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# PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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## 'Dash' dashes

James Larson-Shidler, affectionately dubbed "Dash" by friends and his colleagues at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, will leave his job as the district's assistant superintendent for business services at the end of the month.



Larson-Shidler, who came to Plymouth-Canton from the Cleveland Municipal Schools district in July 2008, becomes the deputy superintendent for administrative and business services for the Wayne-Westland district Dec. 1.

Dave Kaumeyer, Plymouth-Canton's finance director, is also leaving to become the executive director of finance for Wayne-Westland. Kaumeyer's stint in Plymouth-Canton also ends at the end of the month.

Larson-Shidler said the chance to also head up Wayne-Westland's operations departments was a draw.

"I wanted to do operations, and that's not part of the job here," he said. "This is an exciting opportunity for me."

## District ahead of bullying legislation

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

The state House last week approved a bill requiring school districts to create and apply a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment.

In Plymouth-Canton, administrators are basically saying, "Welcome aboard."

The district has had its anti-bullying policy in place since 2006, officials said, and it calls any sort of bullying behavior "strictly prohibited."

"We spend a lot of time on

it," West Middle School Principal Clint Smiley said. "We deal with it educationally. We want to make sure we deal with it appropriately."

The House bill, which now heads over to the Senate for its consideration, requires schools to come up with a plan within six months, and encourages schools to include provisions concerning education, parental involvement, reporting, investigating and intervention.

The House legislation does not include any of the provisions of the Senate's earlier propos-

al, which drew fire for religious exemptions to otherwise prohibited conduct.

"This is thoughtful legislation that requires schools to do the most they can to prevent the serious threat of bullying," said state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, the parent of two children in the Plymouth-Canton School District. "I know bullying legislation has been a longstanding item of concern for parents, teachers and students in the school districts I represent in Lansing. The version I supported in the House covers all

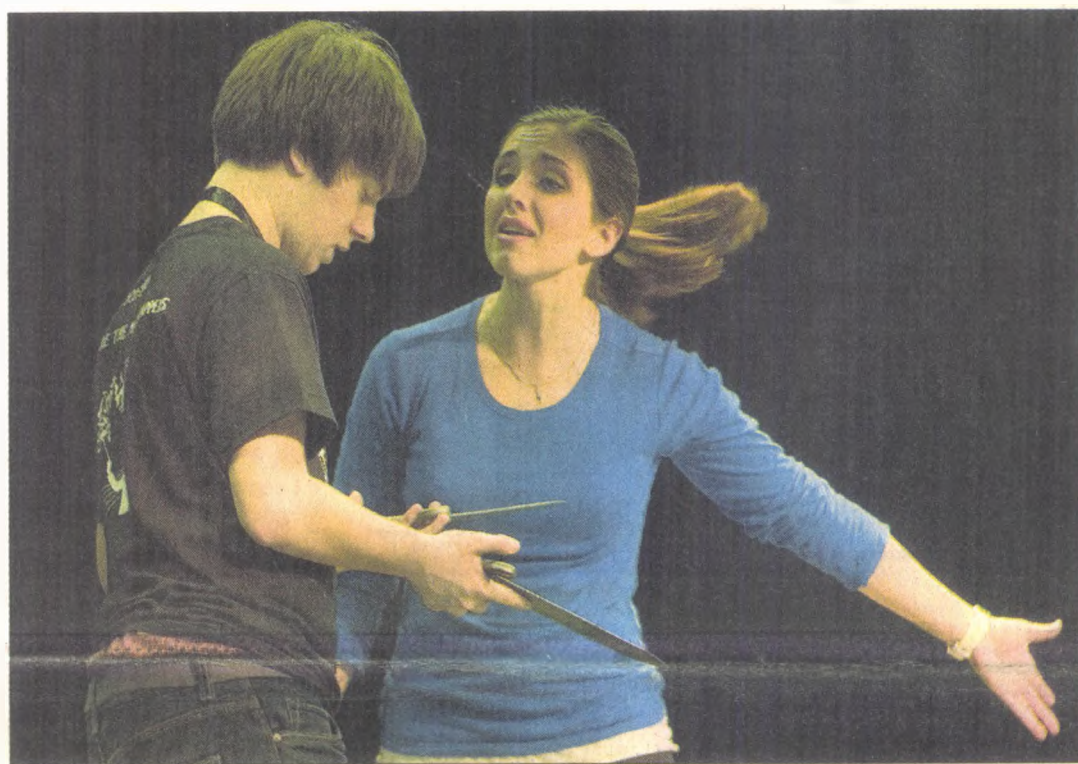
forms of bullying. It provides no categories of bullying and no exemptions or exceptions."

### Out in front

Plymouth-Canton officials said they already make no distinctions, and said they use a variety of tactics to deal with it.

"The schools all do it a little differently," said Frank Ruggirello, the district's director of community relations. "But they're all getting out that same message: Bullying is unacceptable."

Please see BULLYING, A8



Lady Macbeth (Becca Levergood) and Macbeth (Matt Whitehead) argue over the daggers.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## The dark side

### Park Players tackle Shakespeare tragedy

#### DETAILS

**What:** Park Players production of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'

**When:** 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19.

**Where:** Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School, 46181 Joy in Canton

**Tickets:** \$10

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Because students read *Romeo and Juliet* in freshman English classes, they tend to think of William Shakespeare as being a romantic.

Johnathan Rase wanted to shake that opinion up a bit.

That's why the Park Players director decided to put on *Macbeth*, which the troupe brings to the stage at Salem High School's

Gloria Logan Auditorium Friday and Saturday.

"While (*Romeo and Juliet*) is beautiful, I wanted to give the students the opportunity to see a darker side of Shakespeare," Rase said. "*Macbeth* has always been one of my favorites. We often get to see what it takes to be a hero. Not nearly as often do we get the warning of how quickly one can become a villain."

