



REINDEER HAS A NOSE FOR THE JOB
STRICTLY BUSINESS, A9

COMMUNITY VOICE SPECIAL EDITION
AREA KIDS ANSWER THE QUESTION:
What is the best gift you ever received?
SEE OPINION, A10



CLASSIC EGGNOG IS BACK
FOOD, B8

THURSDAY
December 23, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 124
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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER
hometownlife .com

PIPELINE

Holiday closings

Municipal offices in Plymouth and Plymouth Township will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the Christmas holiday.

Plymouth Township Hall and Plymouth City Hall will reopen on Monday, Dec. 27. The regular hours at both places are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In Plymouth, City Hall will be closed Thursday, Dec. 30, and Friday, Dec. 31, for the New Year's Day holiday. The offices will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 3.

In the township, Township Hall will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31, and Monday, Jan. 3, and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 4.

The township treasurer's office, however, will be open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 31 for those who want to pay winter property taxes. The winter property taxes, though not due until February, must be paid by the end of the year in order to be deducted from federal 2011 income taxes.

Trash pickup

As Christmas and New Year's Day are both on Saturdays, there will be no holiday delays in curbside trash and recycling pickup in either community.

Crews in both communities will begin picking up live Christmas trees beginning Monday, Jan. 3. Trees should be set out, on the regular trash pickup day, without plastic bags, ornaments, tinsel, lights or tree stands. Trees 12 feet long or longer should be cut in half.

Christmas tree pickups will continue, on regular trash pickup days, for two weeks.

Holiday photos

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.

The 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 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 enelsonlc@att.net.



John and Arline Greacen of Plymouth Township with their Dickensian village, which features some 82 buildings, 70 tiny people and more than 100 trees.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It takes a village

Dickens display brings neighborhood together



The buildings were either purchased or given as gifts, but Arline Greacen crafted the water and the snow-covered mountains by hand.

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Arline Greacen (and paraphrasing Hillary Clinton), it takes a village to make a happy holiday season around her Plymouth Township home.

So she built one. Using some 80 pieces of Dept. 56-brand Dickensian buildings — a combination of her own purchases and gifts from family and friends — Greacen and her husband, John, every year construct "Arline's Dickens Village" in what is supposed to be a dining room.

The holiday display, which covers most of the room on tables built by John, goes up every year around Halloween and stays up generally until late January.

"The kids in the neighborhood love it," said Arline, who names the tiny figures in the display after neighborhood children. "They can't wait to see where in the village I've put them. It brings everyone together."

Including Arline and John. While she puts the display together, and hand-crafted the water and the snow-capped mountains, John was busy putting the infrastructure together.

There's an elaborate wiring harness, floodlights and music in the background, and the total effect is exactly what Arline wanted — a Dickensian village depict-

Please see **VILLAGE, A4**

Scout leader convicted on sex charges

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Hoefling

20 years in prison when Judge Thomas Jackson sentences him on Jan. 20, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller

A 49-year-old Canton man and former Boy Scout leader has been convicted of charges he sexually abused two 16-year-old boys, gave alcohol to them and used his position of authority to coerce the victims.

William Arther Hoefling, a married father of two teen sons, was convicted of multiple charges Friday by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury that returned its verdict after hearing testimony from the two accusers and weighing it against courtroom statements Hoefling's wife and one of his sons made in support of him.

Hoefling, a former scoutmaster for Plymouth-based Boy Scout Troop 781, could face penalties ranging up to

stand trial in August after 35th District Judge Michael Gerou heard testimony and cited "a pattern of secrecy" involving a supposed role model who "was in a superior position to the Scouts involved."

The jury convicted Hoefling of one count of child sexually abusive activity; two counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct; two counts of using computers and the Internet to communicate with another to commit a crime; one count of distributing sexually explicit matter to children; and three counts of furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Hoefling was found not guilty of one count of using the Internet to commit a crime.

Please see **LEADER, A5**

Grant pushes field closer to reality

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A \$250,000 grant from the State of Michigan has pushed the Miracle League of Plymouth to within \$100,000 of the money it needs to build a baseball field in Plymouth for children with mental and physical special needs.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, whose district includes Plymouth, Canton and Northville, helped the Miracle League through the grant process and presented the check at a ceremony at the site of the park behind Central Middle School Wednesday.

"From an economic standpoint, the last four years have been tough," said Corriveau, who presented the check on his last day on the job. "To be able to end on such a personal high note for me is incredibly gratifying."

The ballpark will be constructed behind Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth and will include a custom-designed, rubberized turf field that accommodates wheelchairs and other assistive devices, giving all children an opportunity to play baseball.

According to Deb Madonna, the director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council who is heading the Miracle League effort, the grant pushes the league to \$400,000 toward building the field (the goal is \$500,000). They're scheduled to break ground in April.

Madonna also said some \$58,000 has already been donated to the endowment for the care of the field once it's built. Donors can donate by check or credit card; details are on the league's website at www.miracleleagueplymouth.org. Checks can be made out to The Miracle League of Plymouth and sent to P.O. Box 5384, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Miracle League co-chair Bob Bilkie said the grant is "huge" because it brings the field closer to reality and, he hopes, convinces potential donors the field project is a sound investment in the community.

"Hopefully, it gets fence-sitters to believe it's really going to happen," Bilkie said. "We believe the private/public partnership is the wave of the future. We hope this is just the beginning of a lot of private-sector involvement with projects like this."

Corriveau said he learned about the Miracle League from watching an HBO special, and said the idea "moved me." When the Miracle League of Plymouth started talking about building a field in his district, Corriveau said, he felt he "wanted to do whatever I could."

"There's not a lot of money to be found, because every cupboard is bare," Corriveau said. "The state sees a real value in picking this kind of project. We hope, with the finish line in sight, people will dig as deep as they can. We're talking about building a field for children ... we want to finish this project."



Supporters of The Miracle League of Plymouth happily accepted a \$250,000 check from a state grant from 20th House Rep. Marc Corriveau Wednesday. Present for the event were (front, from left) Miracle League co-chair Bob Bilkie, Corriveau, co-chair Deb Madonna, Station 885 owner Joyce Costanza, Tricia Wolfe and Natalie Zazula, and (back, from left) Dick Schmidt, Ted Barker, Chris Kordick, Brian Finnerty (holding Trevor Wolfe) and Pat Olsen.



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Elks tap into Christmas spirit with gifts for veterans



Bridget Rouhan (left), Debbie Kozub, Helen Pond and Donna Whitlow pause for a snapshot during gift-wrapping Saturday at the Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780.

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Christmas spirit is alive and well at the Plymouth Elks. It was found Saturday morning at the Elks' Lodge 1780 on Ann Arbor Road, where about 80 Elks, their family members, friends and other volunteers, packaged and wrapped some 850 gift packages for homeless and hospitalized military veterans. The gifts — comfort items and toiletries — were being distributed to veterans this week.

It's a Christmastime tradition the Elks have been sponsoring for more than 30 years, one of several projects the club regularly offers to

down-on-their-luck veterans. Others include a game night on the first Thursday of each month and twice-yearly steak luncheons at the Elks' headquarters.

"I feel like I've got to give back to them," said Vivian Biegun of Plymouth Township, the lodge's current Elk of the Year. "I know it's not very much. But doing this just makes me feel great, especially at the holidays."

The gifts were processed in assembly-line fashion, with some volunteers putting the items (toothpaste, soap, socks, breath mints, Kleenex, etc.) together and others wrapping them with colorful paper. Veterans in wheelchairs

were given an extra present -- hand-knitted lap blankets. The work was over in about 90 minutes.

Stewart Israel, the Elks' chairman for veterans affairs, said the Elks dropped off 235 of the packages at the Veterans Administration hospital in Detroit on Monday, and another 158 at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor on Tuesday.

The Elks planned to visit the VA hospital in Battle Creek on Wednesday, and will head to three shelters for homeless veterans, two in Detroit and one in the city of Wayne, on Christmas Eve.

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



Elks Club members Walter Seres (left) and Jim Dent, plus wife Judy Dent, at the Elks Lodge 1780 on Saturday as club members and volunteers wrap Christmas gifts for homeless veterans and veterans being treated at Veterans Administration hospitals.

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Spike in demand keeps ministry serving the needy

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

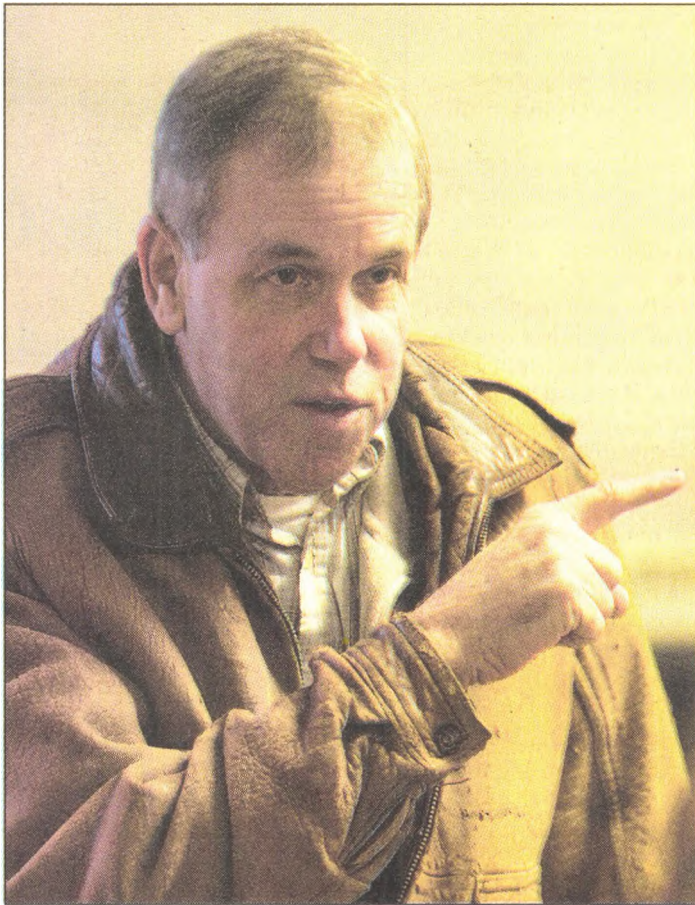
Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry that has fed the area's hungry for a decade, saw a 30-percent spike in pleas for help this year compared to 2009, as economic recovery proved elusive for tens of thousands of people.

"I don't see recovery in the number of people needing food," Open Door Director Steven Darr said, sitting inside the food pantry warehouse on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue.

Open Door volunteers this year fed 65,000 people from communities such as Canton, Westland, Plymouth, Garden City, Livonia, Redford, Wayne, Belleville and Ypsilanti. The pantry used 1.5 million pounds of food it mostly received from Gleaners Community Food Bank and Forgotten Harvest, which got its supplies from places like Walmart, Sam's Club, Kroger and Target.

Some 60 volunteers spend Thursday evenings loading food into vehicles driven by recipient families to Open Door headquarters, a former factory that made corrugated boxes. Lloyd Brown, a U.S. Navy and Air Force retiree, is among those who bring smiles by delivering items such as frozen meat, fresh vegetables, canned goods and desserts. "We're feeding the hungry, and there's a lot of hungry people in the world today," Brown said. "Some of them can still pay their bills but they don't have anything left over for food. One of the things the Lord said was to feed the hungry."

Open Door Ministry, an offshoot of Canton-based Connection Church, has seen demand for help steadily increase over the last decade, but Darr said the biggest one-year increase in pleas for help occurred this year. A typical Thursday evening brings 450 families to the pantry, but Darr said the number swelled to 527 prior to Thanksgiving.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Darr said requests made to Open Door Ministry for help have spiked some 30 percent over 2009 levels.

FEEDING THE NEEDY

What: Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry

Who: Open Door serves people from communities such as Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Redford, Wayne, Belleville and Ypsilanti.

How much: The ministry fed 65,000 people this year, a 30-percent hike from 2009

How to help: People who want to volunteer or who need more information about Open Door Ministry may go to www.opendoorfoodministry.org or call Connection Church at (734) 397-1777, ext. 201.

Darr, a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer who oversees Open Door Ministry with wife Jackie, said volunteers don't receive money for their efforts.

"We're a hundred percent volunteer," he said. "Nobody gets paid."

Open Door stores its perishable food in an array of freezers, including a large one donated by the Canton Community Foundation and Jim and Linda Demmer. The new Walmart on Michigan Avenue gave \$5,000 to the pantry, and volunteers come from organizations such as the YMCA, the National Honor Society and the township's youth B.L.O.C.K. group, which stands for Building Leaders Out of Canton's Kids.

Containers of food placed in recipients' vehicles often contain biblical passages, which Darr said are meant to inspire and offer hope to those in need. Open Door also offers job counseling, skills training and referrals to other care groups for additional help.

Outside the warehouse,



Volunteer Lloyd Brown, a Westland resident, prepares new plastic bags for the food distribution.

Darr pointed to a makeshift radio station that actually broadcasts spiritual programs Thursday evenings from a step van in the Open Door parking lot. Families who line up for food can tune in to 1630 AM or 105.7 FM on their car radios and actually receive the signal. "It only reaches across the

parking lot," Darr said with a smile.

Volunteers pack some 200 pounds of food each minute into cars. As economic troubles worsened in Michigan, Darr said he noticed many families receiving help for the first time, including many middle-class people who lost

their jobs amid the economic recession.

"Our biggest number (of recipients) comes from Westland, and Canton is No. 2," he said. "There are a lot of people hurting right here in Canton."

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

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

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.

Cheer clinic

The Canton High School cheerleaders host a "Kids Cheer Clinic" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, at the Canton High School cafeteria.

The clinic is open to potential cheerleaders from kindergarten to eighth-grade. Clinic goers should wear comfortable shorts and gym shoes. The \$30 cost covers the clinic, drink/snack and a Canton Cheer T-shirt.

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m., and space is limited. For more information, call (734) 397-3766 or e-mail cindy-druck@gmail.com.

Chef Jesse cooks

Chef Jesse Gales will offer a taste-testing opportunity at the Canton Township Weight Watchers center Thursday, Jan. 20.

The meeting is open and free to the public so anyone who is interested in learning more about Weight Watchers, without having to pay a meeting fee, is welcome.

Chef Jesse, the official chef of Weight Watchers Group, will also share tips on healthy eating and cooking techniques, as well as answer questions about the new PointsPlus Program.

The Canton Township Weight Watchers center is located inside the Willow



Food service

Executive Director of the Educational Excellence Foundation Carol Kody is pictured with Community Financial Education Partnership Coordinator Karen Alexander, who presented a check to Hospitality and Culinary Arts Teacher Diana Woodward along with students from the Salem High School Rock Cafe. The donation was part of the credit union's annual Community Shares program. The donation will help enhance food service technology for their hospitality/culinary arts restaurant operation. The donation made to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools program was identified by the credit union, with the assistance of the Educational Excellence Foundation (EEF), as part of Community Financial's annual Community Shares program. "We are very pleased to be able to provide funds to help students with up-to-date software and equipment to learn valuable skills as they pursue their studies in the food service industry," said credit union CEO Bill Lawton. "We are committed to supporting innovation in the communities we serve."

Creek Plaza at 41814 Ford Road. Meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. and at noon.

New Hope seminar

Anyone who has recently suffered the loss of a loved one might want to check out a seminar being offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville.

On Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m., attorney Ron Thompson of Thompson-Platte will offer a legal perspective regarding the many issues someone might face when someone they love dies. These include minimizing tax consequences, dealing with decedent's creditors, methods to best protect surviving family members and the issues involving updating wills and trust.

The free seminar will be offered at New Hope Center for Grief Support at 315 Griswold, Northville. Seating is limited; call (248) 348-0115 to register.

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.

Nuns in charge

"Put the Nuns in Charge," a long-running comedy from the author of "Late Night Catechism," is coming to St. Thomas a Becket Catholic

Church in Canton 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28.

Ticket prices range from \$20 for non-reserved seating and go up to \$75 for front row seats. All tickets include a dessert afterglow. All proceeds will go to two great causes - St. Pat's Food Pantry in Detroit and World Youth Day.

Child care will be provided for a small donation. Tickets must be purchased in person with cash or check at St. Thomas a Becket, located at 555 S. Lilley Road in Canton, south of Cherry Hill Road. Contact the church at (734) 981-1333 for further information.

Host families

AYUSA International is a non-profit high school foreign exchange student organization which welcome teenagers from more than 65 countries worldwide and provides a host family placement and ongoing supervision for 5- and 10-month academic programs.

These young people look forward to a warm bond of friendship with host families and a rewarding cultural exchange. Host families are asked to provide meals and a bedroom either shared or private. Students pay for all other personal expenses while in the U.S.

For more information, call Sue McGrath, (313) 278-8424.

PLAV recruiting

PLAV Post #166, located at 39375 Amrhein in Livonia (at the corner of Amrhein and Eckles) is seeking veteran members interested in joining a vibrant post, restructuring itself in the 21st century. The Post goal is to have a significant and meaningful impact within the veteran community.

The post meetings are the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of July and August, and a light lunch with refreshments follows. Free beverages are provided throughout the meeting's. Those interested in additional information are welcome to call Roger L. Kehrier at (734) 453-2031 or stop in the night of a scheduled meeting.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arline Greacen got her Dickens village started with a couple of buildings given to her as gifts by her mother.

VILLAGE

FROM PAGE A1

ing 1836-1850 similar to that portrayed in Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

"Arline and I like to do things together," John said. "We each have our own roles (with the display), but it's fun because we do it together."

It started years ago, when Arline's mother bought her a couple of buildings. After that, John said, friends and relatives wondering what to get Arline for Christmas often decided on an addition to her holiday display.

The couple put little notes on the bottoms of each building telling them who gave it to them and when.

"It's not so much a Christmas decoration as it is a stroll down memory lane," John said.

Arline figures the display includes some 70 people, about 82 buildings and more than 100 trees, including some branches from real trees she's placed in spots around the display, which sits on eight or nine tables.

There are handmade pathways and ponds, and a Big Ben clock tower that keeps actual time. A stereo system keeps sounds of the city playing in the background.

The display has become an attraction in the neighborhood. John said the display draws "a steady stream of traffic" of friends and neighbors.

That's OK with Arline. "It's fun having all the neighbors in," she said. "In the winter, everyone's stuck in their houses. This is a good catalyst for bringing our neighbors together."

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The Greacens' Dickens village sits on 8-9 tables in what was designed as a dining room in their Plymouth Township home.

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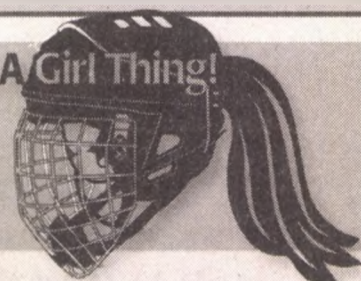
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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

Where hometown stories unfold

City dedicates new arena system

BY BRAD KADRICH AND MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

The Plymouth Cultural Center officially left the 1970s and moved into the 21st century Friday when City of Plymouth officials christened what they said is the first Geothermal ice arena in the state.

Work on the \$1 million project began in the spring and was completed, for the most part, in August. Using six energy-efficient compressors, two heat exchangers and a series of 45 geothermal wells in a closed loop, the system is designed to cool the ice in the arena, heat the building in the winter, air-condition it in the summer, dehumidify it and provide for most of its hot-water needs.

Officials have seen big results: an 80-percent drop in September natural gas costs, said recreation director Steve Anderson, who researched the concept and brought it to the Plymouth City Commission early this year. The September gas bill was about \$800, Anderson said, compared to about \$4,100 for September 2009.

