday, December 9, 2010

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:
 SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY
 THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAY

Julie Brown, editor, (313) 222-6755
 jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Some ways to lower heating costs without spending a lot

There are things you can do this winter to save money and stay warm. Following these energy efficiency tips can help lower your energy bills.

•Have your furnace inspected annually, ideally before the heating season begins. A well-maintained heating system runs more efficiently.
 •Lower your thermostat while no one is home, or while everyone is in bed. Every degree you dial down below 72 degrees could save you up to 3 percent on your

heating costs.

•Install a programmable thermostat that can automatically adjust the temperature according to your schedule.
 •Plug air leaks with caulking, weather stripping or adding insulation.

•Replace furnace filters regularly.
 •Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. You will get the same or better light output at a lower cost.

•Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees.

•Wash and rinse your clothes in cold water, instead of hot, to save on water heating costs.

•Use MyEnergyAnalyzer, a simple to use and easy to understand online energy efficiency tool available at dteenergy.com/myenergy to get customized energy savings tip and analyze your energy bills.

Visit the DTE Energy website YourEnergySavings.com for more energy efficiency tips.



Chris Distelrath, board member, Tom Risi, board member, Christine Bodie, Gala chair and Advisory Board member, and Alice Dent, executive director, visit at the Habitat Gala at Schoolcraft College.

Habitat Gala puts focus on housing ministry work, a helping hand up

A recent Building Houses Building Hope Gala put the spotlight on Plymouth-based Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County. The Gala was held at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center in Livonia.

Habitat home recipients are required to put a minimum of 250 hours of "sweat equity" into building or renovation of their homes. This year's Western Wayne projects have included building/rehabbing of home sites in Westland and Redford.

Habitat homeowners also pay property taxes and homeowners insurance. They pay a 20-year zero percent mortgage. (Mortgage payments are recycled to build additional homes.)

Christine Brodie of Plymouth Township, Gala chair, said, "It was a great event. The amount of money that we raised for Habitat, first and foremost." She cited sponsorships, donations to the silent auction, keynote speaker Jim Vella, president of the Ford Motor Co. Fund, and the band The Vinyl Underground.

"Last but certainly not least our emcee Robin Sullivan" from 103.5-WMUZ radio, Brodie said. "And the venue."

A National Women Build grant sponsored by Lowe's began on May 5 with activities leading up to Mother's Day. May 11 to July 15, women volunteers helped not only build a house, but a new life for a mother and her children.

Additional information on the local affiliate is online at www.habitatwvc.org. The phone is (734) 459-7744.

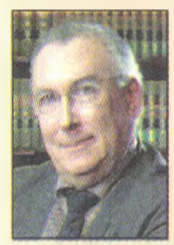
Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County is one of over 70 affiliates in the state of Michigan, formed in 1995 as part of the Christian ministry to eliminate sub-standard housing. The affiliate has built or rehabbed houses in Canton Township, Garden City, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Redford, Romulus, Taylor, Wayne, Westland and Van Buren Township.

-By Julie Brown

Bylaws change up to board

Q: We are deciding whether or not we want to amend our bylaws and the board is suggesting that we go to all of the homeowners for their consent as to whether we should begin the project. Do you think that is a good idea?

A: Not necessarily. The board is the legal entity to make decisions regarding suggesting changes to the documents and retaining



Robert Meisner

counsel to do so. If you operate as a committee of the whole, you are likely to end up behind the 8 Ball because the homeowners do not

operate under the same type of fiduciary duties as does the board. It is a board decision to make and it should be left that way.

Q. What is FHA certification and how can my condominium project benefit from obtaining FHA certification?

A. The Fair Housing Administration was created by Congress to aid purchasers in acquiring homes by providing lenders with sufficient insurance to limit their risk. The FHA insures mortgage loans issued by certain federally qualified lenders against default. The FHA has developed a certification process in order to limit the risk associated with the insurance it issues. FHA certification ensures that condominium units are marketable to the largest pool of potential buyers. Lack of FHA certification means less financing options for prospective purchasers and may make it more difficult or even impossible for current co-owners to refinance existing loans to take advantage of historically low interest rates. You should consult with a knowledgeable condominium attorney with regard to whether FHA certification would benefit your condominium project.