Please see MACBETH, A8

## Board hears range of opinions on fire

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Residents packed Plymouth Township Hall Tuesday to express concern over the future of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which faces possible layoffs with the loss of nearly a quarter of its revenue and coverage area.

While many asked the township Board of Trustees to let voters decide whether to raise taxes to help fund the department, and about 20 people outside before the meeting carried signs in support of firefighters, opinion in the packed board meeting room was mixed. Some said they wanted to hold down taxes, while others asked for a tax vote along with further compromise from the township and the unionized firefighters.

The 23-member department, a number that includes the fire inspector and Chief Mark Wendel, will lose more than \$900,000 in annual revenue beginning in January, when the city of Plymouth leaves the department.

Chris Zavisla, one of nearly 20 people who spoke early in the meeting, quoted 19th century author Oliver Wendell Holmes, who said taxes are the price of civilization.

"I am here tonight to ask you: Please raise my taxes," Zavisla told the board, adding he doesn't want to participate in a "race to the bottom."

"I don't want to see the standard of care in this community decline because of a few dollars," he said.

Please see FIRE, A7

## Turkey trot

The Plymouth Salvation Army, which services Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, is in need of hundreds of turkeys to help meet the demand for its 2011 Thanksgiving distribution.

Turkeys can be donated 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Nov. 21 at the Salvation Army headquarters, 9451 S. Main in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-5464.

## Dwyer wins third term as mayor

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

With the unanimous support of fellow City Commission members, Dan Dwyer was selected Monday to lead the commission, and the city, for an unprecedented third term as mayor.

The move came after Commissioner Mike Wright, who was later re-elected mayor pro tem, declined a mayoral nomination and instead nominated Dwyer. The commission's bylaws called for the automatic nomination of Wright because he was the mayor pro tem for

the 2009-11 commission term.

"I'd like to see him continue ... with the many key initiatives we have launched," said Wright in nominating Dwyer.

Dwyer said success in the past term, which included a partnership with the Northville Fire Department that Plymouth official estimate will save a minimum of \$400,000 a year, has come through a team effort.

"It really has been a team effort up here for the last two years, and I look forward to it being a team effort for the

Please see COMMISSION, A3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judge James Plakas swears in Plymouth City Commissioners Ed Hingelberg, Meg Dooley, Diane Bogenrieder and Mike Wright.

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# Board takes no action; petition questions remain

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Amid questions about possible ballot language and the definition of a special assessment district, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees took no action Tuesday on petitions calling for a ballot question on a tax that would support the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

Action, however, is expected within a month, after questions about whether the drive meets legal requirements are cleared up.

The petitions were submitted last week by the Plymouth Township Citizens Action Group, which was organized to support firefighters, who face the possibility of layoffs in their ranks when the city of Plymouth withdraws from the shared department in January.

CAG members claim about 4,000 signatures,

and say their petitions meet the threshold of having the signatures of people who own at least 10 percent of the land in the proposed district. Having met that requirement, they say, a proposal for a special assessment district that would be made up of the entire township should be put to voters. CAG proposes a 1-mill assessment for five years, which would cost \$75 a year for the owner of a house with a taxable value of \$75,000. Such a tax would raise an estimated \$1.5 million or more a year.

Clerk Joe Bridgman, whose office compared land ownership records to the names on the petitions, said signers represent 10.9 percent of the square footage in the township. But Bridgman's estimation of the special assessment district did not include tax-exempt property, such as churches and schools, and town-

ship attorney Tim Cronin said that was reason for concern.

"It's from that (entire) area that a calculation would be needed," said Cronin, citing the position of the Michigan Townships Association, which, he said, was based on legal counsel.

Trustee Steve Mann, who is also an attorney, disagreed, and cited a state law to back up his opinion. Mann said there may be case law, too, that supports his opinion.

"We will get it clarified," said Treasurer Ron Edwards.

But Cronin also said the language on the CAG petitions may pose a problem, in that ballot language, should a special assessment plan go to a vote, would be crafted by the board. Cronin has earlier said any special assessment would not be limited by CAG's 1-mill plan, but could be for up to 10 mills under state

law. On Tuesday, he suggested that some petition-signers might change their view of the effort if ballot language turned out to be different from what petitions said.

"The language in the petition may have added signatures that would not have been added had that language not been used," Cronin said.

Resident Jennifer Mann, a CAG organizer and the wife of PCFD Lt. Chuck Mann, said the petition drive demonstrated support for a township-wide tax vote and asked the board to put such a question on the ballot.

"You have heard repeatedly since March from residents of this community that they want the opportunity to vote. Put it on the ballot," she said. "Put it out there — that's all."

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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

**AAUW HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**Date/Time:** 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8

**Location:** Hoben Elementary School (Saltz between Sheldon and Canton Center)

**Details:** The Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women hosts its holiday party. Please bring a pound of something to share, such as coffee, flour, cookies, etc. and put it in holiday wrapping. Everyone will have a chance to bid on it with proceeds going to the AAUW Legal Advocacy fund. There will also be a monetary collection for First Step. Appetizers and desserts will be served. Please come and join us!

**Contact:** For more information contact Becky Copenhaver at bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com or (734) 981-6023.

**HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road, Canton

**Details:** The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host the annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Ensemble, a juried art and craft exhibition. Exhibitors include makers of handcrafted jewelry, season holiday gifts, floral arrangements, purses, wood crafts, glass works, clothing and linens, paintings, painted glass ornaments and more. There will also be food, baked goods, door prizes, a raffle and entertainment. Admission is \$2.

**Contact:** (734) 454-9052.

**THANKSGIVING TROT**  
**Date/Time:** Thursday, Nov. 24, 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

**Details:** Start Thanksgiving Day off on the right foot and make a preemptive strike against Thanksgiving weight gain by running or walking in Canton's ninth annual Turkey Trot. Entry fees are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 11 and under. Event day registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Summit Banquet Room. Participants can register online at <http://csc.cantonmi.org> now through Nov. 20. Register by November 16th to receive a commemorative T-Shirt.