City officials dedicated the project Friday, with Mayor Dan Dwyer indicating the project "was a team effort between the City Administration, the City Commission and the contractor."

"The geothermal project was a leap of faith by the city commission, but we had confidence in our administration to make this happen and to deliver the savings that has been projected," Dwyer said.

Contractor Ryan Jahnke said having a large sheet of ice



Mayor Pro Tem Mike Wright (from left), city commissioners Gerry Sabatini and John Barrett, Mayor Dan Dwyer, city commissioner Ron Loiselle, Plymouth Township Trustee Kay Arnold and Township Supervisor Richard Reaume dedicate the new system at the Plymouth Cultural Center ice arena.

to cool is a big advantage in a geothermal system. "For their operation, it worked perfectly," he said.

Anderson said that the ice

arena is likely to stay open all year, instead of having the ice pulled out during the warmer months, when the cost of keeping it cold goes up. With the

new efficiencies, taking out the ice in the summer might be more expensive than keeping it.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pipe fitter Brenda Vanderpoole worked on the Cultural Center project in October.

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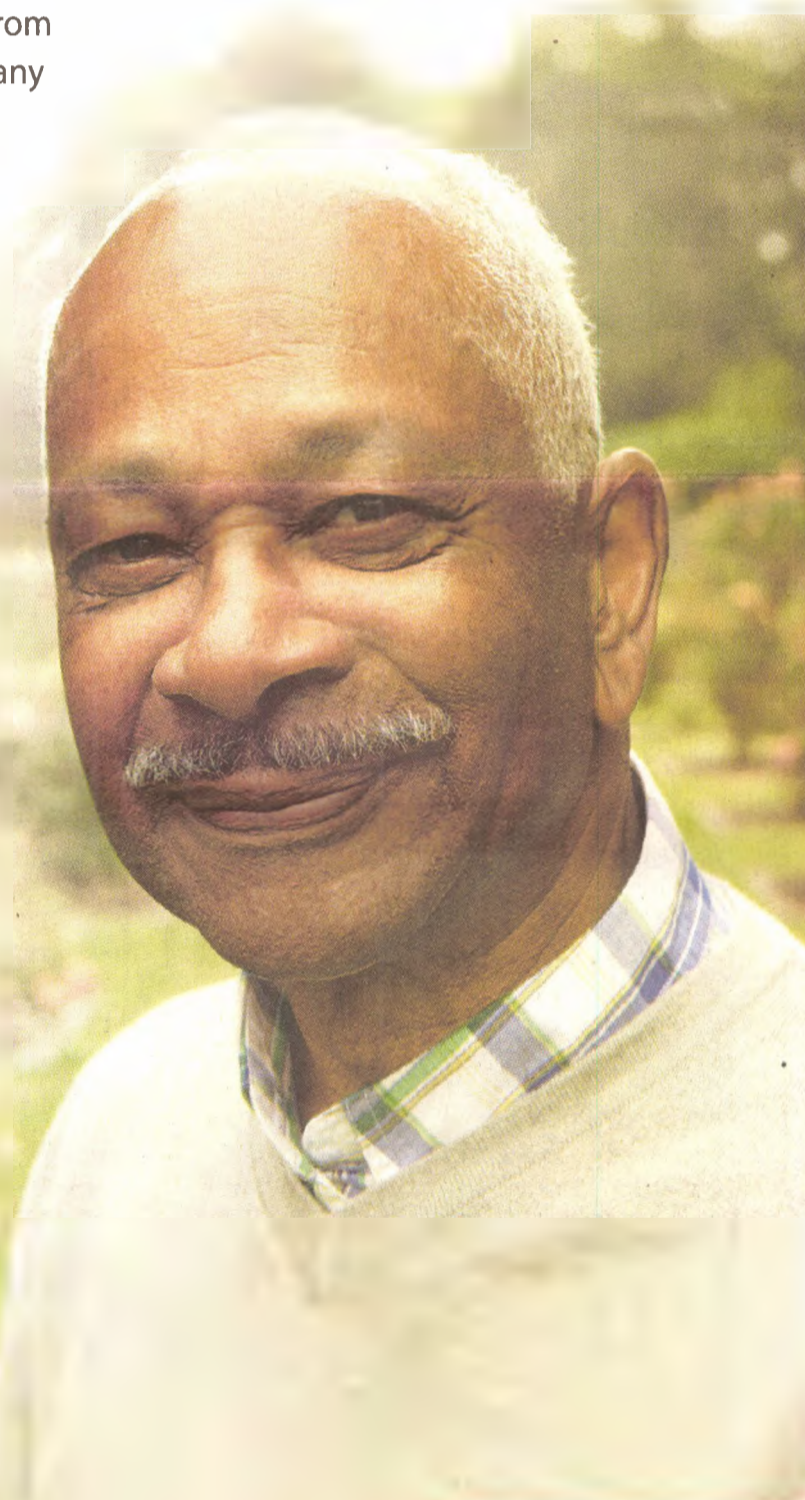
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December 28, 2010

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† Based on the 2011 Medicare Overall Plan Star Ratings. See full results at www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan.

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LEADER

FROM PAGE A1

Early on, Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said the allegations against Hoefling surfaced after one of the boys made statements during a counseling session, though Gajeski and other authorities cautioned against drawing broader conclusions against scouting organizations.

Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner had agreed and called the developments "a sad occurrence" and "disheartening."

Hoefling led a Scout troop based at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth.

During a preliminary hearing in August in 35th District Court, one victim said one incident occurred when Hoefling picked him up at the Plymouth District Library, took him to the Canton Meijer, bought alcohol and returned to Hoefling's van.

The boy said Hoefling began "rubbing my back ... my chest and stomach" before fondling him. The victim said he and Hoefling exchanged e-mails and Facebook messages about the incident.

The boy also testified that during a camping event, Hoefling arranged for him to sleep in his tent, where the boy said they shared alcohol and the touching incident was repeated.

The other victim testified he and Hoefling talked about a pornographic Web site and said Hoefling encouraged him to bring up the site on Hoefling's computer. The boy had run away from a domestic situation in his own home at the time.

Stout, the defense attorney, had said Hoefling moved away from the computer screen after the site came up. At one point, she said Hoefling had been "trying to give comfort" to the troubled victim. Moreover, she had cited "a serious lack of evidence" and said Hoefling shouldn't face trial.

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Local author grounds stories in family

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Brian Webster of Canton and his daughter, Hailey, were tough to miss Saturday at Panera Bread in downtown Plymouth.

The Websters manned a table near the coffee shop's front door, selling copies of Brian's recently published children's book, "Snowville."

The book was illustrated by Stephanie L. Wilkins and published by HMSI Publishing of Plymouth/David R. Haslam.

Brian Webster is a Detroit Public Schools science teacher and screenwriter. "I always loved telling stories to my kids," he said during his weekend book signing at Panera. "All my stories are family based or holiday-based."

He's written five scripts, all of them dealing with family and holiday themes. His agent had suggested adding children's books, with the second on Santa's Elf due out for yule 2011.

This year's book is dedicated "To the REAL Hailey - Never let your dreams melt away." Hailey, 20, is a junior studying education at Wayne State University. The family also includes sons Ryan and Christopher and two stepchildren, Michael and Sarah.

Brian's wife, Cathy Webster, teaches second grade at Tonda Elementary in Canton.

"Snowville" tells of a girl's journey to discover the truth about Santa Claus. She ends up in Snowville, a town of snow people.

"Today's our first day at Panera," the author said Saturday. "It's been doing really well," he added of book sales, including at his wife's school. The book sells for \$12.95.

There's a photo of Hailey and her dad on the dedication



This photo of author Brian Webster and his daughter, Hailey, appears in Webster's book, "Snowville."

page with a snowman. Among those perusing and buying this weekend was Sarah Gordon of Plymouth Township.

Gordon liked that Webster teaches in Detroit, "which I admired immediately," she said. "I have two kids who are

great believers. I thought it would be a nice addition to the stocking." Her kids are 7 and 10.

Webster is proud of a first-place award at the Moondance International Film Fest, for a story of a group of home-

less people seeking shelter.

"Together, they turn it into a home for Christmas," he said. His agent will send the work to Hallmark for a possible TV movie, said Webster, 59.

"This is where we met," he added of his meeting with the publisher, who made the book possible. Gary Stolz, manager of Panera, helped set up the book signing.

The family planned a reading the afternoon of Dec. 21 at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Brian's sister contacted the hospital.

"We'll be donating 25 books to the hospital," said Hailey Webster, whose college education is being funded in part by the book.

Her dad said book writing is "quite a bit" different from screenplays, which he's written for years. "You have to simplify everything," he said.

Brian Webster can be reached at (313) 683-1109 or by e-mail at ideaworks247@hotmail.com.

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Canton churches team up for blood drive

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As the American Red Cross blood supplies face a shortage, two Canton churches are hoping holiday gift-givers will mark their calendars and give the greatest gift of all — life.

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church and St. John Neumann Parish have teamed up yet again for a blood drive set for 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 2, at St. John Neumann, 44800 Warren Road west of Sheldon.

"Everything is in a critical stage right now," Cathy Hulett, one of the organizers, said.

Appointments may be made online by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and entering sponsor code CCU or by calling Hulett at (734) 981-1333, ext. 18.

"It's the perfect gift to give

for the holidays. No receipt is needed, and it's a gift that keeps on giving," Hulett said. "The blood banks are in a critical shortage status, and all blood types are needed."

Donors also may call Diane Risko, an American Red Cross representative, at (313) 549-7052 for an appointment. Donors will receive T-shirts during the blood drive, one of four the two Canton churches plan to sponsor in 2011.

Donor eligibility questions may be directed to (866) 236-3276.

St. Thomas a'Becket and St. John Neumann organizers hope to collect 300 units of blood.

"We need as many donors as we can get," Hulett said. "We'd like to meet our expectations or perhaps exceed it."

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A GIFT FROM A DIVINE LAND

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Perhaps it is the quiet gentleness of the heavenly maidens that reminds us of a better time and a better world. Perhaps it is the conviction of warriors dashing across the plains that tells us that good always defeats evil in the end. Or maybe it's just the timeless stories of courage and compassion, kindness and kinship.

Whatever it is, Shen Yun has touched the hearts of millions. "I cried a few times," one audience member confessed. "What I saw was power, honesty, and integrity—I am grateful for that." The show has graced some of the most prestigious stages in the world, from the Royal Fes-

tival Hall in London to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Shen Yun is more than just the world's premier classical Chinese performing arts company. It is an experience you won't want to miss.

A PERFORMANCE 5,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A performance by Shen Yun is traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be: a study in grace, wisdom, and all the virtues distilled from millennia of Chinese civilization. The classically trained dancers, musicians, and singers of Shen Yun Performing Arts share a vision: to revive and restore Chinese culture to its former, glorious state.

Based in New York, Shen Yun Performing Arts is distinguished by its conscious effort to remain independent of China's communist regime, which has abused and impoverished the arts for decades. In fact, a show like Shen Yun's can no longer be found in China today. As one well-traveled New Yorker noted: "I've seen China before with my eyes, but this show had me experience China with my soul."

For those who find all things Chinese a little foreign, never fear. The show is based on Chinese culture, but the values it portrays belong to all of humanity.

ONE OF THE MOST DEMANDING ART FORMS IN THE WORLD

No other art form in the world boasts such strong expressive qualities and diversity of technique as classical Chinese dance. It takes years of rigorous training to master the many leaps, flips, and delicate gestures. Dancers must also be versed in Chinese culture to achieve the bearing needed to bring ancient legends and heroic figures to life.

In addition to the classical forms, Shen Yun features the distinctive colors and styles of ethnic and folk dance. Choreographers draw upon over 20 dynasties and 50 ethnic groups to create pieces that range from the northern steppes of Mongolia to the lush forests of Yunnan. Among the most impressive elements of any Shen Yun show are the large-scale ensemble pieces in which dozens of dancers appear to move as one body across the stage.

Shen Yun has also created its very own brand of story-based dance, which often deals with universal, thought-provoking themes. As one distinguished ballet dancer noted, "There's a lot of depth and meaning. It's a new realm of dance."

TWO GREAT CLASSICAL MUSIC TRADITIONS ONE FRESH, UNEXPECTED SOUND

Some remarkable instruments such as the *pipa* or *erhu* date back more than 3,500 years, but the reality is very few Chinese instruments have made it to the world stage. To remedy this, the composers of Shen Yun bathe the distinctly Chinese sounds in a rich sea

of Western strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass. The result? A new and mesmerizing sound.

Each season, the composers create over 20 original scores. They work closely with the choreographers to ensure a seamless blending of the music with each and every dance.

EXTRAORDINARY ARTISTS

"There's just something about them," audience members often remark.

At a time when the influence of Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism was strong in the Middle Kingdom, art was a means to explore the connection between mankind and the higher universe. Poets and artists cultivated virtue and engaged in study and meditation because they believed that to create true art worthy of the heavens, there must first be inner beauty and purity.

Today, the artists of Shen Yun follow in that noble tradition. Their training regimen requires focus and a mindful lifestyle. Many draw inspiration from traditional cultivation practices such as Falun Dafa, which teaches truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance.

Among the company's artists are many winners of international competitions in dance, music, and singing, as well as accomplished choreographers and composers. No other Chinese performing arts group in the world can boast such a remarkable body of talent.

A BRAND NEW PRODUCTION FOR 2011

Months of training and preparation culminate each winter when Shen Yun debuts a spectacular original production with all new dances, costumes, and music.

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Thrift stores a boon as economic woes continue

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As economic woes continue to strain consumer budgets, metro Detroit shoppers are increasingly finding bargains at thrift stores and resale shops they might once have snubbed during more prosperous times when stretching their dollars seemed less critical.

As bargain-hunting and gently used merchandise have become more popular, area thrift stores are broadening their customer base and luring shoppers from Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Redford, Farmington and other communities.

And, more shoppers have meant more revenues for charity organizations — The Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Disabled American Veterans and others — that use their income to provide food, clothing, children's programs, shelter and jobs for a growing number of recession-weary residents.

Rather than pay exorbitant prices for designer clothing, a name-brand espresso machine or a new sofa, shoppers are finding slashed prices for quality merchandise, store officials say, and consumers who need a new suit for a job search can find a deal without plunking down their charge cards.

CUSTOMER BASE EXPANDS

"We've noticed a larger increase in our customer

base, because we've found that people have realized some of the fantastic values that are in a thrift store or second-hand retail shop," said Michael Saine, manager of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul store near the northwest corner of Wayne and Hunter in Westland. "And you can use the cash in your hands to get what you need instead of charging it."

St. Vincent de Paul, which marked its fifth year in Westland last August, uses its revenues for purposes such as food banks, children's camps and churches in need. Across town, the Disabled American Veterans thrift store at Middlebelt and Ann Arbor Trail raises money to support programs helping veterans.

In Livonia, The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store on Plymouth west of Farmington has remained a community fixture since 1996, said Maj. John Aren, who also oversees stores in Canton, Garden City, Dearborn Heights, Wayne, Lincoln Park and Romulus.

"The Livonia store has been a unique place over the years because it has been able to capture the pristine donations of an upper-class community but it is within reach of everyone to benefit from that," he said.

Aren oversaw the Nov. 5 opening of a new Salvation Army store on the southeast corner of Joy and Morton Taylor roads in Canton — a store that brought in a startling \$250,000 in gross revenues less than a month after it welcomed its first shoppers. "The economy has had a



Sadie Litton of Westland marks prices at the new Salvation Army Thrift Store in Canton.

drastic impact on our business, not only from those who are adversely affected and have limited incomes, but also from those who have an entrepreneurial approach to searching out products and flipping them on the Internet for a profit," Aren said. "And

there are those who shop with us for sport — they love to find vintage merchandise (at low cost)."

A new survey conducted by the National Retail Foundation found that 61.7 percent of shoppers this holiday season had said their

concerns about the economy would affect their spending. Yet, according to the National Association of Resale Professionals, resale stores have reported consistent growth rates for the last five years, despite an otherwise-struggling retail environment.

"The NRF survey shows that the recession is not over for the consumer," said Steve Murphy, president of franchising for Winmark Corp., a Minneapolis-based company that specializes in leasing and developing retail stores that buy, sell and trade new and used merchandise. "While we have begun to see some encouraging (economic) improvements, consumers remain cautious about spending."

QUALITY GOODS

Even as the economy improves, some officials say consumers — many with reduced incomes — will continue to seek quality merchandise at thrift stores and resale shops, and charity orga-

nizations are tapping into the trend. On Dec. 11, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, which uses its revenues for job-creating programs, returned to the retail market after a decade-long absence by opening a store on Ford Road west of Haggerty in Canton.

The store hopes to generate \$1 million in revenue during the first year to support its job-creation and training programs, said Jeff Ukrainec, director of donated goods. Moreover, Goodwill plans to have retail stores in five south-east Michigan counties within the next 10 years.

Though the Goodwill shop's opening came just two months after The Salvation Army store opened about three miles away, Ukrainec said he believes the two locations will benefit one another rather than detract from each other. "A typical resale shopper," he said, "will go from one place to the other."