Q. I serve on the board of directors for my condominium association. A co-owner approached me recently and inquired as to whether the condominium project should seek certification from the Fair Housing Administration. I swiftly dismissed her inquiry and I now wonder whether I should reconsider her question.

A. A board of directors which refuses to or does not seek FHA certification could subject the association and possibly individual board members to liability unless the board can justify its inaction. An example of justification in not seeking FHA certification is that it may not be practical in an upscale condominium project where unit values far exceed FHA loan limits. The board should consult with an attorney with regard to specific FHA requirements.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 23-27, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

44298 Arlington Rd 45415 Brunswick Dr 47869 Cardiff Ave 49603 Cherokee Cir 3398 Creeks Bend Ct 46800 Creeks Bend 1250 E Crystal Cir 4084 Elizabeth Ave 45748 Gainsborough Dr	\$139,000 \$190,000 \$71,000 \$245,000 \$150,000 \$177,000 \$215,000 \$73,000 \$200,000	Canton	50292 Hancock St 3326 Hannan Rd 5788 Hathaway Rd 1414 Kensington Dr 1922 Pinecroft Dr 47052 Sherstone Dr 1707 Tremont Rd 2041 W Roundtable Dr	\$295,000 \$31,000 \$260,000 \$289,000 \$70,000 \$175,000 \$275,000 \$152,000	Garden City	31928 Rush St	\$100,000	Livonia	14467 Adams St 31640 Bretton St 15780 Edgewood St 14474 Fairway St 34197 Richland St 27785 Western Golf Dr 16950 Carriage Way 19375 Crystal Lake Dr	\$135,000 \$120,000 \$180,000 \$218,000 \$110,000 \$196,000 \$372,000 \$88,000	Northville	44030 Medinah Ct 16066 Morningside 19697 Northridge Dr 18884 Stonewater Blvd 15744 Troon Ct	\$100,000 \$110,000 \$51,000 \$875,000 \$560,000	Plymouth	9345 Baywood Dr 13982 Covington Dr 777 Deer Ct 15122 Farmbrook Dr 41443 Five Mile Rd 500 Ford St 41660 Greenbriar Ln 12264 Howland Park Dr 625 Ross St 287 Sunset St	\$186,000 \$90,000 \$99,000 \$159,000 \$175,000 \$25,000 \$165,000 \$365,000 \$180,000 \$280,000	Redford	16511 Brady 19654 Brady 26730 Joy Rd	\$20,000 \$78,000 \$9,000	13031 Laverne 19960 Negaunee 9987 Virgil	\$72,000 \$25,000 \$20,000	Westland	30561 Avondale St 37180 Baker Dr 36803 Canyon Dr 6780 Central City Pkwy 6542 Chirewa St 6881 Deerhurst Dr 7765 Lear Ct 30664 Nelson Cir 1421 Shoemaker Dr 36422 Tall Oak 38494 Terry Ln 35646 Thames St 38190 Warren Rd	\$37,000 \$190,000 \$177,000 \$83,000 \$85,000 \$95,000 \$95,000 \$118,000 \$50,000 \$93,000 \$133,000 \$54,000 \$102,000
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HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 23-27, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

18030 Beverly Rd 31671 Southview St	\$65,000 \$210,000	Beverly Hills	100 E Square Lake Rd 430 Fox Hills Dr N # 8 3847 Oakland Dr 4113 Telegraph Rd 4567 Wabeek Forest Dr	\$45,000 \$24,000 \$1,325,000 \$26,000 \$287,000	Commerce Township	4143 Caney 4865 Ledgewood Dr 8065 Locklin Ln	\$227,000 \$175,000 \$705,000	Farmington	22575 Lilac St	\$103,000	Farmington Hills	20809 Deerfield 39119 Downs Ct 37082 Dunstable Ct 35248 Gary St 38579 Glastonberry	\$63,000 \$287,000 \$290,000 \$130,000 \$109,000	37732 Hollyhead Dr 27427 Hystone Dr 23364 Larkshire St 35324 Northmont Dr 38176 Saratoga Cir	\$176,000 \$125,000 \$91,000 \$230,000 \$112,000	Lathrup Village	28731 Somerset Pl	\$140,000	Novi	45143 Bartlett Dr 27038 Maxwell St 22844 Tallford Dr 24374 Terra Del Mar Dr 27380 Victoria Rd 44576 Williams Cir 24009 Wintergreen Cir 28272 Wolcott Dr	\$261,000 \$45,000 \$56,000 \$528,000 \$280,000 \$41,000 \$89,000	1360 Cartwright Ln 1023 Crestwood Ct 60680 Deer Creek Dr 59572 Twin Pines Dr	\$30,000 \$210,000 \$214,000 \$106,000	Southfield	20320 Brookshire St 25948 Franklin Pointe Dr 28775 Glasgow St 25381 Lois Lane Dr 29922 Rambling Rd 30042 Rambling Rd	\$97,000 \$40,000 \$16,000 \$115,000 \$94,000 \$110,000	White Lake	1280 Bablon Dr 9489 Cooks Ct 1160 Sugen Dr 340 Woodsedge Ln	\$165,000 \$193,000 \$44,000 \$280,000	South Lyon
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REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

A Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. To reserve a seat or for more information, call Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

BIA

•Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present three-hour Continuing Competency courses required by the state of Michigan for renewal of

a Residential Builder's License or Maintenance & Alterations Contractor's License. One three-hour course is required per license cycle. The sessions will be offered as follows:
 • Monday, Dec. 13, from 1-4 p.m. at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.
 Don Pratt, CGB, CGR, CAPS or Wake-Pratt Construction will present the courses. Each session will cover one hour in each of the three required areas: legal issues, codes and safety issues.

Registration is \$55 per person for members of BIA

and for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org/events.php.

Investors

Speed Networking to meet new investors, suppliers and contractors. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards for exchanging. Presented by Real Estate Investors Associations of Oakland on Thursday, Dec. 9, 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile, Madison Heights. Seminar free to members, \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742.

(www.REIAofOakland.com)
Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage

Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

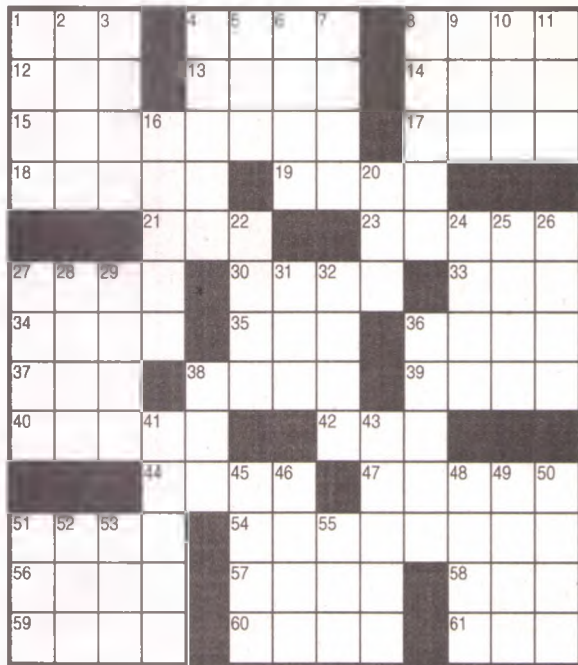
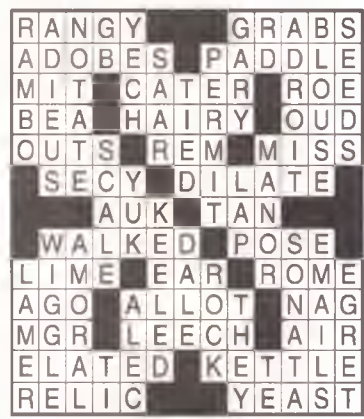
Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the south-east corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addvalerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Challenging fun for ALL ages
Thursday
PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