**Contact:** For more information, visit <http://csc.cantonmi.org> or call the Canton Sports Center at 734/483-5600.

**GOODFELLOW VOLUNTEERS**

**Date/Time:** Nov. 17, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth District Library Waldorf Room, 223 S. Main

**Details:** The Plymouth Goodfellows are looking for volunteers for their annual newspaper sale day (Dec. 3) and for other duties. The group is an all volunteer organization that works from September-January. Our goal is to make sure there are no Plymouth children without a Christmas.

**Contact:** [plymouthgoodfellows@yahoo.com](mailto:plymouthgoodfellows@yahoo.com)

**MOPS MEETINGS**

**Date/Time:** First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

**Details:** The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

**Contact:** Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail [stekmops@gmail.com](mailto:stekmops@gmail.com), or visit [www.stekmops.org](http://www.stekmops.org)

# Exhibit features Three Cities artists

Eleven members of the Three Cities Art Club will exhibit their work at the Plymouth Community Arts Council through Nov. 29.

The multimedia show will feature watercolor, acrylic, oil, colored pencil and photography. Some of the artists participating have won awards for their work in area competitions. Many of the pieces will be for sale.

The Three Cities Art Club was founded in 1958 by artists from Plymouth, Northville and Livonia. The club made Canton its home in 2005. The club

now welcomes artists and art lovers from anywhere to attend monthly events.

Club members exhibit new work, participate in workshops, learn new techniques in various forms of art and enter their art in exhibitions for an opportunity to show and sell their work. Annual membership is \$25.

Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Plymouth Community Arts Council is located at 774 N. Junction. Call (734) 416-4278 for further information.



Eleven members of the Three Cities Art Club will exhibit their work at the Plymouth Community Arts Council through Nov. 29.

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# Restoration, restaurant planned for downtown bank building

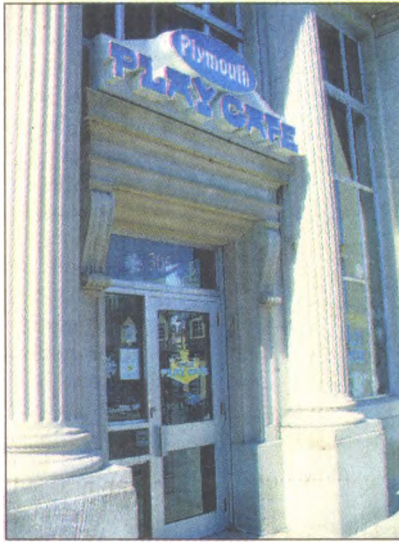
By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

The new owners of a prominent building in downtown Plymouth plan to restore it to its original grandeur of nearly a century ago.

George Stefanakis, who runs Greek restaurants in Birmingham and West Bloomfield, says he and three Plymouth investors bought the former bank building at Main and Penniman last month and plan to open a restaurant there next spring.

The building, which most recently housed the now-closed Plymouth Play Cafe on the first floor, dates from 1913, and Stefanakis said he and his partners plan to bring back that look to the extent possible, including window awnings and a working clock on the facade.

"It's going to be a really big difference," Stefanakis said, adding that he was inspired by a photograph of the building from the 1910s. "I'd like to make it look exactly the same, like those days." Stefanakis said he has already



Owners will open a new Greek restaurant in the old bank building at Main and Penniman that most recently housed the Plymouth Play Cafe.

Bank on Oct. 24 for \$670,000.

Stefanakis owns the Greek Islands Coney Restaurants in Birmingham and West Bloomfield. He said his new Plymouth restaurant will have the same name.

It will feature Greek and American food, he said, including pastitsio, moussaka, salads, soup, octopus, spinach pie, fruit and vegetable juices and Coney Island hot dogs.

"We are more than a Coney Island," Stefanakis said. "We're not just hamburgers and fries."

A son, Stefan, will work with him as a business partner, Stefanakis said.

Stefanakis said he has long been drawn to Plymouth because of its appeal to families, its well-kept neighborhoods of older homes, and its many events and vibrant street life.

"I'm very excited being in Plymouth," said Stefanakis, who lives in West Bloomfield. "I like the city so much, if I ever moved again, I would move to Plymouth."

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contacted a company to restore the building's clock, and also plans to replace the windows.

City records show that Stefanakis' partnership, 306 South Main LLC, bought the building from U.S.

# District survey will aid facilities study

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

With a dwindling elementary school population and student counts shifting at other levels, Plymouth-Canton school officials have begun the process of determining how best to optimize the 2.5 million square feet of educational space that exists in the district's 26 buildings.

And they're looking for help figuring it out.

By week's end, working with Plante Moran CRESA, the firm the district hired to help with its facilities study, Plymouth-Canton officials will post a survey designed to determine what the community thinks about ways to best utilize district facilities.

With the likelihood of having to offer all-day kindergarten, and the desire to offer other new programs to students, district officials are looking to determine the kinds of things the community might support.

"We could use phone calls or an e-mail fan-out to get to our parents, but we're looking for opinions from everybody, not just parents in the district," said Phil Freeman, assistant superintendent for facilities and operations. "We want as many opinions as possible to best optimize the use of our facilities not just for the programs we're offering now, but for what we might offer in

the future."

The district will form committees to help with the facilities study. A steering committee made up of administrators, parents and board members, among others, will do the actual work of the study, while an advisory committee made up of an administrator, parent and teacher from each building will craft the big picture, Freeman said.

Enrollment projections offered by CRESA show student totals dropping steadily through 2016, according to Paul Wills of Plante Moran. At the moment, some 85 percent of the school-age children in the Plymouth-Canton community are enrolled in Plymouth-Canton schools, Wills told board members Tuesday.