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Dear Santa... All I want for Christmas



Plymouth-Canton first-graders made sure to make their wishes known to Santa, and shared them with the *Observer* (reprinted as they appeared on the hand-written forms for cuteness sake):

Dear Santa,
I like you because you are the best boy. My mom wants a Snoman bell! My Dad wants a foot bll gam. My baby sister wants a baby dolhouse.
Love, Serenity

Dear Santa,
I like your songs. Will you bring me a Barbie? Yes I will bring you a Barbie. You are so kind. I'll leave you cookies. Will you bring my brother a train? Yes I will bring a train. Have a wonderful trip.
Your friend, Zainab

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you bring mom a car? I like my trak. I leve you cookies.
Love, Rishi

Dear Santa,
I like you. Please bring my sister a pillow pet. Cen you git a cup for my mom. Cen you git a taos for the ois for my dad. I'll lev cookies.
Love, Zack

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Can you bring Riley a Xbox360 and lego and can you give me a Xox360 too? I'll leave you cookies.
Love, Kai

Dear Santa,
Have a safe trip. I would like something for light for my sister becuse she is scared of the dark. Can you give me a monster high journal and key?
Love, Elise

Dear Santa,
I love you. You are awesome. You are the best. Would you bring my mom a dress. I would like a hamster. Have a good trip.
Love, Bryce

Dear Santa,
How are you? You are awesome. Please bring a nerf gun for teddy. Can you get me a DS game?
Love, Julia

Dear Santa,
How are you? I bet you are doing good. I love you. You are awesome and cool. Can you giv my bruthr a tain. Cen you giv me a nirf gun.
Love, Braden

Dear Santa,
Hay, Santa, how you are awe-some? Can you bring an angel for Trisha? Santa you are a good Santa. Can you bring a warm cot for Neal? Can you bring a jakt for Shreya? Can you bring makeup for me? I will give you ice cream.
Love, Yesha

Dear Santa,
How are you? ready for the big trip? Can you bring my dad a coffee-maker. I would love a PS3. I like you Santa. I'll leave yo ocookies.
Love, Jeren

Dear Santa,
How are you? Are you ready for the big trip? Could you bring a glass angel for mom? Pleae bring me a hat. I love you Santa. I'll leave you cookies.
Love, Jesse

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? What are you doing? Bring my mom a news book. I want water wall. I will give you cookies.
Love, Ellen

Dear Santa,
how are you? Would you bring a horse thing for my sister? and a bag for my brother and for me a dog ... are you giting waete for your dig trip? and to my mom a how cwt and for my dad a egl pac?
Sincerely, Grace

Dear Santa,
How are you doing you are awe-some! Would you gt a cok bk for my mom. My sitr wid like sim clos from Aeropostal. Wd you gt my dad a choiklit bar? Wd you gt me a DSi. How is Miz Kls and your afs?
Love, Jeremy

Dear Santa,
how are you doowen? are you redey for your trip? can you beg me a papn jan? can you my mom a dress? Have a safe trip.
Love, Ravon

Dear Santa,
How are you? can you bring a tran wioisl for Nichlas? I would like a toy waterpark, little jam set, little huskes and a fire sash in lego set. Have a safe trip.
Love, Zachary

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Are you making toys for the children? Can you get my dad a bakskrachr? can you get Grace laguna blue? Can you get me a nice nice nice gift cus I do not like gifs. I will send you my Grimas list. I will put randear food out for the randear. and I will lev out milk and cookies for you.
Love, Bridget

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Are you sick? Maybe you can give Ben a DSi? And you cod give me some Bay Blades? do you think you cod gat me a new biyk? I will lev you milk?
Love, Alex

Hi Santa!
Have a saf trip. can I get a necklis for my mom? I want a Lego fiyr stashone for me and a tedue bar a transformor for Evan and a toolbox for my Dad. You have a nis trip.
Love, Grant

Dear Santa,
I love you becuse you give me a jolrey. Santa you gave me the bal of the world. Santa tank you for lating me do cresmos in the car. Santa tak you for giving Andrew a blue bakar. Have a safe trip.
Love, Angelina

Dear Santa,
You are awesome. My mom wants some mittens. My dad nees mittens too. I wat a new playset. You are the best. How are you? are you ready for the big trip? Could you bring Haley a new dog snuggie. I would love a new fish. I'll leve you cookies.
Love, Emma

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my dad a prasnt Xbox. Can you bring my mommyi Princess Play game. Plese bring my brother a game. Please bring Andrea a Xbox.
Love, Mohamed

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my dad a gun? Pleae bring my mom a dress? Please bring my brother Brendan a toy gun? Please bring y broter Zachary a toy gun. Please bring me a toy gun. Please bring me mrlbls. Please bring me a number chart.
Love, Xavier

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my mom a dress? Please bring my dad a new car. Please bring my brother Eric a star horse force of eli. Please bring me a hello kitty.
Carmen

Dear Santa,
Can you get my momy a mat-tress? Can you please bring my dad an X-box? Can you please bring me an American girl doll?
Savannah

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my mom a jewels. Can you please bring my dad a new phone. Can you please bring my brother a wrestler. May I have a video camera. Can you please bring my cats a cat toye. May I have a toy?
Sarah Wells

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my dad a new toy helicopter? Can you please bring my mom som money? can you

please bring my sister Claudia a new American girl doll? May I have a Santa hat? May I have a DS game sonic colors?
Deion

Dear Santa,
Can you bring my mom a recipe in a box? Can you please give my dad a new automatic water filling machine? Will you please give my brother a Wii video game? Can you please bring me a new set of Hot Wheels toy cars? Will you please give me a LEGO universe toys? Can you please bring me a cool Lego computer game?
From, Amey

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my mom some make-up and can you please bring my dad a brand new Wii game. Can you please bring my baby sister Katie some dolls. Can you please bring me a brand new game. Can you please bring me a Xbox. Can you please bring me a Wii. Can you please bring me some Wii games.
James

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my baby brother Ethana acin tigr? Please bring my mommy som money? Please bring my daddy a zeba! Please bring me a an American girl doll and a sach book?
Izabella

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my papa a airplane remote control. Please bring my mama rings. Please bring my sister Petia a soso pet. Please bring me a DS game.
Dorian

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my dad a Wii game? Please bring my mom a flower that is pink flowers. Please bring my brother a car. Please bring Emma a SooSoo pet and Brittany a dog. Please bring me a cat.
Audrey

Dear Santa,
Can you bring my brother a race car? Can you bring my mom a pink flower? Can you bring my dad games? Can you bring me a Super Mario game?
Taiyo

Dear Santa,
Can you bring my mom a purple and blue presents and can you bring my dad a tato kit and can you bring my sister a pink and blue and purple stuffed animal and can you bring me a purple and pink dress and a pink heart hecklace and outfit from Justice.
Riley

Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom jewelry. Please bring my sister a Wii game. Please bring my dad a new car. Can you please bring me make-up? Please bring me a drass? Please bring me a tato?
Lina

Dear Santa,
Can you bring my mommy a dress please? Can you bring my dad a money please? can you bring my sister a pink heart necklace? Can you bring me a coloring backpack?
Love, Yuma

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my mom a new computer? Can you please

bring my dad a wallet? can you please bring my brother Blake a toy. Can you bring a toy for me.
Liam

Dear Santa,
Can you please get my mom a nelist and eer rings? Can you please get my mom som flwrs? can you please get my mom a candie tat smiles? Can you please get my dad hony? can you please get my dad a bak skrasher? Can you please get my dad a penut maker? Can you please get my dad a wat thing? Can you please get my sister a kity pin? can you please get my sister purple flowers? Can you please get my sister a anamal pin clashn? Can you get y sister iysc reem?
From, Heather

Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom a new computer? Can you bring my mom a new TV? Can you bring my brother William baseball bat? Can you bring my dad a new laptop? Can you me a transformer? Can you bring me a action figure? Can you bring both of my sis a soccer ball?
Owen

Dear Santa,
Can you bring my mom a necklace please? Bring my dad a computer please. Bring my brother a toy car please. Bring my sister a heart box please? Can you bring me a tele-scope?
Arjun

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my mom a pink necklace? Can you please bring my dad a new office bag? Can you please bring my nani a new purse? can you please bring my dadi a new set of bangles? Can you please bring me a new Halloween basket? Can you please bring me a new hello kitty necklace? can you please bring me ballet stockings?
Aashna

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring my mom a new purse? Can you please bring my dad a new wallet? Can you please bring my brother Jordan a DS? Can you please bring my brother yu-gi-oh cards? can you please bring me a nerf gun? Can you please bring me a Kunzhu?
Jayden

Dear Santa,
I am beeng good. My mom wants a necklace ples. My dad wants a new shrt ples. I want a Amkin Girl doll.
Love, Olivia Langley

Dear Santa,
I would please want a blizzard machine. My brothr ward like a nother blizzard macher. My mom wans a notty foon. My dad would like a uxrii chrt.
From Lauren Rae

Dear Santa,
I have been a boy. Please bring my mom a flower. My dad wants a dracei dits. I want a car.
Love, Evan Lemanek

Dear Santa,
I want a toy sonic and a DES please. My mom wants flors please. My dad wants toys please. Aaron wants a toe car. mycol wants games please.
Love, Andre Broughton

Dear Santa,
I hv bin a good boy. Can I have a

DSi. Wil you pes gif my bit a DS
Liam

Dear Santa,
Can I have a toy train? My mom wants a flwre. My dad wants a kvcev.
Love, Kaushal Dukkupati

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl but sometimes I be bad but please bring me toys still. Can I please have a blizzard maker and can you please bring my brother a star wars Wii game. Thank you!
From Khushi Samal

Dear Santa,
I have ban a good girl. Please giv jason a blizzrd makr. Please giv me a DS. Please giv my mom fimseown rigs.
Paige Ramsey

Dear Santa,
I have been a good little girl. I have helped my dad a lot you can bring me any thing you want to give me. But you have to give me some thing girly. My Dad will like a tool ornemint.
Sincelia, Riya Bhakkad

Dear Santa,
Can you plesse bring my mom a new DS? Will you plesse bring me some Peotrecs?
From, Nate Taylor

Dear Santa,
I have been such a good little girl! I have helped my mom to clean the house. Could you please bring me a necklace? Could you bring my sister a necklace?
Laika

Dear Santa,
I want Balsd Meakr. And for my brother a game and for my dad bring a InDein move. My mom likes flower seeds.
Rajpreet Garcha

To Santa,
I have ben such a good girl! Can you bring me a D-S-i and can you bring my sister Caitlin Kozlowski 3 or 2 been bags?
From Lauren Rae

Dear Santa,
I have been a boy. Please bring my mom a flower. My dad wants a dracei dits. I want a car.
Love, Evan Lemanek

Dear Santa,
I want a toy sonic and a DES please. My mom wants flors please. My dad wants toys please. Aaron wants a toe car. mycol wants games please.
Love, Andre Broughton

Dear Santa,
I hv bin a good boy. Can I have a



STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, December 23, 2010

hometownlife.com

PHOTO GALLERIES
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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Reindeer has a nose for the job, head for the business

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

Rudolph: I lead sleighs. Most of the time, I have an exclusive client, an older gentleman in a red suit with a bushy white beard who delivers toys to all the good little girls and boys. Occasionally, he lets me moonlight for high school graduations, proms and other events. The kids think it's cool.

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

Rudolph: I first got into the leading-a-sleigh business when the reindeer around here wouldn't let me join in any reindeer games. My dad used this huge hunk of black stuff to cover up my shiny nose. When it came off, I was shunned. I decided not to let it get me down, and to use it for good. When Santa realized what an advantage it gives him in the night sky, especially when the weather's bad, he and I hooked up.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Rudolph: Well ... umm ... how

Rudolph specializes in leading sleighs through inclement weather, using his shiny red nose to guide the way.

many other shiny-nosed, flying reindeer do you know? It takes some special qualities to be able to lead a huge sleigh and command the respect of eight grown-ups who've been doing it a lot longer. I hear there's a penguin at the South Pole everybody likes with kind of a shiny bald

spot, but he can't fly. **Observer:** How has it changed since you opened?

Rudolph: When I first started, the elves made the toys individually by hand, then loaded them manually into Santa's sleigh. Technology has made both of those processes much easier. There's a lot more computer-aided design that goes into it now. The sleigh itself is much more

aerodynamic and it's a lot easier to pull, although to be honest I make the other eight reindeer do most of the work.

Observer: Do you have an amusing anecdote to relate to our readers?

Rudolph: Well, there was this time Comet asked if he could lead the sleigh into Greece, because there was this girl there he wanted to impress. So I said, "OK, no shine off my nose." But the weather got bad and Comet was too stubborn to let me back up front, and he overshot the target and we ended up in Turkey.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Rudolph: It hasn't had too much of an effect. After all, the economy isn't in the same sad shape all over the world. There was a time when Santa thought he was going to lay off a reindeer or two, but we don't have a union, and he couldn't decide between Prancer and Vixen. Santa doesn't care about economics anyway. Santa cares about children being bad or good, so he just wants them to be good, for goodness



Rudolph's biggest client is Santa Claus, whom he helps deliver toys to children around the world every Christmas.

SLEIGH MASTER

Business name: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Your hometown: North Pole

Hours of operation: 24 hours, Dec. 24-25

Your business specialty: Leading sleighs through inclement weather

Website: www.rudolphrules.com

as many aspects of their business as possible. Look at me, for example. Where would I be if the only thing I knew how to lead was a sleigh? Truthfully, there isn't all that much calling for that. So I learned other forms of transportation, too. On my down time from the North Pole, I drive a mean cab in New York City. **Observer:** What's in store for the future of your business?

Rudolph: Well, as technology continues to improve, I think radar and computers will become more of a standard in the sleigh-leading industry. Right now, we sort of go by my nose. I think in the future, it'll be much more efficient. We could use another sleigh, but there'd be no one to drive it anyway, so we make do with what we've got.

sakes. If they do that, they get toys, no matter what their economic standing is.

Observer: Any advice for other small business owners?

Rudolph: Yes, they should diversify, know

Managing debt key lesson of financial crisis of recent years

It's hard to believe how fast time goes. Looking back at 2010, I think everyone would agree that it certainly was an interesting year. Whether it was the rebirth of General Motors and Chrysler, the change in Washington, D.C. due to the outcome of

the mid-term election, or the financial crisis in Europe, this certainly has been a notable year.

The issue is what you and I should have learned from the events that shaped 2010.

Throughout the year there were numerous stories about the debt crisis in Europe. Whether it was the recent economic bailout of Ireland or the problems in Greece last summer, we saw what happens when debts eventually become due. Unlike governments that can print money and have other mechanisms for a bailout, we are not so fortunate. When our bills become due, we must pay them.

I believe the lesson to learn from the European debt crisis is the importance of managing debt. One of the key lessons of 2010 is to be mindful of the amount of debt we take on. Before incurring any debt, have a game plan as to

how to pay the debt off.

Another lesson investors should learn from this past year is that there is a difference between the U.S. economy and the stock market. It used to be that if the stock market was doing well one generally assumed that the U.S. economy was also doing well. This year that wasn't the case. The stock market did well, but the U.S. economy continued to struggle.

In the not-so-distant past, the great majority of publicly held U.S. corporations depended upon the U.S. economy for the great majority of their revenues. That is no longer the case. Over the last few years foreign markets have opened to U.S. businesses.

Corporations such as McDonald's and Coca-Cola do the great majority of their business abroad. Ford has more employees outside the United States than inside the United States and General Motors sells more cars abroad. The bottom line is that U.S. corporations are multi-national and no longer depend upon the United States economy as they did in the past. As investors, we may not like this; however, we have to accept it.

Accepting this information makes it easier to understand why the stock market has had a good year while at the same time the U.S. economy continues to struggle.

There is no doubt that we are going through an incredible change in our economy and as investors there is no other choice but to accept and embrace these changes. If you put your head in the sand and ignore what is happening, eventually it will catch up to you. I am sure there are many other lessons to learn from the last year, however, debt management and accepting the new economic reality are key issues.

As a side note, I've read articles and listened to commentators discuss their belief that we are witnessing the decline of America as the predominant world power. I do not subscribe to this thinking. Despite everything, our economy is still the largest and the most robust economy in the world. We are going through a difficult time; however, I believe when you look into the future you will still see the American economy as the predominant economy, and the envy of the world.

I wish you and yours a very happy, healthy holiday season. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to help you with your personal financial affairs. Good luck!

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



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



Dr. Weiss

Botsford staffer

Joseph Weiss, M.D., has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. Board-certified in internal medicine and rheumatology, Weiss is a fellow of the American College

of Physicians. He is the editor and chief of the Detroit Medical News and chairman of the Michigan Rheumatism Society's Educational Committee.

Weiss has a practice at 18829 Farmington

Road, Livonia.

He received his medical education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He completed his training including a rheumatology fellowship at Wayne County Hospital in Westland.

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Karen Smith,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Holiday season brings out the best in Observer communities

As we sit with our families and friends and celebrate another Christmas and holiday season, most of us can be thankful for the ability to enjoy the trappings of the season — the food, the presents, the family.

It is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love, especially at the holidays. However, not everyone has that luxury. Whether for medical reasons or through economic strife, many don't have families with whom to spend the holidays.

That's what makes people willing to share what they can — be it their money, their toys, their belongings, their homes, their businesses — to help others have

a happy holiday season. There are many examples of which we know, including civic groups of all kinds, bell ringers at Salvation Army kettles, churches, volunteers who work the shelters and food lines, local Jewish and Muslim organizations uniting to relieve their Christian brethren on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Countless stories crop up every year of these good-deed doers.

And there are countless more about whom stories do not crop up, folks who help simply because they want to, and can. They host the homeless, donate anonymously to charities, help charitable groups pack food packages.

Those of us left to gather will do so with love and gratitude, as

It is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love, especially at the holidays.

benefits the season. Sure, there will be plenty of food and presents, as the commercialization of the season comes to a close, but that's not really the reason we get together. We do so in the spirit of love and togetherness.

It won't be that way for everyone, of course. Local charities again report a decline, for the most part, in giving, but an

increase in requests for assistance. Everyone gives what they can, but with an economy still struggling to show signs of recovering, that hasn't been easy.

Each year, we rouse ourselves during the holiday season to listen to the better angels of our nature. We reach out to others during this special time and promise to carry our concern forward into the new year.

Sometimes we do and sometimes we get too caught up in the frenzy of our own too-busy lives to make good on the promise. We do the best we can and then, when the season rolls around again, we make the promise one more time.

The commercial aspect is omnipresent, but once we get past that,

Christmas and the holiday season (including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa) are for most of us about home and hope, about family and love. We all long to be together, but in today's fast-paced, too-busy-to-take-the-time world, the fates don't always allow that.

Separations come, an assertion all too clear especially to the families of our servicemen and women serving in wars on two fronts — Afghanistan and Iraq — this holiday season. Until we can have that perfect Christmas, we will all simply have to muddle through, somehow.

Sometimes merry little Christmases can be the best kind. We hope your holiday season fulfills your every hope and dream.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is the best gift you ever received?



"A bow and arrow. I like it because I can use it with my dad when we go hunting."
Josh DeLuca
sixth-grader at St. Edith



"My own laptop."
Raven Tatum, 11
Farmington Hills



"A Batman Cave."
Luke Mato, 4
Farmington Hills



"A DSI. It's a game system where you can take pictures, download games and go onto the Internet."
Ally Coumoundouros, 11
Farmington Hills



"A Wii, last year."
Madison Holcomb
Farmington Hills



"My grandma (Gali Khalil) sent me a really pretty necklace. It had a heart on the bottom."
Ranya Krayen
fifth-grader at Riley School in Livonia



"A pretty dress and a black jacket with flowers from my grandma."
Layla Krayen
Livonia



"A dress and a purse from my grandma. The purse had jewels, and the dress was really pretty with spaghetti strings."
Jeneen Krayen
third-grader at Buchanan in Livonia



"(The Play-Doh) Martian Matter, but if you don't take care of it, it dries out."
Jacob Quattro
Westland



"It was Hungry, Hungry Hippos."
Ashley Whaley
Westland



"My iPod. I really wanted one because it can hold all my music and I love it."
Emily Proctor
Garden City



"Probably a new TV. It was a 19-inch."
Brett Orum
Garden City



"I would like to get an American Girl Doll."
Anna Damuth
second-grader from St. Valentine School in Redford



"I hope I get a DSI."
Tony Buscemi
third-grader from St. Valentine in Redford



"It was last year. My dad gave me an Xbox 360. I'd wanted it for many years, ever since it came out."
Michael Walendowski
Garden City



"Probably a skateboard. I got it last Christmas."
Kyle Hubbard
Garden City



"A Play Station Portable. It can play movies and games, and I really wanted it for a long time."
Chloe Morgan, 10
Isbister Elementary School



"I got a Wii last Christmas. I play it a lot."
Leah Medley, 9
Isbister Elementary student



"My doll. I named her Lily. My cousin got the same doll, so we play with them together."
Ravenna Gill, 9
Plymouth



"An Xbox 360. I've really wanted one for a long time."
Nathan Rearick, 9
Plymouth

Annual Mitzvah Day inspires innovation, cooperation

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Once again, the desire to work together and overcome obstacles is saving the day — in this case, Christmas day.

Christmas falls on Saturday this year, the Jewish Sabbath, and creates a problem for hundreds of Jews who volunteer in place of Christians so they can celebrate the birth of Jesus with their families and friends.

The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and Jewish Community Relations Council are not canceling the annual Mitzvah Day, however, only moving it. The conflict in timing is leading to new ways for Jews and Muslims to perform good deeds.

Last year for the first time, the two religious communities came together to relieve Christians at four dozen organizations. This year, instead of volunteering Christmas day, Jews will offer a helping hand Christmas Eve and throughout the entire month, and Muslims on Christmas day as part of the first Council of Islamic Organizations Volunteer Day.

Since Friday is a work day, the Mitzvah Day effort will be smaller with several hundred fewer participants than the 900 last year.