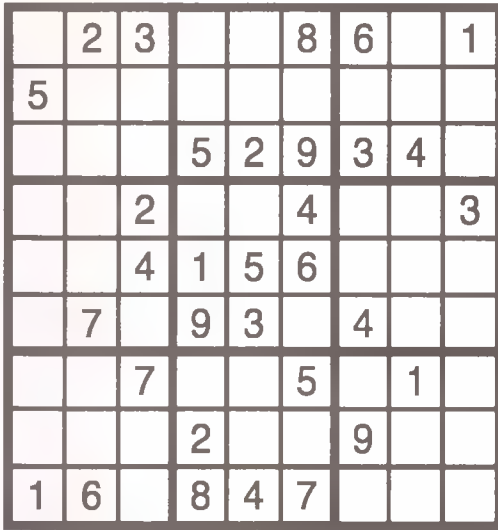
- ACROSS**
- 1 — relief
 - 4 Rock group
 - Jethro —
 - 8 Remote
 - 12 Again and again
 - 13 Popular cookie
 - 14 Wrinkle
 - 15 Blackbirds
 - 17 Sheik, usually
 - 18 Apologetic
 - 19 Flower part
 - 21 Aurora, to Socrates
 - 23 Car import
 - 27 Gulleets
 - 30 Ingrid in "Casablanca"
 - 33 Caveman from Moo
 - 34 Fix a manuscript
 - 35 Famous London gardens
 - 36 Gash
 - 37 Hunk of cotton
 - 38 "Wool" on clay sheep
 - 39 Aberdeen kids
- DOWN**
- 1 Quagmires
 - 2 Frizzy coif
 - 3 Black hole, once
 - 4 Godzilla's favorite city
 - 5 Home page addr.
 - 6 Sheltered sides
 - 7 Mislead
 - 8 1836 battle site
 - 9 Flat-needed tree
 - 10 Santa — winds
 - 11 Vicksburg fighter
 - 16 Helmet plume
 - 20 Ms. Gabor
 - 22 Turban wearer
 - 24 Falana or Montez
 - 25 Vast emptiness
 - 26 Chooses
 - 27 Gulls' cries
 - 28 Not know from
 - 29 Broad-based
 - 31 Luau welcome
 - 32 Festoon
 - 36 Enjoy a puddle
 - 38 —Magnon man
 - 41 —craftsy
 - 43 Cut some slack
 - 45 Tower over
 - 46 Cry of surprise
 - 48 Pedro's house
 - 49 Viking name
 - 50 Revival setting
 - 51 Summit
 - 52 100%
 - 53 Vitamin amt.
 - 55 Like Capp's Abner

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 12-11 © 2010 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
- 7 Mislead
- 8 1836 battle site
- 9 Flat-needed tree
- 10 Santa — winds
- 11 Vicksburg fighter
- 16 Helmet plume
- 20 Ms. Gabor
- 22 Turban wearer
- 24 Falana or Montez
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- 50 Revival setting
- 51 Summit
- 52 100%
- 53 Vitamin amt.
- 55 Like Capp's Abner

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

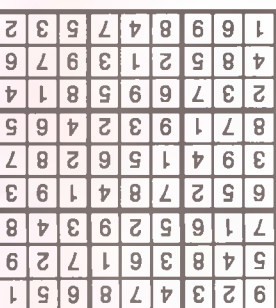
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search

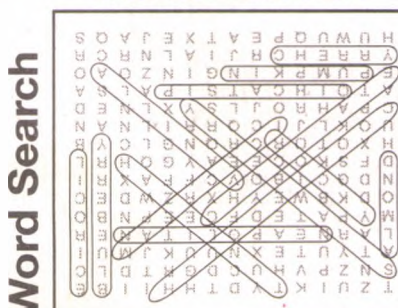
T Z U I K T Y D T H H I I B E
S N Z P V H U C D G R T D L C
A T Y U T E X N U I K J M U I
L A R N E A P O L I T A N E R
M Y P A T E D F C E E P N B O
O D K B W E Y H X R Z W D E C
N D G C I B O V C F F A X R I
D F S K O C E E A Y G Q H R L
H X O T O R C R Q N G L C Y B
U O K L J I C Q R R I L N A N
C P A H R O J L S Y X L N E D
A T O I H C A T S I P A L S A
E P U M P K I N G I N Z O A O
Y R R E H C R J I A L N R C R
H U W U Q P E A T X E J A Q S

- almond cherry hazelnut neapolitan rocky
banana chocolate ice cream pistachio strawber
blueberry cookie dough licorice pumpkin vanilla

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-8113	4.875	0	4.25	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	4.5	0	4	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	4.625	0	4.125	0	J/V/F
First Michigan Bank (248) 498-2824	4.625	0	3.75	0	J/V/F
First State Bank (800) 372-2205	4.5	0	4	0	F
Gold Star Mortgage (800) 784-1074	4.25	0.5	3.75	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922	4.375	0	3.75	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	4.75	0	4.25	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	4.25	0.5	3.75	0	J/A/V/F

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Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2010 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

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