Those enrollment projections, he said, would help the board determine where to go next, whether it's closing a school, repurposing a building or some other solution.

"We'll really start looking at the things the district should be looking at," Wills said. Freeman said the district has no advance ideas about the kinds of options they'll be viewing at the end of the study.

The survey will be available on the district's website at [www.pccs.k12.mi.us](http://www.pccs.k12.mi.us)

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## COMMISSION

Continued from page A1

next two years," he said.

Judge James Plakas of the 35th District Court gave Dwyer and Wright the oaths of office for their commission posts, and said Dwyer comes to meetings out of the public's view with the same passion he shows at commission meetings.

"He represents this community very well, as do the rest of the commissioners," Plakas said.

Monday's meeting also saw the swearing-in of the four commissioners who won terms in last week's city election. Wright, Commissioner Ed Hingelberg and newcomer Meg Dooley won four-year terms, while fourth-place finisher Diane Bogenrieder won a two-year term. They were the only candidates for the four open seats.

Meanwhile, David Workman and John Barrett stepped down from the commission; both were eligible to seek reelection this year but decided not to do so.

"It has been an exciting and eventful two years," said Barrett, a retired educator who was elected to the commission in 2009, before leaving the dais. "The city of Plymouth is probably one of the most dynamic small cities in Michigan and probably the country."

Barrett was elected last week to a four-year term on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education.

Dwyer was previously mayor during the 2005-07 commission term, and was again picked to lead after returning to the commission in 2009. He is the administrator of the Washtenaw County Trial Court in Ann Arbor.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
A hug for new Commissioner Diane Bogenrieder from Mayor Dan Dwyer.

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## Sheldon Center on track for end-of-year finish

By Darrell Clem  
 Observer Staff Writer

Smooth: It's a word no sane motorist would once have used to describe a former car-rattling section of road where Sheldon Center curves off from Canton Center as it stretches north to Joy Road.

Smooth. It's now the only description that fits a once-crumbling, two-lane road that construction crews have reconstructed and widened to five lanes.

Call it Canton's miracle mile — as in, local residents and business owners once would have considered it a miracle if it got fixed.

Claymore Drive resident Chris Joiner last February described the Sheldon Center/Sheldon corridor as "in horrible condition."

What a difference a construction season makes.

Canton Township Engineer Bill Serchak said Florence Cement Co. expects to finish the bulk of the nearly \$5 million road project by year's end.

"I think it will make a big difference in the north-south traffic," Serchak said.

No doubt. Drivers who use the road once feared blowing out a tire every time they dared to travel it. Then came construction work that brought its own share of hassles.

But a drive along the Sheldon Center/Sheldon corridor now finds



The road is smooth again, as far as the eye can see.



There are still lots of orange barrels, but a lot fewer potholes on the Sheldon Center connector.

the road arguably among Canton's best, though to be sure work crews still have finishing touches to complete.

Steve Lampton, project manager with Florence Cement of Shelby Town-

ship, said work crews still have to finish a connector between Sheldon Center and Sheldon that, for the most part, is being widened from two lanes to three and reconfigured to ease traffic flow.

Lampton also said a small section of old Sheldon, just south of where it intersects with Sheldon Center, still has to be eliminated to provide green space.

Those two work projects are expected to be completed soon, leaving only restoration and possibly some sidewalk work for next spring.

Township and company officials once had predicted the Sheldon Center/Sheldon project could take two full construction seasons, rather than one.

Still, Lampton said heavy rains in April and May, then again in September and October, slowed work crews who had hoped to complete the entire project, including restoration, by year's end.

"Had that not happened," Lampton said, "we probably could have gotten 100 percent of the work done this year."

Yet there it is, five lanes of newly reconstructed Sheldon Center/Sheldon Road. No more car-jarring craters. No more dodging potholes to avoid vehicle damage.

Smooth. "Overall," Lampton said, "we're happy with it."

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### CRIME WATCH

#### Pot busts

Two men were arrested on marijuana-possession charges in Plymouth Township in separate incidents earlier this month.

One arrest was the afternoon of Nov. 9 outside the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road, where a patrolling officer had pulled over the suspect because the car he was driving had an expired license plate, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The second was Sunday night in the area of Joy Road and Haggerty, where police had stopped the suspect because the license-plate light on his car wasn't working, a police report said.

In the first incident, the 40-year old Canton Township man got out of his Pontiac G-6 and approached the officer who had stopped him, and had to be told twice to get back in the car, police said. Upon speaking with him, the officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana, police said, and asked the driver if there was any in the car. He replied there wasn't, police said, and agreed to a search of the car.

In the car, police said, was found a suspected marijuana cigarette. The cigarette later tested positive for marijuana, police said.

In the second incident, two officers stopped a 27-year-old Westland man as he drove east on Joy in a Pontiac Firebird. When he reached into the car's glovebox for his registration and proof of insurance, police said, the officers saw a plastic bag of suspected marijuana. The suspect shut the glovebox and ignored commands to open it again, and one of the officers reached into the car opened the glovebox and grabbed the bag, police said.

The cars involved in each incident were impounded.

#### Scrapper strikes

Ten iron drain covers were reported stolen from outside a vacant business on Cleat Street, just south of Five Mile, on Nov. 10.

The theft occurred between Oct. 31 and Nov. 7, the building manager told police. The 14- by 20-inch grates had been kept at the back of the business, he said.

#### Larcenies

A global-positioning device and a snow-thrower were reported stolen recently from the garage of a house on Joy Road west of Sheldon.

The theft occurred between Nov. 6 and Sunday morning, the complainant told police. The garage had been left unlocked, as had the Dodge Caravan in which the global-positioning device had been kept, police said.

A license plate was reported stolen Monday from each of two vehicles that had been parked in the driveway of a house on Huntington Drive, north of Schoolcraft Road and west of Haggerty.

The incident occurred between Sunday afternoon and late Monday morning, a police report said.