"I'm glad that we were able to work it out, to still do mitzvahs and respect our Sabbath. We're going to have 25 or 27 different places for volunteers to deliver — Meals on Wheels, poinsettias to seniors," said Micki Grossman of Farmington Hills. Grossman is co-chairwoman with Freya Weberman.

PARTNERING

"We're going to be at several sites partnering with the Muslim community again this year. Last year it created new bonds of friendship. The goals and tradition aren't that unlike," Grossman said.

Todd Mendel and his wife, Soozan, and their three children will be volunteering



Muzammil Ahmed of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan (third from left) and Rabbi Norman T. Roman (right) of Temple Kol Ami in West Bloomfield are shown with volunteers from the Muslim and Jewish communities at last year's Volunteer Day at Gleaners Food Bank in Detroit.

at the Village of Redford. Mendel, a lawyer, is past president of the Jewish Community Relations Council and an officer for the American Jewish Committee. Last year Sophie, 16, Rebecca, 13, and Henry, 11, separated food and packed boxes at Gleaners Community Food Bank.

"We've served meals at St. Hugo's and the kids have seen people are homeless and what that means that they don't have food," said Mendel of Birmingham. "It's great life lessons for them, for me."

Sarah Crane, 23, of Farmington Hills was able to learn from her experience serving lunch to the homeless at Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton Township. Crane is community relations associate for JCRC.

"It makes the idea of homelessness more real because we talked with individuals there," said Crane, who volunteered with her mother, Stacey of Birmingham.

"I think volunteering is important. Mitzvah Day allows all of us to come together and do good," Sarah said.

VOLUNTEERING AT 80

Ilene Dunn began volunteering about 20 years ago. She's still helping out at age 80 and has already delivered Hanukkah packages to seniors at Menorah House in Southfield this year. Her

friends Barbara Schwartz of Farmington Hills and Ilene Gretchko of West Bloomfield lend a helping hand as well.

"I think it's a very good cause and helps Christian people to take a break and go to church," said Dunn, who volunteers with her sister, Marlene Nessel of Farmington Hills. "The elderly really appreciate the company. We usually do a sing-a-long and my sister plays piano. A lot of residents don't have families and friends. They really love it and we get such a kick out of it."

Hy Safran enjoyed the experience so much last year, he's organizing a group of young leaders in the Jewish community.

Safran, 26, is senior adviser to Congressman Gary Peters. Last year, Safran served the poor at St. Leo's Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

"My family, the Safrans, have been very involved in the Jewish community — Shaarey Zedek with lay lead roles as well as the Jewish Federation," said Safran, who lives in Franklin and grew up in Birmingham.

JEWISH TRADITION

"The important part of being Jewish is giving back to the community and social justice, being a light unto the nations," he said. "It's absolutely important to get involved and grab the microphone and

be a leader to encourage others. It's a great way to meet friends, to do a good deed not only for Jews, but all people."

Gail Greenberg is overseeing the volunteer opportunities for Mitzvah Month as senior staff associate at the Federation's Alliance for Jewish Education.

"As part of the month, we're having a challenge to the community to collectively do 1,800 hours of volunteer service," Greenberg said. "We have some planned activities, as well as some activities people are going on their own to volunteer toward a common goal of reaching a community milestone."

On the web at www.jewishdetroit.org/mitzvah, is a listing of different places to volunteer.

"People are excited. People are learning about places in the community they might not know about that need help," Greenberg said. "Last year, Mitzvah Day was incredible. We had a rabbi and imam working together with groups of families. Everyone was focused on helping others."

BUILDING PEACE

Victor Begg couldn't agree more about the success. Last year, as chairman of the Council of Islamic Organizations, he gathered members of Muslim congregations to assist in the project. This year, with the conflict of Christmas falling on the Jewish Sabbath, the Council is organizing a volunteer day Dec. 25.

"We've got to keep working at it, to continue our actions to build peace, relationships and religious tolerance, and hopefully more and more people will join," said Begg, senior adviser for the Council and a Bloomfield Hills resident. "This year we're volunteering two days, Christmas Eve day and Christmas day when the Council is relieving the Christians and Jews. Now we're helping the Jews, too, and allowing them to observe their Sabbath because their

Muslim cousins stepped in."

Like Begg, Dr. Muzammil Ahmed is looking forward to working with the Jewish community again. This year, in addition to coordinating students from Crescent Academy International in Canton and members of the Canton mosque Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, Ahmed is seeking the help of students from the three high schools in the Plymouth-Canton district. "In the spirit of interfaith

cooperation, we're planning to meet at their sites, but we're inspired by them and having our own volunteer day. We're expecting several hundred volunteers, students as well as families," said Ahmed, a urologist with offices in Westland and Dearborn. "We want to emphasize it's a good family activity."

To offer a lending hand to Christians on Christmas day, visit www.ciomvolunteerdaily.com.

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ISAIAH 9:6



Icy hot

Spartans nip CC for 8th straight

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no hockey team hotter going into the Christmas break than Livonia Stevenson. The Spartans, who lost their season opener to Farmington, have now won eight straight following a 4-3 triumph Saturday night at Edgar Arena over defending Division 1 state champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

'It's always great beating CC, whether they're my alma mater or not. They're a storied program and it's a huge win for us.'

GERRY VENTO, Stevenson coach and a CC graduate

The Humitz connection for the Spartans factored heavily in the win as sophomore goaltender Connor stopped 30-of-33 CC shots, while cousin Michael tallied the game-winning goal on a backhand shot at 2:12 of the final period.

Stevenson first-year coach Gerry Vento, a CC graduate,

also notched his first win against the Shamrocks. It was the Spartans' first victory over a Catholic Central squad since the 2008 season.

"It's nice, but for us it's a win, and we move on to the next game," said Vento, whose team doesn't return to action until Jan. 5. "It's always great beating CC, whether they're my alma mater or not. They're a storied program and it's a huge win for us."

It was 2-2 after one period with Stevenson getting on the board first at 3:57 when Andrew Palushaj banged home a rebound off assists from Ryan Urso and Nick Barr.

CC's Ryan Keller made it 1-1 on a backhand from Nolan Gluchowski at 5:45 and the Shamrocks scored again to go up 2-1 just 42 seconds later on a quick wrist shot by Charlie Green after a pinpoint pass from Carson Gatt. (Sean Gaffney also drew an assist).

At the 10:44 mark of the same period, Stevenson scored on a four-and-four when Josh Pettersson scored his fourth of the year from Brendan Hay.

Stevenson then enjoyed a five-on-three advantage early in the second period when CC took back-to-back penalties during an 11-second span.

The power play, however, backfired when a

Please see **STEVENSON, B2**



CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

Falcons' senior Matt Allemang put the puck past Flyers' goalie Keith Ladouceur for a 5-1 score early in the second period.

Falcons crank up power

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Farmington's power play was ... well, not very powerful at the start of the hockey season. It was weak in fact. But that has changed in a month's time.

The revitalized Falcons scored four power-plays goals Saturday night in their 7-3 rout of intra-city rival Farmington Hills Unified.

"We've been working on our power play," coach Mark Vellucci said. "Our power play was awful the first four or five games. Then, we started to get it working. We knew we were capable of doing that."

Farmington also reached the end of the 2010 portion of its schedule without a loss in nine games. The Falcons also are 3-0-1 in the Oakland Activities Association's top division.

"I'm as happy as can be that we're 9-0," Vellucci said. "Did I expect it? No. But am I surprised? Not really, either."

The rematch with the Flyers — Farmington rallied from two goals down for a 5-4 win in late November — was all but over in the first period as the Falcons scored on two late power plays to take a 4-1 lead.

Nick Elliott, who had a goal and two assists to raise his team-

high point total to 19, broke a 1-1 tie at 8:17.

The Falcons took command of the scoreboard when Danny Prokes and Alex Schmitt, who had his second-straight, two-goal game, netted power-play goals with 5:51 and 2:59 remaining.

Flyers coach Ken Anderson said his young team (3-5, 0-2) didn't compete well in the first period and played as if it was in awe.

"They brought it to us pretty good," he said. "We had too many mental breakdowns like we've been having so far this year."

Please see **FALCONS, B2**



Canton's Bryan Tolinski handles the anchor leg of the 200 yard backstroke relay during Friday's Wildcat Holiday Relays at Salem.

Teams make splash at Wildcat Relays

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The annual Wildcat Holiday Relays combined cheers of the season with cheers for the swimmers, as nine high schools put on a splendid showing.

Capturing first place at the Plymouth-hosted event, actually held at Salem High School, was Monroe with 352 points. Howell trailed with 338, followed by Walled Lake Northern (296) and Park teams Canton and Plymouth.

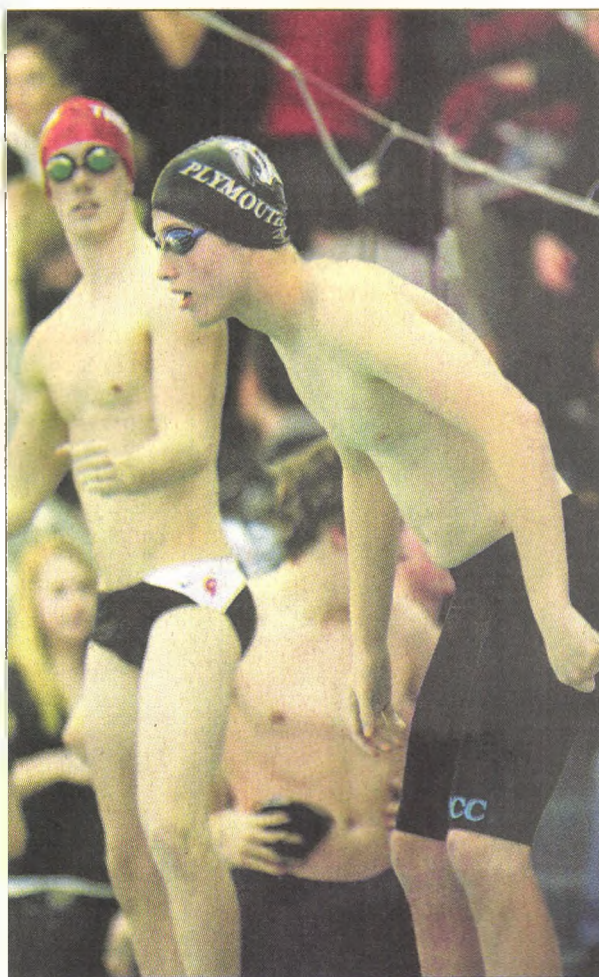
The Chiefs took fourth with 293 points, while the Wildcats and Dearborn Edsel Ford shared the No. 5 spot with 253 points each. Rounding out the standings were Tecumseh (seventh, 239), Woodhaven (eighth, 232) and Redford Union (ninth, 114).

"It was a good meet for us," Wildcats head coach Doug Schade said. "It was a nice start to see where we stand right now. The highlight of the meet for us was our 200 butterfly relay that took first place."

That relay team finished with a time of 1:45.22 and included seniors Alex Jouney, Ethan Christensen, Zach Koch and sophomore Cameron Earls.

Meanwhile, Canton won several of the 10 events, including the 400 free relay (juniors Victor Zhang, Adrian Simon, Jay Jin and sophomore Mike Carlson, 3:21.75); 400 medley relay (Jin, Zhang, senior Christopher Krebs and junior Adrian Simon, 3:57.19); and 200 medley relay (Jin, Zhang, Carlson and senior Jacob Dillon, 1:45.38).

Please see **RELAYS, B3**



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI

Sophomore Cameron Earls of the Plymouth Wildcats is ready to swim one of the events he competed in during Friday's Wildcat Holiday Relays.

ROUNDBALL CLASSIC

Glenn 'rockets' past Willow Run

Westland John Glenn concluded play in the Glenn Roundball Classic in sterling fashion Tuesday night as the Rockets blasted visiting Ypsilanti Willow Run, 69-48.

Senior Marcus Mecks led three Rocket players in double figures with 16 points. Junior Abeon Simmons followed with 13 points and senior Christian Cobile added 11. Senior Chris Jones chipped in with eight points.

For Willow Run (2-4), Aaron Richmond topped the scoring chart with 14 points and teammate Dequantis Henderson twined 10.

Glenn burst out to a 17-9 lead after one quarter, moved the margin to 36-19 at halftime and coasted to its second win in three tries this season by outscoring the Flyers 33-29 over the final two frames.

NORTH FARMINGTON 52, CLARENCEVILLE 37: North Farmington improved to 3-1 on the season by racing past Livonia Clarenceville Tuesday night in play at the Glenn Roundball Classic.

Urbane Bingham tossed in a game-high 18 points and Caleb Hogans netted 11 as the Raiders took control in the first two frames by outscoring their foes 25-14.

Sam Brown bagged 15 to pace Clarenceville (2-2).

PLYMOUTH 65, FERNDALE 57: Also at the Glenn Roundball Classic, Plymouth senior guard Mike Nadratowski poured in 28 points and pulled down 12 rebounds as the Wildcats knocked off Ferndale.

Other big contributors for Plymouth (2-3) included senior forwards Pat Salo (12 points, seven rebounds) and Brennen Beyer (10 points, eight rebounds).

According to Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup, a key factor to the win was the way his team warded off Ferndale's defensive pressure.

"Our team did a good job of handling that pressure and not succumbing to it," Soukup said. "And we were able to make them pay in most cases."

FARMINGTON 54, FRANKLIN 40: Farmington evened its record at 1-1 on the year with this lopsided victory Tuesday night over Livonia Franklin.

Senior Anthony Rutledge tossed in 11 points, classmate Tyler Johnson twined 10 and junior Chris Hare bagged nine to pace a balanced Farmington attack.

Max Shamus scored 13 and Mike Sharp added 11 to lead Franklin (0-3).

The Falcons broke open a tight game in the second half by outscoring the Patriots 35-23.

SIDELINES

Canton stings 'Stangs

In the final game before the holiday break, the visiting Canton Chiefs blanked Northville 3-0 Friday in a varsity boys hockey matchup.

For Canton (6-1-1), seniors Jimmy LaFontaine, Garrett Bryden and AJ Rosales scored goals while junior netminder Spencer Craig stopped all 26 Mustang shots. The loss dropped Northville to 3-5-1 overall.

County mat champ

James Roberts of Farmington Hills Harrison won the Oakland County Championship at 140 pounds on Saturday. He becomes the third Hawk in history to win the prestigious title and the first since Pat Palajac took home the title in 1979. The other Hawk champion was Damien Crudele in 1976.

In the finals, Roberts entered the second period down 2-1 against Division 1 No. 4-ranked Riley Hanson of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

As Hanson stood up to escape, the cradlemeister clamped down to lock in the cradle again to notch his fifth pin of the tournament and the title of Oakland County Champion.

Roberts pinned his way to the championship. He started out with a second period pin over James Huang of North Farmington, then caught Sam Hier of South Lyon in a cradle for this second win.

He defeated Mitchell Sable of West Bloomfield in the first period. Next up was Division 1 No. 9-ranked Diego Camp of Rochester and Roberts was awarded a controversial pin.

Alumni hoops

The Garden City High School girls basketball program will be holding its annual alumni game on Thursday, Dec. 30, inside the school gymnasium, 6500 Middlebelt.

All former Garden City girls basketball players are welcome and encouraged to attend. The junior varsity team will play the alumni from 6-7 p.m. and the varsity from 7-8:30 p.m.

If you have any further questions, contact Barry Patterson at (734) 635-2388 or Michele Tyree at (734) 306-8763.

Rankin pins down title

Redford Union sophomore Colin Rankin reigned supreme in the 171-pound weight class Saturday at the Franklin Invitational held in Livonia.

The Panther grappler was pretty dominant in defeating his foes in the early rounds and concluded his march toward capturing the crown with a 5-2 decision over Alex O'Conner of the host Patriots.

"It was a tightly contested match," RU head coach Rob Rankin said. "There wasn't a whole lot of room for mistakes."

In addition to Rankin's heroics, the Panthers received strong performances from senior Josh Hall at 135 and classmate Christian Colon at heavyweight. Hall settled for second after dropping a heart-breaking one-point defeat to his Franklin opponent in the final, while Colon took third after pinning his Garden City foe.

"All three have been rock solid all year," Rankin said. "I was very pleased and the effort was there from everyone."

Pratt sparks MU

Playing the first time following a nine-day layoff for final exams, the Madonna University women's basketball team showed little rust with a 65-60 nonconference victory Monday

Please see **SIDELINES, B3**



PHOTO BY DANIEL MICHAEL

Franklin players celebrate after back-to-back mercy rule wins during last weekend's Taylor SportsPlex Holiday Tournament conquest.

Barnes MVP as Pats roll in holiday tourney

Tournament MVP Travis Barnes scored four times Saturday night as Livonia Franklin rolled past host Taylor Unified, 8-0, to capture the Taylor SportsPlex Holiday boys hockey title.

The Patriots, who improved to 4-6 overall, led 3-0 after one period as Barnes, a sophomore, notched a natural hat trick.

Mike Diaz drew two of the assists on Barnes' three goals, while Tyler Satkowiak, Adam Stadler and Zach Wiacek each added one.

Franklin scored four more times in the second period including power play goals by Adam Michael and Aaron Hoffmeyer.

Kevin Webb (unassisted) and Barnes

also scored during the period with assists going to Tyler Dewhirst, Danny Donahue, Josh Leonard, Stadler and Andrew Pearson.

Wiacek's shorthanded goal just 4:22 in final period ended the game in a eight-goal mercy.

Franklin, which beat Taylor Unified for the second time this season, outshot the hosts 33-14.

"The team is finally coming together and playing with confidence and control," Franklin coach Scott Wirgau said.

FRANKLIN 10, LINCOLN PARK 1: Sophomores Adam Stadler and Mike Diaz each scored twice as Livonia Franklin (3-6) snapped a six-game losing skid Friday in a victory over the Railsplitters in

the Taylor SportsPlex Holiday Tourney.

The Patriots, outshot Lincoln Park 38-8, led 8-1 after one period and invoked a running clock 7:53 into the second period.

Other Franklin goal scorers included Adam Michael, Tyler Dewhirst, Richie Wiczorek, Travis Barnes, Kevin Webb and Aaron Hoffmeyer.

Chipping in with two assists apiece were Josh Leonard, Danny Donahue, Webb, Wiczorek and Michael.

Adding one assist each were Tyler Satkowiak, Jerome Schlaff, Zach Wiacek, Dewhirst and Stadler.

Franklin used two goaltenders - Matt Slinder, who played the first period, and Travis Ferrier.

Tyler Stireman had the lone Lincoln Park goal from Adam Bussell to make it 1-1 at 2:25 of the first period.

STEVENSON

FROM PAGE B1

Stevenson defenseman fall down at the blue line while trying to keep the puck in and Green took advantage an unassisted goal at 5:14 to make it 3-2.

Stevenson then found itself short a man after taking a penalty at the 7:15 mark.

But the Spartans returned the favor a shorthanded goal of their own when Palushaj notched his 11th of the season on a nifty passing play from Urso and John Mandryk.

That set the stage for Michael Humitz, who beat CC netminder Connor Pankow with 14:48 left for what proved to be the deciding goal off assists from Pettersson and Cam Humitz (Michael's brother and Connor's cousin).

"That was a back breaker,

it's not something you want to do," Vento said of giving up a goal on a five-on-three man advantage. "But our guys kind of sucked it up and found a way and came back with a big shorthanded goal of our own, so credit to them."

PROTECTING THE LEAD

Connor Humitz then kept the Shamrocks off the board, including a furious last 1:35 when CC pulled its goalie for the sixth attacker.

"I think we got some great goaltending when we needed it," Vento said. "The guys just sacrificed. When they pulled that goalie at the end, our guys were getting in front of shots and doing whatever they had to do to clear that puck out of our zone."

"We got a little undisciplined early, but they settled down and played a pretty

good hockey game."

Connor Humitz seemed to get stronger and gain confidence as the game wore on.

"He did have a shaky start," Vento said. "But you know what, he's a sophomore playing against a powerhouse like CC, and he had two that he probably wanted back, but I tell you what, he came up with some monster saves for us and was a big part of this win."

The loss dropped CC to an uncharacteristic 4-3 overall. "It was kind of a crazy start to the second period with all those penalties back-and-forth," Catholic Central coach Todd Johnson said. "It went to the third period tied and they (Stevenson) made the play to win the game."

"We've got a young team and they have 15 seniors, so it was a good experience for us

to play on the road in a tough environment - we'll be fine. Stevenson's got a great team."

CC had the advantage in shots (33-21), but took seven penalties including three in the final period. (Stevenson also had a total of seven.)

"We were a little undisciplined and I didn't like that at all," Johnson said. "I'll take a look at some of those penalties on tape and see what's going on. But outside of that of being undisciplined, I thought we played hard. I thought we had a lot of good chances. Their goalie (Humitz) played fantastic tonight. Obviously they were diving and blocking a few shots. It's one of those things. It's a good rivalry, so we'll take a lot of positives out of the game."

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FALCONS

FROM PAGE B1

"We're still relatively young on defense. As we go along, we'll get more confident, stronger on the puck and be okay."

Farmington made it 5-1 early in the second period with Matt Allemang's goal, but the Falcons were busy killing penalties the rest of the time. Unified's Ryan Murray scored the only other goal of the period at 11:01.

"We got a little undisciplined," Vellucci said. "We took some undisciplined penalties. The bottom line is they were stupid penalties, and we didn't do it in the first (period). They took the penalties in the first and we capitalized."

"Killing that five-minute penalty was probably the game right there. If they score, it's a two-goal lead (5-3), and the worst lead in hockey is a two-goal lead."

The Falcons sandwiched a pair of power-play goals around a third for Unified in the last period.

Schmitt scored his second at 10:39, and Kyle Gandy got the seventh goal with 25 seconds left.

Farmington's Kyle Rea opened the scoring at 13:01 of the first period. Scott Newel and Kyle Wood scored for Unified in the first (12:20) and third (8:05) periods, respectively.

"We were right in all the



CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

Senior goalie Tim Rogers stopped 25 shots for the Falcons, who continue to roll early in the 2010-11 season.

games except for this one," Anderson said. "With the playoff system in the league now, as long as we're playing well in February, there isn't much to worry about now. Our leaders are trying, but we haven't had any good continuity yet from shift to shift. Until that happens, we're going to have inconsistent games like this."

Farmington's Ethan Baker,

Zac Massa and Prokes and Wood also had two assists each. Winning goalie Tim Rogers faced 28 shots, Keith Ladouceur of the Flyers 34.

"We have great senior leadership, great captains," Vellucci said. "All 21 guys are focused on competing and winning. Honestly, the only thing that's going hurt us is ourselves."

"Taking those penalties in

the second period and being undisciplined, that's going to hurt us down the road, because we're going to get tired out from killing penalties over and over.

"But we have a lot of depth up front and with the D. We can put a lot of combinations out there for the penalty-kill. I think our depth has really shown in the first nine games."

RECREATION BASKETBALL

REDFORD TOWNSHIP STANDINGS

Men's Basketball

Team	W	L	P
Team USA	4	1	8
MC Ballers	3	2	6
Cheli's Chili	3	2	6
RT-Runner	3	2	6
Arsenal	3	2	6
Dirty Dozen	3	2	6
Old School	3	2	6
Run N' Gun	1	4	2
Heavyweights	1	4	2
All Sport	1	4	2

Results

Old School 90, Arsenal 70: Chris Shepard bagged a game-high 28 points and Dewey Ramin netted 19 as Old School raced out to a 43-32 halftime lead and coasted to this decisive victory over Arsenal. Anthony Rutledge chipped in with 17 as Old School moved above the .500 mark to 3-2. Mike Robinson paced Arsenal with 20 points and Dede Smith tossed in 15.

Dirty Dozen 79, Run N' Gun 78: Andre Johnson poured in 21 points as Dirty Dozen outlasted Run N' Gun to win for the third time in five tries. TC Martez and Dion Sherrell both scored 17 points in the winning effort. Run N' Gun got 21 points from Drew Bradford and 18 more from Lance Wesson.

Team USA 96, All Sport 60: Team USA remained ahead of the pack as Terrence Whitehead and D. Williams each scored 19 points. All Sport got a game-high 34-point performance from Mike Beatty and 16 from Ed Browder.

RT-Runner 73, McBallers 66: Jason Allen netted a team-leading 24 points and Gerald Binford chipped in 13 as RT-Runner built a 10-point halftime lead and rolled to its third win of the season.

Cheli's Chili 64, Heavyweights 62 (OT): A furious second-half rally saw Heavyweights overcome a 21-point halftime deficit to force this game into overtime. Unfortunately for Heavyweights, the extra session was not as kind as Cheli's Chili regrouped to pull out the thrilling victory. Mike Bright tossed in 21 points and Tre Parker netted 15 to pace the winning effort. Heavyweights' top sluggers included Wes Hicks with 20 points and Leroy Blyden with 18.

Scoring Leaders

Name	Team	PPG
Mike Beatty	All Sport	31.6
Chris Shepard	Old School	25.2
Wes Hicks	Heavyweights	23.5
Brandon Daniels	MC Ballers	22
Andre Johnson	Dirty Dozen	21.5
Mike Robinson	Arsenal	20
Lance Wesson	Run N' Gun	19
Kevin Davis	Arsenal	18.6
Darien Bynum	Dirty Dozen	18.5
Dan Kurtanitis	Cheli's Chili	18.2
Mike Bright	Cheli's Chili	17.6
Leroy Blyden	Heavyweights	16.2
Gerald Binford	RT-Runner	16.2
Dion Sherrell	Dirty Dozen	16
BJ Jones	MC Ballers	15.6
Anthony Rutledge	Old School	15
Terrence Coker	Dirty Dozen	14.6
Drew Bradford	Run N' Gun	14.2
Jason Allen	RT-Runner	14
Terrence Whitehead	Team USA	14
TC Martez	Dirty Dozen	14
Corey Terrant	Heavyweights	12.5
Jay Scagg	Dirty Dozen	12.5
Donald Tinsley	Arsenal	11.5
Linzee Bennett	Run N' Gun	11.5
Dede Smith	Arsenal	11.5
Ed Browder	All Sport	11.5
David Klein	MC Ballers	11.2
Tyrone Temple	MC Ballers	11.2
TC	Dirty Dozen	11
Tommy Clark	Team USA	10.8
Khari Reid	Run N' Gun	10.6
Dewey Ramin	Old School	10.6
Antione Hatcher	Heavyweights	10.5
Tre Parker	Cheli's Chili	10.2

Chiefs, 'Cats on a roll

Super Bowl in Canton hosted a high school bowling matchup worthy of the facility's name.

Last Thursday, the Canton and Salem squads got together and turned in some close and exciting games, with the Chiefs prevailing in the varsity boys and varsity girls contests.

The Canton varsity boys came from behind to win 19-11, while the girls matchup was a nailbiter - won 17-13 by the Chiefs.

Salem's boys got off to a fast start, however, winning 213-209 in the first Baker game, although the Chiefs won 201-183 in the second Baker game. In the opening match game, the Rocks similarly started strong and won behind David Nikkila (257), Kevin Williams (248) and Ryan Clark (199).

Canton's Alex Champagne rolled a 269 while Kurt Kowalski and Ryan Washburn had strong games of 235 and 199, respectively, but to no avail.

In Game 2, the Chiefs came out firing and erased a 28-pin deficit to ultimately win going away. Top bowlers for Canton were Ross Terrasi (245) and Josh Pozan (217).

Pacing Salem were Clark (242) and Tyler Foley (204).

The girls match came down to the final two bowlers, with Canton's late comeback doing the trick for the Chiefs.

Ashley Cade and Charlotte Zimmer tallied scores of 171 and 157 in the clincher, while Salem shooters included Kristen Larkin's excellent 194 game and Bridge

PREP BOWLING

Maul's 158.

In the opening match game, Cade tallied a 187 while Ashley Kretschmer (190) and Larkin (158) also had solid showings.

Baker games were divided, with Canton falling 152-153 to Salem in the opener before turning the tables (142-127) in the second game.

Canton's JV teams also were victorious. The boys won 20-10 (top scorers: Canton, Gary Barnett, 213; Salem, Brandon Allison, 203) and the girls won 21.5-8.5 (top scorers: Canton, Beth Stark, 146; Salem, Ashley Mikolaiczak, 141).

Sweep for Wildcats

Plymouth's bowling squads all came away victorious last Thursday against Northville, with the matches also at Super Bowl.

The varsity boys won 29-1, led by Kyle Webb (247-198-445), Justin Thompson (227-185-412), Brandon Congdon (202-207-409) and Eric Thompson (205-194-399).

It was much closer in the varsity girls contest, although the Wildcats earned a 16-14 win. Top Plymouth rollers included MacKenzie Carlson (186-288-474), Caitlyn Webb (202-160-362), Tiffani Patterson (128-189-317) and Jessica Cullen (132-102-234).

In the JV boys matchup, Plymouth won 28-2. Eric Combee bowled a 210 in the second match game for the Wildcats.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Franklin baseball camp

The fifth annual Franklin Future Stars spring baseball camp for boys and girls in grades 3-6 will be Saturday, Feb. 12 at the high school fieldhouse, located at 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Session 1, consisting of hitting, base running skills and infield work, will be from 9-11:30 a.m.

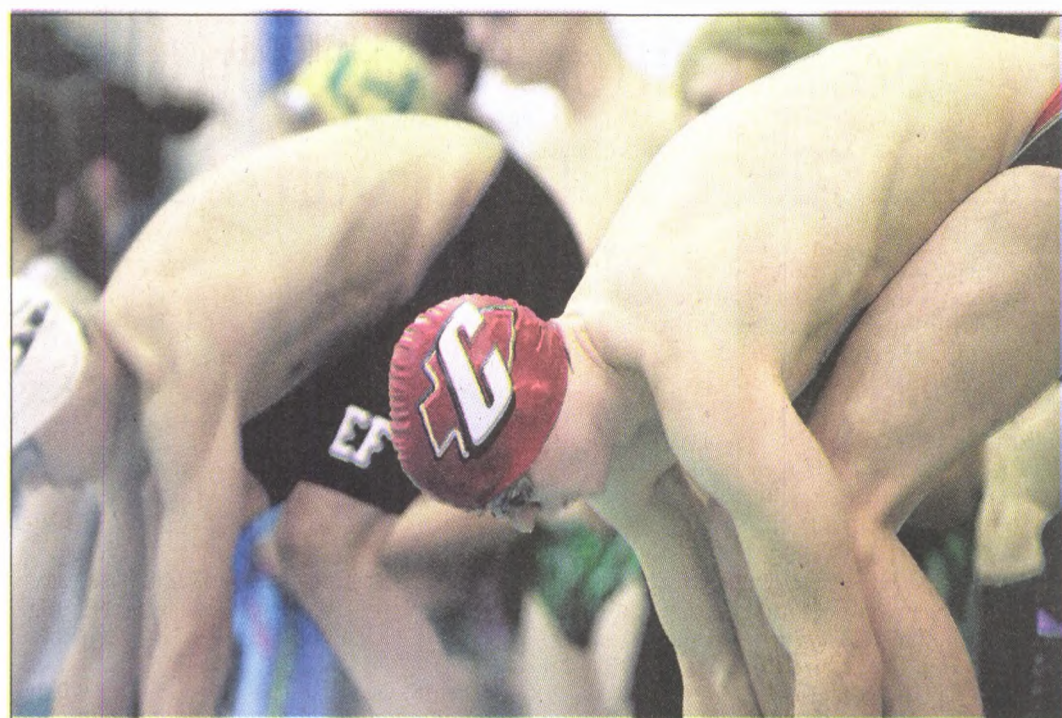
Session 2, consisting of pitching, catching, outfield and defensive

kills, will be from 12:15-2:45 p.m.

Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Each camper will bring his or her sack lunch. Campers and instructors will eat a supervised sack lunch together in the bleachers of the fieldhouse.

The cost for each session is \$25, or \$45 for both sessions.

E-mail Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org; or call (734) 968-0499.



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton's Evan Champine gets set to jump into the water during Friday's Wildcat Holiday Relays.

RELAYS

FROM PAGE B1

LOCAL RESULTS

Results from Observer-area teams are as follows:

400 yard freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Victor Zhang, Mike Carlson, Adrian Simon, Jay Jin), 3:21.75; 3. Plymouth (Ethan Christensen, Alex Jouney, Cameron Earls, Adam Liakos), 3:35.57; 9. Redford Union (names not available), 5:14.15.

400 medley: 6. Canton (Jonathan Marceau, Jacob Dillon, Christopher Krebs, Evan Champine), 4:20.83; 8. Plymouth (Nick Weber, Todd

Maslyk, DeLeon Morris, Kyle Strobel), 4:39.19; 9. Redford Union (n/a), 4:58.55.

200 butterfly: 1. Plymouth (Jouney, Christensen, Earls, Zach Koch), 1:45.22; 8. Canton (Champine, Michael Fluegemann, Kyle Bindas, Souvik Roy), 2:12.11.

1-meter diving: 3. Connor McManus (Plymouth), 173.80; 7. Ryan Kilgore (Canton), 130.90; 10. Alex Sogge (Canton), 87.75.

400 medley: 1. Canton (Jin, Krebs, Simion, Zhang), 3:57.19; 6. Plymouth (Strobel, Maslyk, Weber, Liakos), 4:27.77.

200 breaststroke: 4. Canton (Fluegemann, Nick Lacich, Michael Wilyard, Jay Akolkar), 2:13.28; 8. Redford Union (n/a), 2:21.80; 9. Plymouth

(Morris, Weber, Maslyk, Strobel), 2:25.70.

200 backstroke: 2. Plymouth (Earls, Jouney, Liakos, Christensen), 1:54.11; 6. Canton (Nathan Benjamin, Bindas, Saul Park, Bryan Tolinski), 2:22.57.

500 freestyle: 7. Canton (Drew Wade, Marceau, Carlson, Krebs), 4:57.31; 8. Redford Union (n/a), 5:18.45; 9. Plymouth (Zoch, Gunnar Savalox, Strobel, Mike Pool), 5:32.92.

200 medley: 1. Canton (Jin, Dillon, Zhang, Carlson), 1:45.38; 8. Redford Union (n/a), 1:59.60; 9. Plymouth (Weber, Maslyk, Zoch, Morris), 2:02.17.

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Not quite enough Spring Arbor staves off MU in Crusader Classic

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

MENS BASKETBALL

It seems to be a rhetorical theme. The Madonna University men's basketball hit another rough second-half patch Saturday and it proved costly - this time in the finals of the Crusader Classic.

Spring Arbor rallied from a five-point halftime deficit to go up by 11 and later held off a last-ditch MU comeback for a 67-62 win and the tournament title.

D.J. Baisden came off the bench to lead the Cougars with 16 points, while tournament MVP Willie Pickvet added 13, including three consecutive three-pointers to spark the second-half surge.

The Cougars, who improved to 9-7 overall, made 8-of-16 shots from beyond the arc.

"The second half we were slower on our (defensive) rotations," said MU coach Noel Emehiser, whose team slipped to 4-10. "The first half we did a great job of stopping the dribble penetration and pushing them further from the rim, which gave us time to close back out on shooters. The second half we let them get deeper. And then it was a lot longer to run from the help side, and get to the shooter. But give them credit, they hit some tough shots, albeit too many were wide open."

MU led 29-24 at halftime, but Spring Arbor went on a 10-2 surge to take a 34-31 lead at the 17:37 mark.

The Crusaders then tied it at 41-all, but Spring Arbor opened up a 55-44 advantage on a 14-3 run with 8:24 remaining in the game.

Another key statistic revealed that Spring Arbor capitalized on 20 points off turnovers.

"I feel we've improved defensively," Emehiser said. "I know we've held teams under 70 points seven straight games now, maybe eight. We just haven't done it throughout the course of the game, and we let teams go on runs too much. We fuel their runs with turnovers." Madonna, however, continued to fight and got within four, 58-54 with 4:30 to go on a three-pointer by freshman guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson).

With Spring Arbor clinging to a 65-62 lead with just under 36 seconds left, both Bryant Slaughter (Westland) and Kevin Henry missed three-point opportunities to tie it for the Crusaders.

"The understanding on how to win - we've put ourselves in position in each of the last five games, and unfortunately lost two of them," Emehiser said. "But it's all been

what I say on simple mistakes that lead to really big things. The turnovers in the second half that led to easy buckets for them were huge. Little plays that Spring Arbor made, we're still not making on a day-to-day basis is really the difference."

Naubert, named to the All-Tournament squad, finished with a team-high 15 points.

Senior center Ryan Waidmann (Canton) and Slaughter each added 12. Waidmann also grabbed a team-best eight rebounds.

Freshman guard Rob Hogans (North Farmington) and sophomore guard Chris Bellamy (Novi) contributed 13 and 12 points, respectively, for the Cougars.

Also named to the All-Tourney team were Baisden, Marygrove College's Brandon Carlson and East-West (Ill.) International's Derrick Reeves.

MU doesn't return to action until Wednesday, Dec. 29 when they face Malone (Ohio) in the opening round of the Hope College Russ DeVette Classic.

And Emehiser is looking for just one thing when his team returns to practice on Dec. 26.

"I want to see that they're really hungry to improve, to learn and get better at the game," he said.

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Pats hold serve in mat invite

The Patriots found their home mats to their liking Saturday as they captured a highly competitive 12-team Livonia Franklin Invitational wrestling tournament.

Franklin, boasting six individual weight class winners, scored a team-high 286 points, edging out Allen Park (247.5), Northville (239) and Dearborn Heights Crestwood (229) for the team title.

Individual winners for the Patriots included Gabe Martinez (125 pounds), Jordan Atienza (130), Steve Tuyo (135), Jordan McGuire (140), Matt Roos (189) and Omar Haymour (285).

Josh Hatfield (145) and Alex O'Connor (171) added a runner-up finishes for Franklin, while teammates Dan Martinez (119) and Allen Steele (160) each took thirds.

"We had a great final round that won it for us," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "It was a good tournament with some great final matches."

Redford Union's Collin Rankin emerged the winner at 171 pounds with a 5-2 decision over O'Connor.

Other individual winners included Brandon Washington (103) and Jake Sanders (152),

Carlson; Joey Golani (112) and Danny Muzyla (145), Crestwood; Ian Stirtion (119) and John Montgomery (160), Northville; and Lucas Luchonok (215), Dearborn Edsel Ford.