— By Matt Jachman

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# Ficano, Patterson share views at joint chamber event

By Ken Abramczyk  
Observer Staff Writer

They sit on opposite sides of the political aisle, but they share the same regional interests and hopes of improving the business climate in south-eastern Michigan.

Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson spoke at a luncheon Tuesday of the Livonia and Greater Farmington Area chambers of commerce at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

Both support a new bridge to Canada, a regional transportation system and both believe that Detroit's current financial problems will impact their respective counties and communi-

ties. Patterson cited a headline in one of the daily newspapers: "Without cuts, Detroit runs out of cash by April."

"It's critical for all of us," Patterson said. "Vendors don't get paid, employees don't get paid. Detroit Water and Sewer employees don't get paid, and the list goes on and on."

### Budgets cut

Patterson highlighted some of the cost-cutting measures of Oakland County, getting rid of longevity pay, health care coverage of retirees and pay freezes and reductions over a five-year period for county employees, among other measures.

"I believe in long-range

planning vs. crisis management," Patterson said. Patterson also highlighted the county's three-year budgets and planning for them.

Ficano reflected on what has happened in the region over the past two years since General Motors and Chrysler received the bridge loan from the government to stop bankruptcies for the companies.

"Two years ago, if you would have read the national publications, you would think that we have the dumbest engineers here," Ficano said. "What's remarkable is that in two years, a survey of most Americans would show that American-made cars are better than what they've seen in foreign cars."

Ficano said on a recent trade mission, he spoke to business and government leaders. "There are three cities they know, New York for Wall Street, Los Angeles for Hollywood and movies, and Detroit. For 100 years, we've had a history of putting the world on wheels and they recognize that."

Ficano said the county cut its work force and cut all salaries by 10 percent, including his own.

On revitalizing small business, Patterson said the former Single Business Tax was an "onerous tax" for small business. Patterson said advocacy groups testified in Lansing for tax reform and fewer regulations to improve the business climate.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The Pledge of Allegiance opens the program for L. Brooks Patterson and Robert Ficano.

Please see CHAMBER, A7

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**FIRE**

Continued from page A1

**Moving money**

Nancy Janoch pointed to the township's recent foreclosure purchase of about 300 acres, which cost just over \$600,000. Township officials' goal is to get the land developed as part of a high-tech industrial park.

"There are other funds within our budget, and we move the money where we want it," Janoch said. "We're telling you where we want it."

"Let us have a chance to vote on it, that's all," said Marvin Stempien, a retired judge, who described a major fire at his home in Livonia in the 1980s. "Let us vote."

Others called for further concessions from firefighters, plus a tax proposal for voters, as well as further negotiation. The township and Local 1496 of the International Association of Fire Fighters were to begin

an arbitration process Wednesday.

"They need to meet at least what the other folks have done," township resident Robert James said, referring to concessions made by other employee groups, which had been outlined by Supervisor Richard Reaume. "But the other piece of it is, give me the option of raising my taxes."

**Cheaper and better**

"We as taxpayers deserve the best service for the best price," David Sibbold said. "We've got to figure a way to do this cheaper, better, faster."

The meeting also saw PCFD Firefighter Greg Mangan, treasurer of Local 1496, introduce a plan he said would avoid both layoffs and a tax increase.

The plan would require firefighters to take a 7-percent pay cut and pay 20 percent of their health insurance premiums, and would allow them to do all patient transports to hospitals, during medical

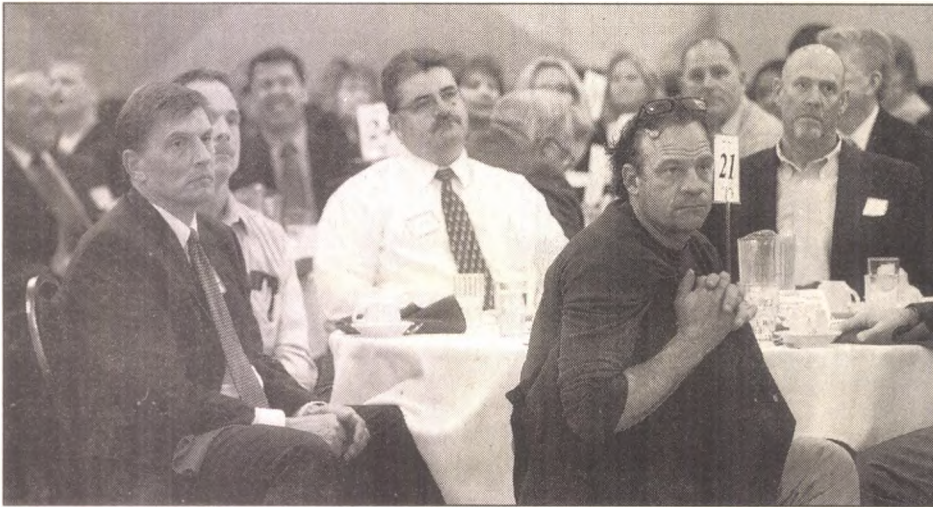
emergencies, as a way of increasing revenue. Concessions would save an estimated \$350,000 annually, while patient transporting would raise a minimum of \$400,000, Mangan said.

"This isn't too little, too late," Mangan said. "This is a reasonable offer, it's a fair offer."

Reaume responded that the plan was something firefighters could present during arbitration. Township officials have questioned whether a plan to take over patient transports from Huron Valley Ambulance would work.

The city of Plymouth is leaving the PCFD as a cost-cutting measure and plans to partner with the Northville Fire Department, which relies on part-time, nonunion firefighters, beginning in January. City officials estimate the move will save at least \$400,000 a year after startup costs.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The audience listens to the Brooks and Bob Show.

**CHAMBER**

Continued from page A6

Ficano said the county's TURBO program can help cut taxes by eliminating property taxes on new construction on qualified properties.

"It encourages you to invest," Ficano said. "You won't have to pay the full amount on the property."

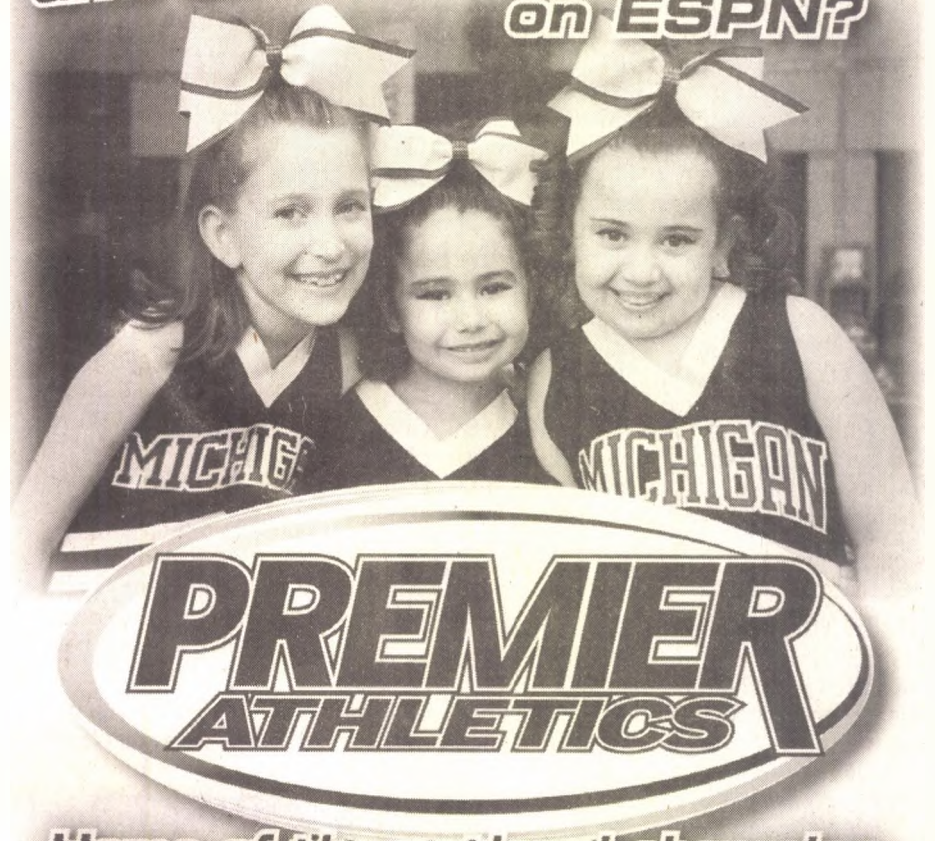
Chamber members thought the lunch was informative.

Jack Johnson, business service representative for the Michigan Works

office in Livonia, said the two were amicable. "They work together and share more of a camaraderie than I thought," Johnson said. "They are less competitive than what I expected."

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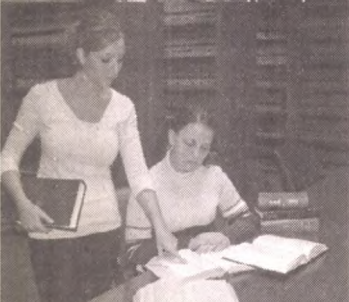
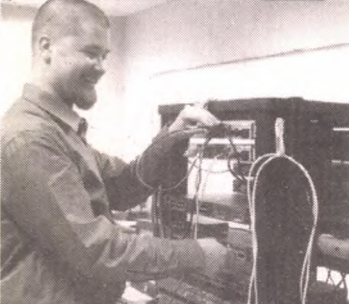
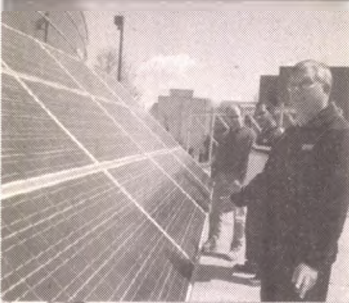
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# BULLYING

Continued from page A1

able, and there are consequences."

District officials say bullying is no longer limited to what happens physically between students on school grounds. It has moved, they say, into cyberspace, where social media such as texting and sites such as Facebook and MySpace have become breeding grounds for attacks.

Smaller students who might be afraid to confront bigger students in person find more comfort in defending themselves, or even instigating bullying of their own, in the cyber world.

"Bullying situations can begin on social media, and then it spills into the schools," Smiley said. "In reality, kids watch all the exciting things going on on television, but their own lives are relatively boring. They follow the same routine every day. So if a kid has a chance to spice things up, sometimes they're going to take it."

One of the things teachers did at West Middle School is establish a "bully box," an anonymous means for students to report transgressions.

### Constant vigilance

Smiley said teachers check the box — and find notes from students — every day.

"Kids don't like to be tattle-tales," Smiley said. "We check the box every day, and find out all kinds of things — who might be bullying, 'hot spots' in the school where it might be happening. It's a tremendous source of information."

The district puts on a variety of forums, meetings and exercises to

combat the bullying that goes on in the schools.

"It's like any policy ... you're aware of it and you work to make sure kids aren't being bullied," said Kurt Tyszkiewicz, the district's director of student services and a former principal at Tonda Elementary School. "Education is the key. It has to be ongoing and pervasive."