PATRIOT INVITATIONAL

Dec. 18 at Livonia Franklin H.S. TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Franklin, 286 points; 2. Allen Park, 247.5; 3. Northville, 239; 4. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 229; 5. Gibraltar Carlson, 185.5; 6. Garden City, 113.5; 7. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 107; 8. Dearborn, 92; 9. Redford Union, 82.5; 10. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 78; 11. Lutheran High Westland, 59; 12. Livonia Clarenceville, 22.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

103 pounds: Brandon Washington (Carlson) d. Mike Farkas (AP), 6-3; 3rd place: Sejad Al-Hussien (DHC) pined Galab Aljahmi (DEF), 3:18; 5th place: Jack News (LF) dec. Spencer Compo (N'ville), 7-5; 7th place: Eric Dutton (AAP) won by injury default over Billy Cobb-Gulley (AAP). 112: Joey Golani (DHC) p. Jake Polenciewicz (AP), 1:42; 3rd: Zachary Francis (LW) dec. Rob Doane (Garden City), 6-0; 5th: Aly Elhouldy (DHC) dec. Alio Hossien (DHC), 10-3; 7th: Justin Crites (DEF) p. Kyle Donahue (RU), 2:14. 119: Ian Stirtion (N'ville) dec. Ali Ayache (DHC), 3-2; 3rd: Dan Martinez (LF) won by major dec. Bobby Webb (AP), 11-2; 5th: Keegan Pape (AAP) p. Dakota Clark (Garden City), 2:34; 7th: Joey Walker (C'ville) p. Skyler Mulvihill (RU), 2:09. 125: Gabe Martinez (LF) p. Sam Polocoser (DHC), 1:59; 3rd: Sam Taccionelli (N'ville) dec. Nick Doane (Garden City), 11-8; 5th: Jake Peck (AAP) dec. Johnny Caronaro (AP), 6-1; 7th: Shane Martin (C'ville) won by injury default over Issa Fawaz (Dbn.). 130: Jordan Atienza (LF) won by technical fall over Dillan Wheeler (AP), 17-2; 3rd: Alex Hoffman (N'ville) p. Dakota Adams (Carlson), 2:06; 5th: Jafer Mokalled (Dbn.) p. Stewart Tarp (LW), 2:48; 7th: Billy Kryba (AAP) dec. Steven Spens (C'ville), 5-2.

135: Steve Tuyo (LF) dec. Josh Hall (RU), 7-6; 3rd: Brad Burgerson (AP) won by tech. fall over Brian Spehar (Garden City), 2:17; 5th: Ryan Murphy (AAP) p. Alec Clevenger (N'ville), 3:58; 7th: Tyler Solnikowski (LF) p. Tarek Bazzi (DHC), 1:26. 140: Jordan McGuire (LF) dec. Ali Saad (Dbn.), 7-4; 3rd: Travis Compo (N'ville) p. Jake Mydloski (Carlson), 2:49; 5th: Calib Riley (AP) p. Josh Plonka (DEF), 0:47; 7th: Jacob Boettcher (C'ville) dec. Jacob Richter (LW), 4-2. 145: Danny Muzyla (DHC) p. Josh Hatfield (LF), 2:45; 3rd: Nick Perttunen (N'ville) dec. Robert Leon (Dbn.), 9-7; 5th: Cody Blasengym (AP) p. Jake Scheffler (Carlson), 0:56; 7th: Justin Street (Garden City) won by tech. fall over Ali Makki (DEF), 22-7. 152: Jake Sanders (Carlson) p. Ahmed Al-Hussien (DHC), 1:32; 3rd: Alex Coe (N'ville) p. Tony Dunlap (AP), 2:34; 5th: Eric Blankenship (Dbn.) dec. Matt Sankey (LW), 12-10; 7th: Frank Plonka (DEF) p. Ethan Atzman (AAP), 2:46. 160: John Montgomery (N'ville) dec. Nate Labonte (Carlson), 9-5; 3rd: Allen Steele (LF) dec. Robbie Brown (AP), 7-2; 5th: Sumer Abboud (DHC) p. Matt Wisniewski (Garden City), 2:15; 7th: Markeyce Drewery (AAP) p. Roderick Howard (RU), 2:14. 171: Collin Rankin (RU) dec. Alex O'Connor (LF), 5-2; 3rd: Raed Murad (DHC) dec. Zack Keparth (Carlson), 4-3; 5th: Martin Kemp (LW) p. Tyler Paravano (AP), 2:29; 7th: Frank Diaz-Pezua (AAP), 2:25. 189: Matt Roos (LF) dec. Trevor Maresh (N'ville), 1-0; 3rd: Alex Kinch (AAP) p. Aaron Tenney (Carlson), 3:42; 5th: Zac Cooper (Garden City) p. Bobby Garza (AP), 2:32; 7th: Nader Bazzi (DHC) dec. Ahmad Fawaz (Dbn.), 4-1. 215: Lucas Luchonok (DEF) won by major dec. over Youssef El-Sayed (DHC), 15-7; 3rd: Jahl Hillard (AAP) p. Andy Boyd (N'ville), 1:42; 5th: Andrew Ingold (LF) won by injury default over Ryan Simons (LF); 7th: Dante Tyson (AP) won by injury default over Jacob Bartos (LW). 285: Omar Haymour (LF) p. Robert Miller (AP), 4:47; 3rd: Chris Colon (RU) p. John Mendelka (Garden City), 5:00; 5th: Jonny Wines (N'ville) p. Tyler Caughey (Carlson), 1:47; 7th: Steven Keeler (AAP) p. Nick Luchonok (DEF), 0:40.

Canton girls stumble, 35-29

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton might yet be a prime-time player in the KLAA and state playoffs before all is said and done.

But the Chiefs' varsity girls basketball team won't go undefeated in 2010-11, thanks to Tuesday night's 35-29 loss to visiting Inkster.

Canton (3-1) managed just six points in the first and third quarters, never quite getting untracked against the now 2-0 Vikings - who were led by Crystal Bradford's 16-point performance. "Early on in the game I thought we let Inkster get to the rim too

often in transition and we gave them too many second chances," lamented Chiefs' head coach Brian Samulski. "That is my fault for not getting us ready."

Samulski added that the team would have to learn quickly from the loss. "We play (Detroit) Country Day tomorrow (Wednesday) and they are just as good."

Poor shooting early in the contest put the Chiefs in an 11-6 hole after the first frame, but things didn't improve much the rest of the way. It was 22-15 Inkster at halftime and 27-21 Vikings after three.

Canton finished making just

seven of 42 field-goal attempts and connected on 15 of 25 free throw tries.

There were some bright spots, however.

Kari Schmitt had another all-around game, with nine points, 11 rebounds and four steals.

Chipping in with eight points and eight boards was Kayla Bridges, while other contributors included Sara Schmitt (eight rebounds) and Robyn Mack (five points, three steals).

Jasmine Bracey and Kelsey Mitchell each scored six points for Inkster.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Blazers 5-0 after drubbing Crusaders

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Livonia Ladywood dressed only seven players, but those seven got the job done as the Blazers remained undefeated with a 62-43 girls basketball triumph Monday night at Macomb L'Anse Creuse North.

Junior guard Briana Combs nailed four 3-pointers en route to a game-high 19 points as the Blazers improved to 5-0 overall.

Sophomore forward Kiley Gorski and sophomore guard Andrea Anastos added 14 and 12, respectively, while senior forward Teresa Wojnarowski chipped in with 10.

Two key reserves missed the game because of injuries including sophomore guard Shelby Walsh (ankle) and senior center Katy Rooney (wisdom teeth pulled).

"All of our kids battled and competed, everyone contributed" said Ladywood first-year coach Anthony Coratti, whose team led 33-17 at halftime.

Center Jazmine Brown led L'Anse Creuse North (1-3) with

12 points. Ladywood made 12-of-15 free throw, while the Crusaders hit only 1-of-7.

CLARENCEVILLE 55, HAZEL PARK 43: Senior guard Jenna Burgess poured in a game-high 23 points Monday as host Livonia Clarenceville (2-3) turned back the Vikings (0-4).

Brittany Tallman and Jodi Ankiel added eight and six, respectively, for the victorious Trojans, who led 24-11 at halftime and 43-23 after three quarters.

Courtney Coombs led Hazel Park with 14 points.

Clarenceville was 17-of-32 from the foul line, while Hazel Park made 13-of-24.

SIDELINES

FROM PAGE B1

at Spring Arbor University.

Heather Pratt came off the bench to knock down four 3-pointers to spark the victorious Crusaders, now 4-6 overall, with 14 points.

Sophomore center Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) added 13 points and seven rebounds, while senior forward Tabatha Wydryck contributed 10 points and seven boards.

MU led 34-31 at halftime and extended its lead to 55-47 with 8:49 left on a pair of triples by Pratt.

Spring Arbor (7-8) pulled within two

in the final minute, 61-59, on a shot by Megan Bement, but the Crusaders iced the victory on a runner down the lane by Rachel Melcher and a pair of free throws by Wydryck.

April Adams led the Cougars with 12 points, while Kelly Bruggeman added 11 points and nine rebounds. Melissa Tejkl contributed 10 points.

MU was outrebounded 43-32, but won the turnover battle, 23-11.

Lady Ocelots win rout

Sophomore center Kimberly Bee scored 27 points and grabbed 16 rebounds Saturday to lift Schoolcraft College to an 85-48 victory over Marygrove College JV.

Amber Sammons added 14 points and eight rebounds for the 13th-ranked Lady Ocelots (10-3).

Other contributions for Schoolcraft, which led 37-23 at halftime, came from Charlise Slater (12 points, five assists), Diamond Tolliver (six assists) and Shaniqua Braggs (nine rebounds).

Schoolcraft shot 53 percent from the floor (35-of-65) and outrebounded Marygrove (62-51).

Keara Marks and Loletta Laster tallied 10 points each for the 0-4 Mustangs.

The Lady Ocelots return to MCCA Eastern Conference action at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, at Delta College.

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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

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

Christmas Eve/Day
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: Worship services
Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 986-3523

Christmas Eve/Day
Time/Date: 5 p.m. family worship with candlelight and 7:30 p.m. traditional candlelight with communion, Dec. 24; 10 a.m. bell ringing with worship and communion, Dec. 25; 10 a.m. worship, Dec. 26
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Holiday worship services
Contact: www.poplcm.org

Christmas play, worship
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 21
Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Worship service includes "Shopping Cart Christmas" play
Other services: Noon, Dec. 21; 5:30 p.m. family worship with the Christmas story told by children and youth, and 8 p.m. carols, candlelight and communion, Dec. 24; and 10 a.m. Dec. 26
Contact: (313) 937-3170

DEC. 30-JAN. 15, 2011

Concert
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Jan. 15, 2011
Location: St. John Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: Oakland Choral Society presents "Rachmaninoff's 'Vespers' in Church Slavonic. Carols and an original composition will be included in the program; tickets are \$15 and \$25, available in advance or at the door
Contact: (248) 391-0184

Lecture
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 West Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Howard N. Lupovitch launches a new three-part lecture series about the Talmudic sage, Hillel. The series will continue Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011 and Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011. Both begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include a question-and-answer session with Lupovitch. Each lecture will be self-contained and can be attended independently. Students are encouraged to read the book "Hillel's World" by Joseph Telushkin. The series is based on the book. Tuition for the series is \$40 or \$15 per lecture. Advance registration is encouraged but not required. Students may pay at the door
Coming up: An "Extended Afternoon Edition" of Shabbat Limud, featuring singing, learning, prayer and camaraderie will start with a light Kiddush lunch at noon and end with havdalah to mark the end of Shabbat, just before 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011. There is no charge, but donations for the program will be accepted. No reservations are required. Participants can also feel free to skip lunch and come just for the learning and other after-lunch activities. Drop-ins are welcome throughout the afternoon. Sessions for teens and adults will be taught by Beth Ahm member Jeff Silver, a law professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and Howard N. Lupovitch, who holds the Waks Family Chair in Jewish History at the University of Western Ontario. Sessions include "The Nature of Judicial Decision-Making in Jewish and American Law" and "Should Israel Have a Constitution?"
Contact: (248) 851-6880

New Year's worship
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 31
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Worship with communion
Contact: www.poplcm.org

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 Wagner 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

Prayer
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

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

Explore questions about liturgy at Exodus lecture on Jan. 23

Is the celebration of liturgy an effort of entertainment and the experience of an emotional high? Or, is liturgy a response to an invitation first extended by God?

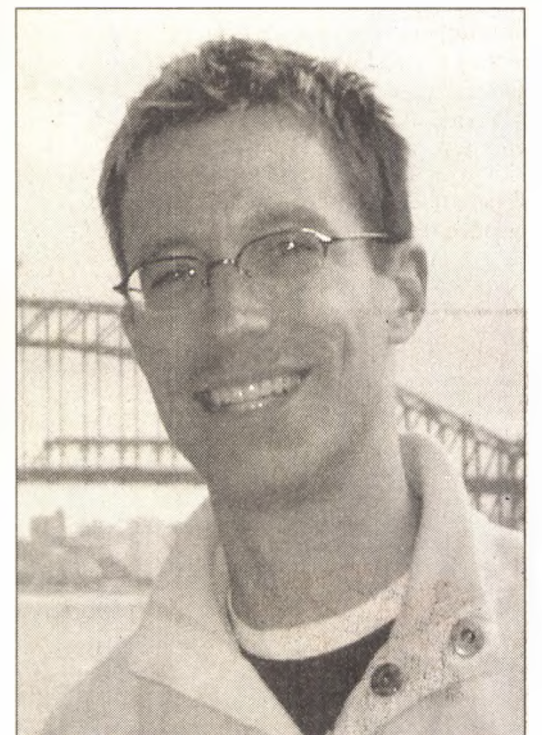
David J. Conrad, an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary will consider those questions and more at 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011, at St. Aidan, Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington, in Livonia.

His presentation will look at the liturgy and the Biblical Exodus story.

The program will include reflection offered within the context of evening prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A potluck dinner will be held after the lecture. The parish will provide the main course. Participants can drop off their potluck contributions in Bixman Hall before 5 p.m. Those with last names starting with the letters a-f, may bring an appetizer; g-m should bring salads; n-t provide vegetables and u-z, the desserts.

Conrad holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of St. Thomas and a Master of Arts degree in theology from Sacred Heart Seminary.

RSVP to David J. Conrad at (734) 425-5950, Ext. 203. The parish wants to know how many individuals will participate in order to get an accurate supply of the dinner's main course.



David J. Conrad will lecture on the biblical story of Exodus at St. Aidan in Livonia.

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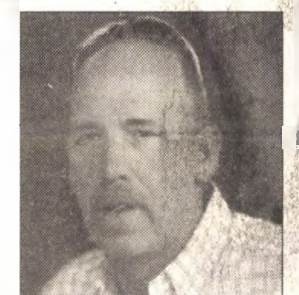
JOHN A. BARTLETT DDS, FACD

Jack was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, May 11, 1928. He is survived by Betty Mae, his wife of 61 years and their three children; Nancy Hollingsworth (Joe Gregory) of Bethesda, Maryland and their sons Gregory, Grant and daughter Brooke, Avery Bartlett II of Sarasota and Susan Noel (John Payne III) of The Woodlands, Texas and their four sons Christopher, Ryan, Quinton and Andrew. As an Eagle Scout he was devoted to the Boy Scouts of America. He attended Kenyon College where he was a Delta Tau Delta, President of his Class and Captain of the undefeated swimming team. He graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, with honors, and was President of Psi Omega Dental Fraternity. Dr Bartlett served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps as the Crown and Bridge Officer at NATO's largest Air Base in Chateauroux, France. Dr Bartlett's Dental Practice was located in Detroit and later in Birmingham, Michigan. He enjoyed practicing 25 of his 35 years with his father Avery Bartlett, with whom he also shared the podium at several lectures at major dental meetings including being the featured speakers at the founding meeting of the Veddar Society of Crown and Bridge Prosthetics at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. A Fellow in the American College of Dentists and a member of The American Academy of Restorative Dentistry, he lectured throughout the U.S. and in Europe. He wrote extensively for various dental journals and was a contributing author of the text, Advanced Restorative Dentistry. He served as Visiting Lecturer at the University of Texas, University of Virginia, University of Mexico and the Royal Dental College, London. He and his father were successive members of the oldest dental practice in the State of Michigan, founded in 1896, that is ongoing today. A lifelong sailor, he was Men's Champion of the Michigan Inland Yachting Association and National Champion of the Rebel Class. He served on the Board of Directors of the United States Yacht Racing Union where he was also Chairman of the Junior Sailing Committee and the U.S. Junior Championships. As such he was an advisor to the U.S. Olympic Team. He was Commodore of the Huron-Portage Yacht Club as well as The Michigan Inland Yachting Association, member of Lakelands Country Club, the Detroit Athletic Club and a founding member of Bent Tree Country Club of Sarasota. Jack served as President of Bent Tree Village II for two terms, was President of the Bloomfield Hills, MI Rotary Club where he was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow. Jack was Secretary of the University of Michigan Club of Sarasota and President of the Kenyon Alumni Association of Michigan. Services will be held after the holidays.



JOSEPH G. CHICKVARA

Age 79, Sarasota, died Dec. 15, 2010. He was born on May 2, 1931. A Memorial Mass will be Tuesday, 11:00 AM at St. Mary Star of the Sea. He was a Meyer Dairy Milkman after graduating from East Technical High School, Cleveland, Ohio, May 1949. Miami University, Oxford Ohio graduate, B.A. Business Administration 1954. Two years Korean War Veteran. Salesman, Libby Glass Co., Division of Owens-Illinois 1957-60. Minneapolis, St. Paul Branch Manager 1960-63. Midwestern Sales Manager 1963-67. Detroit National Sales Manager 1967-68. Toledo, Ohio. Joined Novi American, Inc., Novi, Michigan as Partner Owner, Building Material Products to construction trades, factory housing and D-I-Y retailers, 1969-90. President of Novi Canadian, Mississauga Ontario Canada 1981-90. Survived by his wife Mary Downey of Toledo, OH, two daughters, two sons and eight grandchildren.



GARY J. DODDE

Age 53 of Plymouth, December 19, 2010. Beloved son of Helen. Dear brother of Gayle Dodde and Paul (Nancy) Dodde. Dear uncle of Christopher, Kimberly, Allison and Nicholas. He will be deeply missed by K. C. Mueller and all his special friends. Private cremation services have been arranged by Vermeulen Funeral Home- Plymouth. A "celebration of his life" will be held during the spring golf season. To share a memory with his family please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

NANCY (DAVIS) HURD

Of Livonia, MI. Age 78, died Thursday, December 16, 2010 at St. Mary's Mercy Hospital in Livonia of complications from Parkinson's Disease. Nancy was born June 20, 1932 in Ann Arbor, Michigan the daughter of Harold and Louise A. (Pielemeier) Davis. A brilliant artist, Nancy attended the University of Michigan, graduating with a Bachelor's in Fine Art. Working in a wide variety of media, she created an extraordinary body of fine artwork, which was widely exhibited and won numerous awards. She was active in the Farmington Artists Club, the Artifacts Art Club of Livonia, and also shared her talents as a continuing education instructor, even as she battled the ravages of her disease. Nancy loved classical music: she played cello and was an avid concert-goer. She also loved nature: walking in the woods was a favorite pastime. A devoted mother, she is survived by four children, Shannon (Mark Nesbit) Hurd of Columbus, OH, Cliff (Katerina) Hurd of Madison, WI, Aaron Hurd of Farmington Hills, Leslie Oetzman of Livonia, five granddaughters, Olivia and Eva Nesbit, Rachel Oetzman, Raphaela and Emerson Hurd. She was preceded in death by her brother, John Davis. Nancy's generous heart, curious mind and creative genius touched and inspired so many. Her spirit lives on in our hearts. A grave-site service will be held Sunday, December 26, at 1 pm at Oak Grove Cemetery, Chelsea, with LeAnn Soto officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

COLLEEN DELIAN LUNDSTEN (NEE GOFF)

Age 50, December 19, 2010. Loving wife of Geoff. Beloved mother of Amber and Ryan (Erin). Dearest Nani of Tyler. Visitation Sunday 1-9 pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Instate Monday at Forest Park Baptist Church, 26805 Farmington, Farmington Hills from 11 am until her funeral at 12 pm. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

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U-M study: Imams may improve Muslim health at hospitals

A new study by the University of Michigan Health system finds that doctors may be able to improve American Muslims' health by building and strengthening partnerships with Muslim religious leaders.

Previous studies show health systems have established partnerships with priests and rabbis to improve Christian and Jewish health, and included these religious leaders in

hospital chaplaincy programs.

But few imams, the Muslim religious leaders who hold various roles within the community, are included in these initiatives, says Aasim I. Padela, M.D., an emergency physician, instructor in the U-M Department of Emergency Medicine and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the U-M Health System.

"Imams play key roles in American

Muslim community health and partnerships with them may be a means to improve community health and deliver culturally sensitive, high quality care to American Muslims," Padela stated.

Padela and his colleagues interviewed 12 Muslim community leaders in southeast Michigan, including two imams, to see how each perceives the imam's role in community health.

Participants identified four central roles:

- Encouraging healthy behaviors through scripture-based messages in sermons
- Performing religious rituals around life events and illnesses
- Advocating for Muslim patients and delivering cultural sensitivity training in hospitals
- Assisting Muslims in health care decisions

But researchers say several barriers, such as hospitals' required chaplaincy credentials and imams' lack of availability, could prevent partnerships between imams and health care systems.

Padela said future research should focus on gaining views from multiple communities and a larger cross-section of individuals to gauge the depth and generalization of the study's findings.

In Loving Memory...at the Holidays

Light a candle for those no longer here, And hold their memories so very dear.
Light a candle for those who have gone, for in our hearts they will always belong.



Tracey Marie Mirti

It's lonely here without you! We miss you more each day, especially during the holidays!

*You are in our hearts & in our memories!
With love, Mom (Clara), Dad (Bob),
Kelly, Bobby, Jesse, Jacob, and McKenzie*



OE08724333 v2



SAL D'AGNILLO

You're forever remembered. Nothing is the same without you, we are lost in you.
The D'Agnillos



Jean Rose Pietryka
1/19/19-9/14/10
Our hearts were broken the day God called you home. But now our hearts are aglow with precious memories of you. Deeply loved and missed by: Sons Richard (Patti), Raymond (Lynda), Ronald (Betty) an all of your family.



Brian Hinzman,
We think of you and miss you every single day. This is especially true during the holiday season. 'Til we meet again.

With love,
Your family



IN MEMORY OF MELISSA (Williams) LAMBAREN
7-7-1974 to 12-3-2007
Like a song that remains in the heart when the music is playing no more, like a fragrance that stays in the air where a flower has blossomed before, like a star that continues to glow long after the breaking of dawn, the ones we have loved remain with us still, and the beautiful memories go on. Love you and miss you so much! Dad, Mom, Chris, Jenny, Sue, Jess and Marty

OE08722477



Eleanor Miller Zoumbars

Thank you, God. You blessed us with this lovely lady, Sweetest mom, grandma, aunt and loving friend. She blessed us with gentle patience, Kind understanding and love. Until we meet again, Amen

OE08724477

In Loving Memory of Delores Schulz 1937-2009.
Our second Christmas Holiday without you. Everyone misses you very much and thinks of you every day. You were the most loving and caring wife, mother of three children and grandma to six.
Your loving husband and family

OE08723174



In Loving Memory Of Charles J. McPhee

October 3, 1940~October 3, 2010

*Dearest Chuck,
You were both my loving husband and my loyal best friend. I will forever love and miss you. You will always have a place within and a part of my heart that no one else can ever have.*

I will love and miss you always.
Mary

KIM RENZI

April 3, 1970 - April 4, 2009



Forever in Our Hearts Love, Todd, Marina and Adeline.

OE08723425



In Loving Memory of Dorothy May & Clyde William Love

Dec. 1, 2010 ~ Dec. 22, 2009
Good parents give their children roots and wings. Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them. Thank you, Mom and Dad for giving us both. Love Children, Grandchildren and Great Great Grandchildren

OE08724856

In Loving Memory Arturo "POPS" Posa

May 6, 1942 - January 16, 2008



Forever In Our Hearts We Miss You Love Always, Jeff, Andi, Chris, Meg, & Matt

OE08712287



ALBERT LEONARD

October 12, 1925 - August 4, 2010

You will always be in our hearts! Each day we think of you, remember the lessons you taught us, how you would be so patient with each of us and the big smile you would get when we accomplished each task. You will never be forgotten. Love always! Your wife, sister, brother, brother-in-law, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

OE08724227

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St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8

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10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

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Mattins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131

Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org

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Risen Christ Lutheran

David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth

(734) 453-5252

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LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

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40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168

248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org

Traditional Worship 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m.

The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM

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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

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Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 23, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Local places to celebrate New Year's Eve

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

If you haven't already planned something for New Year's Eve there is plenty to do close to home. Many area bars, restaurants, banquet halls and even recreation and community centers have something to offer for this special night.

Here's a sampling of what's happening on New Year's Eve in the area.

Laurel Manor
39000 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia

(734) 462-0770
Livonia's Laurel Manor has been hosting a New Year's Eve party for 24 years. Cost is \$85 per person, which includes a premium bar, wine at the tables with dinner served. Dinner includes filet mignon, appetizers, a dessert afterglow, pizza after midnight, a champagne toast and party favors. Mass Transit will supply the music. Guests are also invited to watch the ball drop in Time Square. Laurel Manor has also teamed up with Marriott Hotels providing a shuttle to the banquet hall and breakfast Jan. 1. The hotel package is an additional \$89 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online or by going to www.laurelmanor.com.

Italian American Banquet Hall
39200 Five Mile Road
Livonia

(734) 953-9724
"New Year's Eve Gala Celebration, Starry, Starry Night" is the theme of this

party Dec. 31.

Party guests do not have to be a member to attend. Fantasia will provide entertainment. Cost is \$85 a person and will include antipasto at 7 p.m., dinner featuring filet mignon, a chicken entree, salad, vegetable, potatoes and dessert, a deluxe bar, red wine at each table, a coffee bar with espresso and cappuccino and a champagne toast at midnight. Reservations will be taken through Dec. 29.

1 Under Banquet & Catering
35780 Five Mile
Livonia

(734) 464-5555
Ring in the New Year with "The Ultimate New Year's Experience," 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31. The buffet menu includes carved prime rib, turkey, pork loin, chicken piccata, vegetable medley, mashed sweet potatoes, twice-baked potatoes, Basmati rice, cold bar with shrimp cocktail, smoked salmon and oysters, assorted salads, fruits, vegetables and cheeses and assorted desserts. Cost is \$45.95 per person, plus tax and gratuity. It includes two complimentary drink tickets, a champagne toast, party favors, live DJ, pizza and sliders at 12:30 a.m., open seating for small groups and reserved seating for groups of eight or more.

Sean O'Callaghan's
821 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth

(734) 459-6666
A New Year's Eve dinner with a limited menu



will include rosemary bacon wrapped shrimp, seared sesame crusted Mahi tuna and other entrees along with the daily menu. Music will be provided by Johnny Schreffler, playing contemporary rock to classic rock. Cover charge is \$10 after 9 p.m., which

includes party favors and a champagne toast at midnight. Reservations are suggested.

Station 885 Restaurant
885 Starkweather
Plymouth's Old Village

(734) 459-0885
Station 885, a family-owned

business in Plymouth for 25 years, will start seating at 4 p.m. New Year's Eve. Wally Gibson and Friends will provide live music. There is no set price for dinner, however, there is a limited menu of about 10 items ranging from \$20 to \$40. With the 10 p.m.

seating there is a complimentary champagne toast, free party favors and "plenty of good cheer to go around," according to Robert Costanza, owner.

"We are accepting reservations now," he said. "We will probably sell out, so make reservations early."

O'Tooles
32350 West Eight Mile,
Farmington Hills

(248) 426-6454
A New Year's Eve bash will include a deejay, dancing and champagne at midnight, as well as food and drink specials.

Reservations aren't required for parties of under eight people. The party is hosted by owner Ron Sarceovich and bartender Shelly Reed.

Malarkey's Irish Pub
35750 Warren Road
Westland

(734) 421-0746
There is no cover charge on New Year's Eve. A champagne toast will be provided at midnight. The dinner menu includes a 14-ounce New York strip steak dinner with two drinks for \$19.99. A deejay will provide dance music all night.

"We do a party every year and we usually get a great crowd," explained Anthony Crowley, manager.

Reservations aren't required, but they will be accepted.

Please see **NEW YEAR'S, B7**

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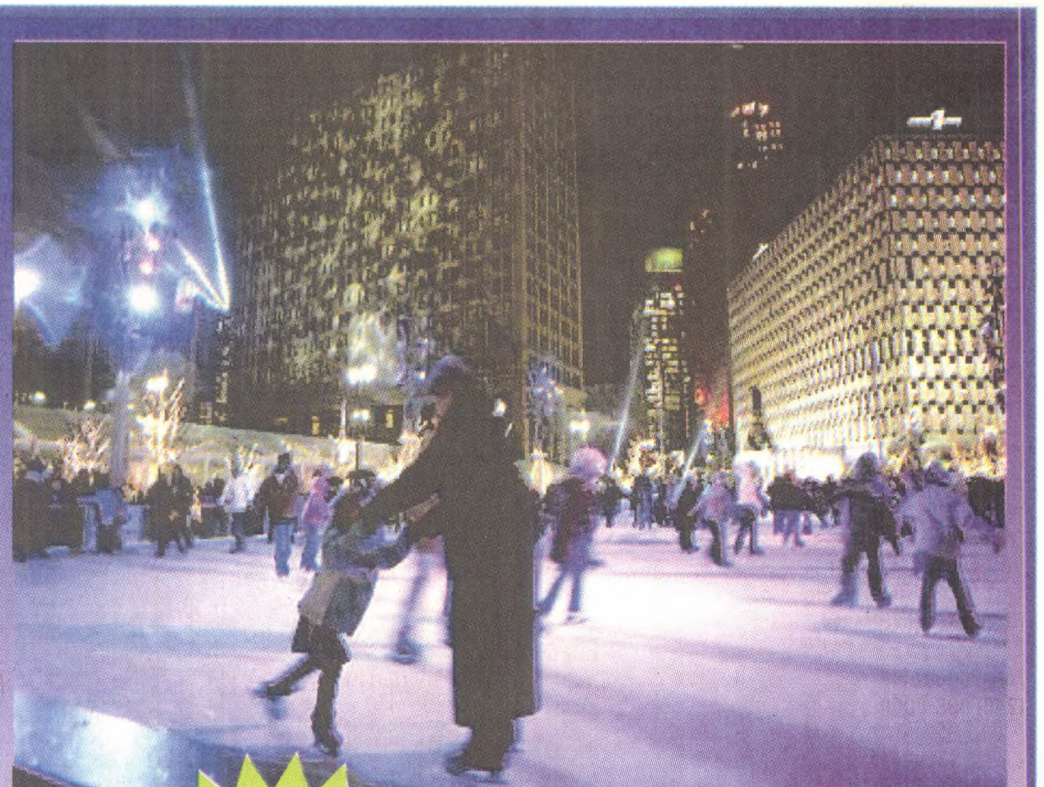
Your daily life at Abbey park can be active or relaxed - it's your choice. We offer planned activities, live entertainment, Happy Hour, ice cream socials and monthly trips to the casino. You can also enjoy leisure time in one of our beautiful indoor lounge areas or in one of our two enclosed courtyards. Should you require personal care, our care providers can tailor a package suited to your needs - ranging from once weekly services to 24-hour care plans. Whatever your pleasure, friendship and companionship are always available at Abbey Park.

War time Veterans may qualify for the Aid and Attendance Benefit - call for information!

For more information, please call

	Grand Blanc at Genesys Health Park 3221 E. Baldwin Rd. Grand Blanc, MI (810) 606-1110	Lyon Township Across from Coyote Golf Club 28413 Abbey Lane New Hudson, MI (248) 437-6550	
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NEW YEAR'S

FROM PAGE B6

Canton Leisure Services
46000 Summit Parkway
Canton
(734) 394-5460

A New Year's Eve family event is planned at the Summit Community Center from 3-6 p.m. Dec. 31. The cost is \$5 per person and will include open swim, a carnival setup with games in the gym, a countdown and balloon drop at the end of the event.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill
50400 Cherry Hill (west of Beck Road)
Canton
(734) 394-5460

Kickers on Michigan in Canton is presenting comedians at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The event offers two packages, \$65 per person for dinner, show and after party and \$35 per person for just the show and after party. Reservations are required.

Livonia Community Recreation Center
15100 Hubbard
Livonia
(734) 466-2900

A New Year's Eve family party is planned 4-7 p.m. Dec. 31. Events include swimming, playing on a giant inflatable, climbing the rock, holiday crafts and face painting for kids. Dodge ball, music and a surprise entertainer will also be available. Children 1 and under are free; recreation center members will be charged \$6; Livonia residents \$7.25 and nonresidents \$8.50. Reservations are required and will be taken through Monday, Dec. 27.

Roma Banquets
32550 Cherry Hill
Garden City
(734) 422-4550
www.romabanquets.com

The cost is \$99 per couple which includes a prime rib buffet style dinner, open deluxe bar, wine and soft drinks. Entertainment will be provided by Channel Six, which plays top 40 music. Dressy attire is requested, according to Joyce Zimba, sales manager. Tickets will be sold up to that night if they are available but last year's event sold out, added Zimba.

Grand Celebrations
32305 Grand River
Farmington
(248) 426-7388

In an effort to keep costs down, management is providing dinner for \$25 per person; \$40 per couple. A deejay will play music and dancing will be available.

Dinner includes three entrees, appetizers, a champagne toast at midnight and party favors.

"Come have a great time at a low price," said Cliff Donovan, owner.

Reservations will be accepted, however, tickets will be available at the door until they are sold out.

Farmington Hills Manor
23666 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills
(248) 888-8000

The cost is \$100 per person, which includes appetizers and

dinner including filet mignon, chicken and other items. A premium bar will be available and dessert will be served. Breakfast food will be offered after 1 a.m.

Party favors and a champagne toast at midnight are also included. A live band featuring three singers, with American and Middle East music, will be provided. Call for reservations.

Bailey's
1777 N. Canton Center Road
Canton
(734) 844-1137

A disc jockey will play music from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and a champagne toast will be served at midnight. There is no cover charge, however, groups of 10 or more should contact Mary Beth Grunow, event coordinator, for reservations.

Drink specials will be available. Staff also dresses in holiday outfits.

Timberwolf Tavern
25641 Plymouth Road
Redford
(313) 937-1218
www.timberwolftavern.com

There is no cover charge on New Year's Eve. Guests will receive party favors, pizza and free champagne at midnight. The band, KDs Alibi, will provide a variety of music.

"Last year was the first year I did New Year's Eve and it went really well," according to owner Ron Jean.

Corsi's Restaurant and Pizzeria
27910 West Seven Mile Road
Livonia
(248) 777-4960

A special buffet will include minestrone and chicken soups, salad and dessert bar, three types of pasta, two types of meat, roasted potato, assorted vegetables, assorted pizza, homemade rolls and bread, coffee and pop from 4:30-8:30 p.m. A cash bar is available. The cost is \$10 per adult and children 5-10 \$6.50. Reservations are requested.

Fiamma Grill
380 S. Main St.
Plymouth
(734) 416-9340

Comari's on the Park
350 S. Main St.
Plymouth
(734) 416-0100

Both restaurants will provide regular dinner service and patrons still on the premises at midnight will be given party favors and a champagne toast. Reservations are recommended.

Ironwood Grill
840 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth
(734) 667-5614

A full menu will be offered and a deejay will provide music from 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. A complimentary champagne toast and appetizers will be served at midnight. There is no cover, however, reservations are recommended.

Plymouth Crossing
340 N. Main St.
Plymouth
(734) 455-3700

A party is planned. Free champagne will be provided at midnight.

Call in advance for reservations.

See 3-D films for free at Detroit Zoo

The Detroit Zoological Society is wishing Detroit Zoo visitors a wild holiday season by offering free admission to the Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater with paid admission to the Zoo. The 10-minute wildlife adventure film *Wild World Africa*, presented by Kroger, will be shown free every half-hour from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 20-31.

"The 3-D/4-D experience is visually stunning and wonderfully fun ... and it's a lot less costly than going to Kenya to experience it firsthand," stated Executive

Director Ron Kagan. "We're glad to be able to add some free fun over the holidays."

Located in the Ford Education Center, the Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater delivers a high-definition viewing experience in 3-D with 7.1 digital audio surround sound, enhanced with full-sensory 4-D special effects such as wind, mist and scents. "Wild World Africa" contains a few graphic images and may not be suitable for children under 5 years old; parental discretion is advised.

The experience will cost \$4 with Zoo admission for visitors 2 years and older, beginning Jan. 2, 2011.

The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day. 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 admitted free.

The Zoo is located on the I-696 service drive at Woodward, in Royal Oak. Call (248) 541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org for more information.

Take an adventure with museum pass

After the gifts have been opened and the festivities are past, families still have time to spend together over winter break.

The Museum Adventure Pass (MAP) can help families take an adventure together at a local museum or cultural center at no cost.

Library patrons can pick up a pass that provides free admission for up to two or four people at dozens of cultural institutions in southeastern Michigan. Visitors can check the MAP Web site at www.detroitadventurepass.org to find out

which museums have passes available.

Over the past three years since its launch, more than 200,000 visitors have attended the participating museums. The passes are sponsored by Macy's, the Library of Michigan Foundation and Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan.

New local participants include The Holocaust Memorial Center, Detroit Children's Museum and Michigan Youth Theater. Among the returning organizations are the Arab American National

Museum, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Howell Nature Center, Pewabic Pottery, University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History and University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

The Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan is a professional association comprised of more than 100 nonprofit arts and culture organizations. For more information visit www.culturalalliances-emi.org or phone (313) 831-1151.

GET OUT!

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.artandideasingallery.com

Detroit Artist Market

Time/Date: 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. today, 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. 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

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Fred Eaglesmith, Dec. 31; Michael Smith, Jan. 6, 2011; Mountain Heart, Jan. 7, 2011; Jill Jack Birthday Bash, Jan. 8, 2011; Mississippi Heat, Jan. 9, 2011; David Francey & Craig Werth & Amelia Curran, Jan. 12, 2011; The Red Sea Pedestrians, Jan. 13, 2011; The Yellow Room Gang, Jan. 14, 2011; The RFD Boys, Jan. 15, 2011, BeauSoleil Avec Michael Doucet, Jan. 16, 2011

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor



Emerson String Quartet will perform works of Mozart, Debussy and Mendelssohn Jan. 8, 2011 at the Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills.

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Seligman Performing Arts Center

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8

Location: On the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills

Details: Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents The Emerson String Quartet. Tickets cost \$43-\$75; students pay \$25

Contact: (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSD.org

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

6 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13 SOME INTERMEDIATE SEQUENCES OF WESTERN VIOLENCE INCLUDING DISTURBING IMAGES

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Kids bring everyone closer, right?

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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13 MATURE SEXUAL HUMOR THROUGHOUT, LANGUAGE AND SOME DRUG CONTENT

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MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text FOCKERS with your ZIP CODE to 42KIX (435481)

Happy holidays: Classic eggnog is back

Classic eggnog is pure and simple. Just three main ingredients – eggs, cream and sugar – magically create the quintessential holiday sip of thick creamy custard with puffs of softly beaten egg whites.