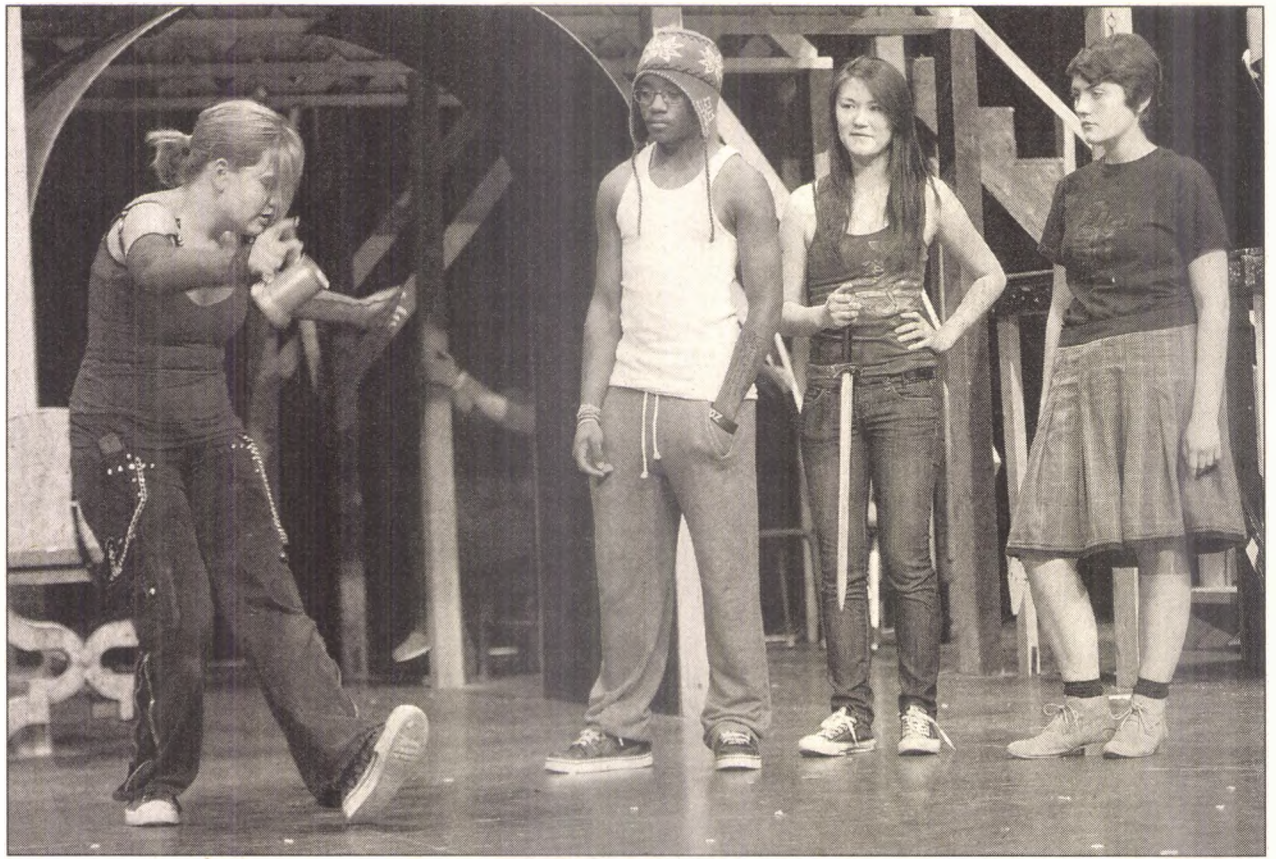
Heise praised Plymouth-Canton for being "ahead of the curve," but said other districts aren't as advanced. That's why the House legislation was needed, he said.

"As any parent knows, bullying can be incredibly damaging to a student's self-esteem, desire to achieve and mental health," Heise said. "We need strong policies in place to prevent this from happening to as many students as possible, regardless of their personal background or reasons for being bullied."

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, said she supports the legislation, but wishes it went even further to protect children.

"After all of the deserved negative attention to the Senate's version of this bill ... we need protections against bullying in the interest of all Michigan children," Slavens said. "This bill is certainly a start in that it gives Michigan its first anti-bullying legislation that requires school districts to create policies that deal with bullies. While this bill is a step in the right direction, I wish it went even further to protect Michigan's kids and I will keep working to make future legislation even tougher."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-8899



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The interbred Porter (Sidney Bowerman), Macduff (David Whitfield), Lennox (Anna Hua) and Ross (Meg Ellis) are part of the 36-member cast for the Park Players' production of 'Macbeth.'



Lady Macbeth (Plymouth High School senior Becca Levergood) drugs the wine.

# 'MACBETH'

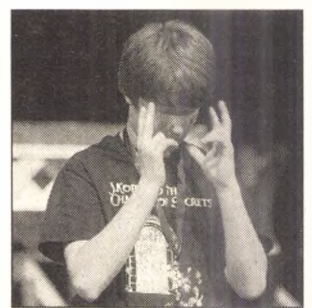
Continued from page A1

*Macbeth* tells the story of a general, played by Canton High School junior Matt Whitehead, who receives a prophecy from a few witches that he's going to become king. The promotion is not coming quickly enough to please his ambitious wife, played by Plymouth High School senior Becca Levergood. Murders and assassinations fill Macbeth's future, and the onetime noble man becomes a monster.

Stepping into the monster's shoes is a challenge embraced by Whitehead. "Playing Macbeth is a really unique opportunity," said Whitehead, a Canton resident appearing in his fifth show for Park Players. "He's often regarded as one of the greatest villains of all time and I feel lucky to have the opportunity to play him. He's a really complicated character and it's great to be able to explore all of his thoughts and emotions."

The Park Players' production of Shakespeare's shortest tragedy has been a huge undertaking, including a cast of 36 — "The largest cast I've worked with so far," Rase said — and more than 20 people behind the scenes.

The crew started rehearsing in early October, adding a week to what is usually a five-week rehearsal process because of the language



Canton High School junior Matt Whitehead takes on the role of Macbeth in the Park Players' production of the Shakespeare tragedy.

and the tremendous size of the cast.

"Rehearsals have gone well," Rase said. "After the first few weeks, the kids picked up the stride of the language. It was fun to see the script, which started as nonsense to most of them, become understood. Now, they have favorite lines and parts. It's wonderful."