For those of us who have lamented the fact that we could no longer safely enjoy homemade eggnog prepared with raw eggs, there's good news. Call it a gift for this holiday season and beyond: pasteurized shell eggs. Safest Choice Pasteurized Shell Eggs enable us to once again partake of all of those favorites that call for raw or lightly cooked eggs, whether it's the yolks or the whites or both, without fear of food-borne illness. Think chocolate mousse, meringues, Caesar salad dressing, French silk pie, mayonnaise from scratch, sunny-side up eggs.

The eggs are pasteurized in the shell using a warm water bath. Only water – nothing else added – makes them safe to consume whether over easy, poached or in your favorite hollandaise recipe. A red circle "P" stamped on each egg lets you know they're safe.

So set out the punch bowl and bring back a tradition. This Classic Eggnog base can be prepared up to one day in advance and refrigerated, a great time-saver during this busy season. It's delicious with the addition of rum, brandy or bourbon, or just topped with a sprinkling of ground nutmeg. Flavored spirits such as vanilla-infused vodka, peppermint schnapps or clear crème de cacao can impart unexpected taste twists to this classic, and for a little whimsy, top each serving with a small scoop of vanilla ice cream or dollop of whipped cream.

To learn more about Safest Choice Pasteurized Shell Eggs, such as where to buy, or to find additional recipes and serving suggestions, visit www.SafeEggs.com.

CLASSIC EGGNOG

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Chilling time: 4 hours or overnight

- 12 pasteurized shell eggs, separated
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 1 quart (4 cups) heavy cream
- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 to 3 cups dark rum, bourbon or brandy (optional)
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract (optional)
- Ground nutmeg or cinnamon

1. Place egg yolks in large bowl. Beat with electric mixer until combined. Gradually add sugar, beating until mixture is thick and pale yellow. Stir in cream and milk, then rum and vanilla, if desired. Cover and refrigerate until chilled or as long as overnight.

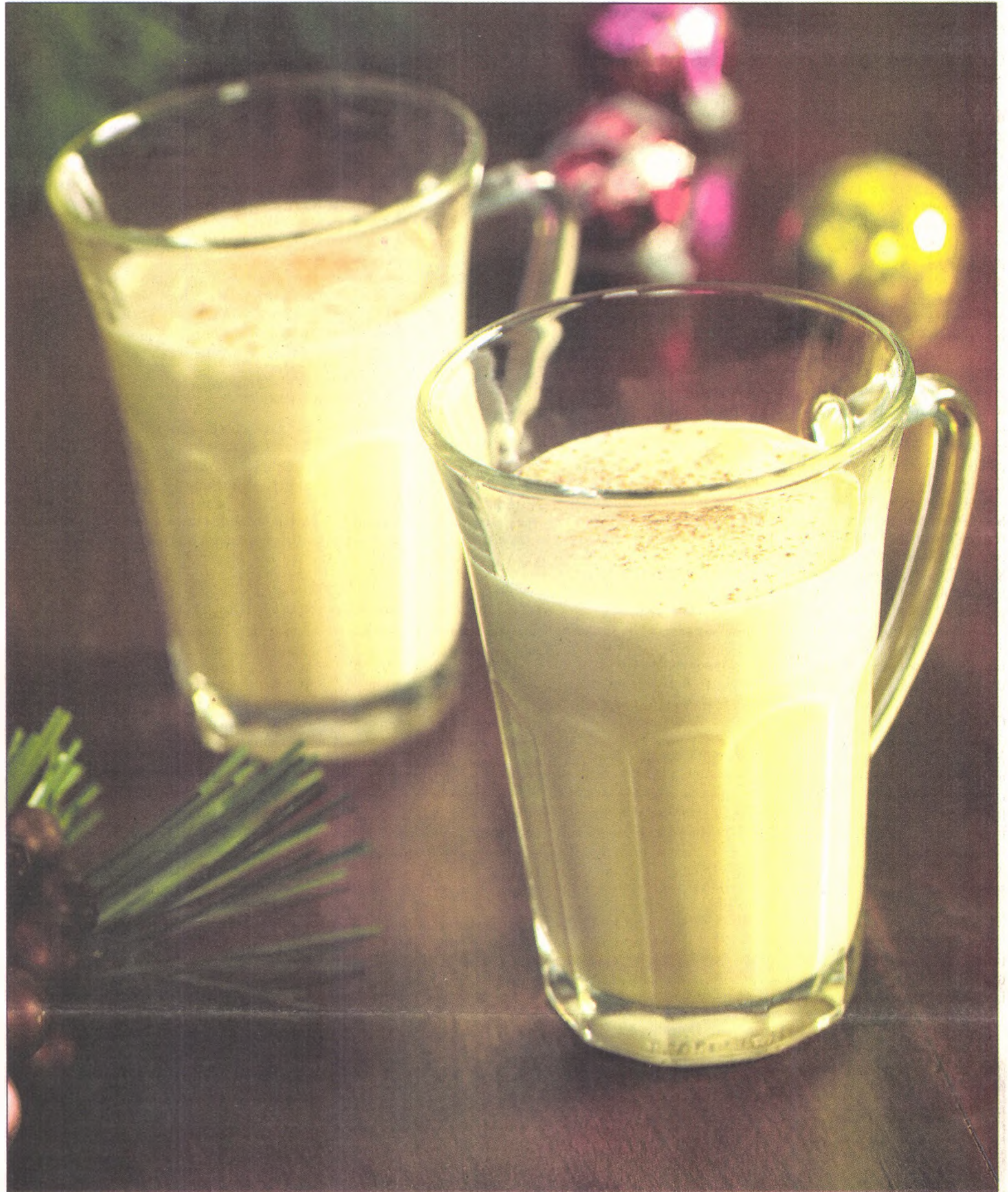
2. Just before serving, beat room temperature egg whites with electric mixer until soft peaks form. Stir custard mixture. Gently fold in beaten egg whites. Pour eggnog into punch bowl. Sprinkle with nutmeg.

Makes 20 servings.

Nutrition information (1/20 of recipe): 279 calories*; 21g total fat; 12 g saturated fat; 197 mg cholesterol; 68 mg sodium; 18 g total carbohydrates; 5 g protein.

*With alcohol, calories increase to 330/serving; other nutrition information remains the same as above.

– Family Features



Holiday entertaining made easy as A-B-C!

The holidays may be the most wonderful time of the year, but it can certainly become one of the most stressful times of the year. With holiday dinners and family gatherings, the thought of entertaining all your loved ones may be a bit overwhelming. Boar's Head style expert Jackie Rogers shares party tips that will impress your guests, while making hosting a get together as easy as A-B-C.

Rogers explains that when it comes to a successful holiday dinner or gathering, it's all about the A-B-Cs: ambiance, beverages and cuisine.

A: Ambiance

The dinner table is usually the main gathering place. This makes it a great focal point to set the mood for your get-together. Start with an elegant tablecloth in a rich ivory, crimson red, silver or gold. Add depth and texture by using a coordinating table runner and napkins for a stylish touch. For centerpieces, flowers work for almost any occasion, but if you're feeling a little more inventive, play with candles, pinecones, greenery and ribbon for a centerpiece that really reflects the season.

B: Beverages

When it comes to drinks, keep it simple. Make one signature drink for your party. This will allow you to keep things fun and festive without having to spend the entire night taking drink orders. Create an even more memorable occasion by giving your signature drink a signature name – say Santa Sangria or Mistletoe Martini?

C: Convenient cuisine

The holiday season is about mixing and mingling. Don't isolate yourself in the kitchen. Save hours of preparation time by taking advantage of the many dishes that come prepared. A fully cooked, ready to heat and serve ham or turkey like Boar's Head Sweet Slice Ham and Oven Roasted Turkey Breast is a great way to ensure a delicious dinner without any mishaps. Never overcooked and seasoned to perfection, these Boar's Head items are great options for a delicious dinner that's stress-free. And, instead of covering the table in sides, keep it simple with a starch and two vegetables. These steps will provide an impressive, hassle-free meal, while allowing you to spend more time with family and friends.

Here is a recipe to serve as an accompaniment for your holiday ham!



SWEET SLICE HAM WITH CRANBERRY CHUTNEY

- Boar's Head Sweet Slice Smoked Ham
- ½ cup Cranberry-pomegranate juice
- 1 tbsp Red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp Dried cranberries
- ½ tsp Ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp Ground ginger
- ½ cup Boar's Head Vidalia Onion Relish
- 2 tsp Head Honey Mustard

To make the Cranberry Chutney: Heat the cranberry-pomegranate juice in a small saucepan and then add the red wine vinegar. Next, add the dried cranberries, cover and let steep for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in the spices, onion sauce, and mustard. The chutney can be cut into smaller pieces if desired. Serve slightly warm or store in the fridge until ready to use.

– Family Features

Sweet Slice ham platter application with Vidalia onion cranberry chutney

Guess who's coming to dinner?

A little communication goes a long way when planning for special diets

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

Cousin Sarah's a vegan who is sensitive to wheat.

Uncle Bob is allergic to nuts. Your daughter's new boyfriend's a vegetarian who can't stomach gluten.

And they're all invited to Christmas dinner.

What's a hostess to do? "I've been at both ends of this, being the hostess and the guest," said Caroline Trapp, a Farmington Hills resident, nurse practitioner and diabetes educator. "It's such a caring question when someone says 'do you have any special diet concerns?' The funny thing is, when I'm asked it's usually by someone who doesn't know me at all, so I know they ask all their guests that. Most people who know me know how I eat."

Trapp and her husband both follow a vegan diet, which excludes meat and dairy products. As a dinner hostess, she asks guests about special diet needs while planning an event and offers a variety of foods on the big day.

As a guest, she mentions her diet restrictions when she responds to an invitation and offers to bring a dish to pass. She didn't always speak up, but learned the hard way at a dinner party.

"My husband and I were in an awkward situation," she said, recalling a four-course dinner the couple attended. "All of the courses contained meat or dairy. Our diet became the topic of conversation. You never want to talk about the reasons for not eating animals during someone's carefully-planned meal. The hostess had put so much work into it, it ended up almost wasting food. In retrospect it would have been much better to say something ahead of time."

BRING A DISH

Val Wilson of Westland trained as a macrobiotic chef, teaches cooking classes and also follows a vegan diet. She says it's

up to the guest to mention their diet needs when they're invited to a dinner party. She always offers to bring a dish to pass.

"The hostess may not have a clue what to do for someone who is vegan. People who aren't vegan may only think about vegetables. You show up at a party and they say, oh I knew you were coming so I made this vegetable tray. Okay. That's a snack. There are grains and beans and all kinds of stuff we eat."

"I pretty much assume if I go to a get together there won't be anything I can eat. When I show up at a party and everyone seems to notice I'm not eating this or that or I've brought my own dish. People always ask questions."

Wilson doesn't use the dinner table as a soap box, but will share her views on healthful foods and cooking if the conversation turns toward her diet.

Jeanie Weaver, who offers an annual vegetarian sampling dinner at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plymouth and Linda Main of Canton, a registered dietician at Garden City Hospital, both agree that guests with special dietary needs should offer to bring a dish to a dinner or party.

ALLERGIES, DIABETES

"If I invited family over and knew someone had an allergy or was vegetarian, I would try to accommodate their preferences," Main said. "I'd at least prepare a dish they could eat and be considerate of their needs. I had some friends whose son had a peanut allergy and I wasn't aware of it. We invited them over for dessert. I think everything I made had peanuts. She had brought something for him but had I known, I would have taken the time to make something suitable for him."

Main said she'd "leave it up to the guest" when it comes to diabetic concerns. Simply cutting sugar out of the dessert or leaving the maple syrup out of the squash casserole doesn't guarantee that a diabetic guest



can eat everything on the menu. Diabetics also carefully regulate how many carbohydrates they consume.

Wilson suggests serving rice, squash or sweet potato — a hearty vegetable or grain — rather than a processed "fake meat" product to a vegan or vegetarian guest.

"Sometimes people go out and buy a fake turkey thing. I've never found any that have good flavor and you end up spending a lot of money when you could just buy sweet potato or squash," Wilson said. "Something that would be simple for them to include would be to take a sweet potato, put it in the oven whole and bake for an hour at 350. Don't put marshmallows on. Let people put whatever they want on. Sweet potatoes are so delicious if you just drizzle oil on it."

Trapp, who has a collection of some 75 vegan and vegetarian cookbooks, offers guests lots of options so they'll find at least one item they can eat.

"A pasta bar often works well with different sauces and different pastas," she said, adding that

variety allows guests to keep their special diet needs private. "For a formal sit-down meal I like to bring something that would work for everyone. I have a spinach lasagna that travels well." She's also considering a white bean and sweet potato stew for the holidays.

"We're invited to a holiday party every year and the hostess has definite ideas about what she wants on the table. I don't want to disrupt her plans for her table, but over the years we've worked it out. I bring a vegetable tray and bean dips and hearty snack crackers or bread, so those of us who don't want to eat meat have something that is filling."

For more about Wilson's cookbook and cooking classes, visit www.macroval.com. For more about Weaver's Vegetarian Extravaganza visit www.veggie-holiday.com. Trapp is a member of VegMichigan and Physicians Committee for Responsible

Medicine. She suggests visiting PCRM's 21-day program for a vegan diet at <http://21-day-kickstart.org>. VegMichigan has resources at <http://vegmichigan.org>

WILD RICE PILAF

By Val Wilson

- 1 1/2 cups brown rice
- 1/4 cup wild rice
- 4 cups water
- 3 Tablespoon tamari
- 4 shiitake mushrooms (soaked)
- 1 onion (diced)
- 3 garlic cloves (minced)
- 2 celery stalks (diced)
- 2 carrots (diced)
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon rosemary
- 1/4 cup parsley (minced)

Cook the shiitake mushrooms for about 15 minutes in the soaking water. Then drain the water and use it as part of the 4 cups water to cook the rice. Cut mushrooms into thin slices. Pot boil the brown rice and wild rice with the tamari and 4 cups water for one hour. While rice is cooking, saute each of the vegetables in toasted sesame oil for about 5 minutes each. Saute the garlic for only one minute. Saute the mushroom as well. When rice has cooked and the vegetables are all sauteed, mix them together with the thyme, rosemary, and parsley. Bake, covered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

GOLDEN FRUIT SOUP

From Natalie Weaver

- 1 large (46 ounce) can pineapple juice.
- 1/2 cup Minute tapioca
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 1 package Raspberry Danish Dessert
- 1 large (46 ounce) can sliced peaches
- 1 large can pineapple tidbits
- 1 (15 ounce) can apricot halves
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen raspberries

1 small frozen orange juice concentrate

Cook pineapple juice with the tapioca until smooth, add raisins and Danish Dessert while stirring constantly for an additional 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add all fruits along with their juices and frozen orange juice concentrate and any additional sweetener according to taste. Other dried fruits may also be added if you so choose.

This fruit soup may be served either hot or cold over sliced bananas. May also be used as topping for pound cake or toast. May be topped with a dash of soy cream or whipped topping. Find the Danish Dessert in the pudding aisle of your grocery store.

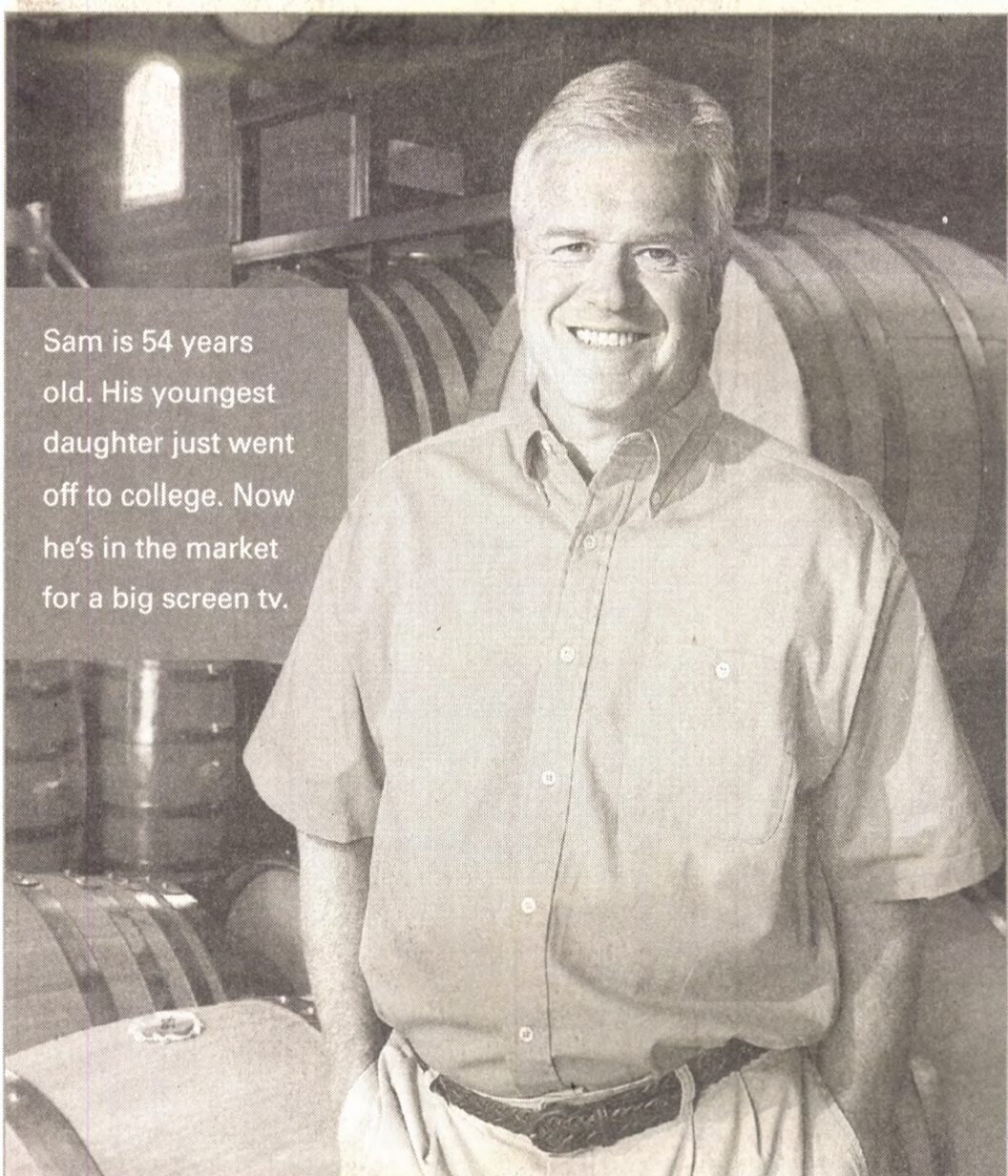
PORTOBELLO MUSHROOM STEAKS (VEGAN AND GLUTEN-FREE)

Submitted by Caroline Trapp

- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed garlic
- 4 medium Portobello mushrooms
- Olive oil, as needed
- Salt and pepper

Minced fresh parsley, chives or scallions for garnish (optional)

Combine ketchup, vinegar, and garlic and set aside. Carefully remove mushroom stems, but leave caps whole. Rinse caps under water, gently rubbing the surface to remove any dirt. Place a thin layer of olive oil in a large skillet and heat over medium-high heat. If you do not have a skillet large enough to comfortably hold all four mushrooms at once, cook them in two batches or use two skillets. Place mushrooms in skillet, stem-side up. Cover and cook about 5 minutes. Turn over, reduce heat to medium, cover and continue to cook until fork-tender in the center, about 5 minutes longer. Season with salt and pepper. Spoon reserved sauce equally over each mushroom. Garnish with fresh herbs, if desired. Serve whole, or slice mushrooms on the bias (with the knife held at an angle).



Sam is 54 years old. His youngest daughter just went off to college. Now he's in the market for a big screen tv.

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