With a cast and crew that large, Rase said organization — "With a cast that large, there's always someone who's ill," Rase said — has been the biggest challenge. They've also had to come up with "a tasteful way" for about a dozen characters to die on stage, he said.

All of that has really drawn the kids into the production.

"They seem to enjoy it," Rase said. "The violence and witchcraft have drawn (actors') interest. It's been fun having them put their own spin on such an old script."

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# Protect yourself by diversifying portfolio

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

If you had told me a week ago that the iconic coach of Penn State, Joe Paterno, would have been fired and that Penn State University would have been mixed up in a child molesting case, I would have said no way — it's impossible. As I've followed the news coverage, I have continued to shake my head in utter disbelief. I bring this up because these types of events also happen in the investment world.

When it comes to investing, one of the basic principles that I've



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

This is not only to ensure a better performing portfolio, but also to protect your portfolio in case something goes horribly wrong. Investors who had the great bulk of their portfolio with Bernie Madoff or in General Motors know the impor-

ance of diversification. When it comes to diversifying a portfolio, I do it in a number of ways. The first way is to use mutual funds. The average mutual fund — which invest in a hundred different positions — provides an investor with an easy way to diversify. If you buy an emerging market mutual fund that is investing in new economies throughout the world, you will typically find that an emerging market mutual fund has investments in over a dozen different countries and typically, in over 20 different industries. This allows you to be diversified within that asset class. The same can

be said whether it is investments in large cap U.S. funds or small cap international funds. In each one of these categories, mutual funds allow investors to protect themselves by investing in a variety of different positions. Another way to diversify a portfolio is by investing in different mutual funds from different companies. I don't put all of my money in one mutual fund, no matter how good the fund. Typically, in a portfolio that I manage, I am probably going to have at least 15 different mutual funds. This allows me to improve the performance of the port-

folio and spread risk out over a number of different funds. In that regard, when I am buying 15 or so different mutual funds for a client, I am not buying them from the same company but using different funds which again, gives me the ability to spread risk out over many different investments. In this crazy, ever-changing world, we have to accept the fact that anything and everything can happen. As investors, to ignore this fact and put our heads in the sand is not wise. The only way to proceed and to protect yourself is to have a well-balanced and diversified

portfolio. Don't let false affection for an investment prevent you from doing the right thing. After all, your investments don't love you so why should you love them. Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his website at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

## S'craft hosts screening of 'Two Spirits'

Schoolcraft College will host a special screening of *Two Spirits* at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 21, in the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus in Livonia.

The movie presentation and discussion are free and open to the public.

*Two Spirits* interweaves the tragic story of a mother's loss of her son with a revealing look at a time when the world wasn't simply divided into male and female and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders.

Shannon Martin is director of The Ziibwing Center, which promotes

the belief that the culture, diversity and spirit of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and other Great Lakes Anishinabek must be recognized, perpetuated, communicated and supported.

The movie and discussion are co-sponsored by Schoolcraft College's Bridging Barriers group and the Focus Series: North America of the Schoolcraft College International Institute, and made possible by a grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

The Livonia campus is on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads.

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Sealed proposals will be received for the construction of the Police Carport Project by the Charter Township of Plymouth as Owner, until 3:00 P.M. Local Time on Friday, December 2, 2011 at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bidders shall review and comply with the instructions to bidders.

**Description of Work**

The project scope consists of Carport installation for the Police parking lot located at 9955 Haggerty Road in Plymouth Township.

Plans and Specifications may be examined at the Clerk's Office, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 on or after November 14, 2011. Drawings and Specifications can be shipped by U.P.S. ground for no fee.

Proposals submitted by Bidders who have been debarred, suspended, or made ineligible by any Federal Agency will be rejected.

Each bidder agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the Owner, the Architect/Engineer, Roofing consultant, and their respective employees, arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation, or recommendation of any bid.

No bid security is required. No bid may be withdrawn after scheduled closing time for receiving bids for sixty (60) days.

The Charter Township of Plymouth reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive irregularities in bidding.

Bids furnished and delivered to the Township Clerk on or before 3:00 p.m., Local time, December 2, 2011.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on November 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the project site with the Owner's Representative to review the scope of work and project conditions. It is recommended that a representative of the bidding contractor attend this meeting.

Joseph Bridgman, Clerk  
Plymouth Charter Township

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# Roperti's turkeys represent a real Thanksgiving tradition



He's king of the barnyard ... for a few more days.

By Ken Abramczyk  
Observer Staff Writer

In the late 1940s, Tom Roperti owned land in Livonia near Five Mile and Levan.

Roperti fed and raised cattle, and sold milk to a large dairy from that era.

"He was selling milk to Twin Pines, but it was too much work for him so he sold the cattle," said Christine Roperti, Tom's daughter.

A conversation during a card game with a friend led to another idea. "My dad asked his friend, 'Rocco, what am I going to do?' and Rocco said, 'Why not raise a few turkeys?'"

So in 1948 Roperti bought 50 turkeys and sold them to friends and family. That led to the sale of 100 the next year, then 200 the year after that.

Sixty-three years after those first turkey sales, Christine Roperti continues to raise and harvest turkeys.

## Thanksgiving business

Last year, the farm ran out of turkeys for Christmas, so Roperti ordered more turkeys this year, up to 4,000. "We usually have about 200 left after Thanksgiving, but we only had 20 last year," she said.

The business remains a family affair, including grandchildren, similar to when Christine worked with her parents, Tom and Mary Roperti, as a 13-year-old.

Family members involved in the business include Roperti's husband Wesley Bates, who takes a month off of his job at Detroit Body at this time of year; son Tommy Roperti and his wife, Ferida; son Tony Skrabut, and his wife, Tricia; grandchildren Patrick Skrabut, 18, Britany Skrabut, 17, Murita Roperti, 10, and Maverick Roperti, 8.

Roperti learned a lot from her father, particularly "being honest and having a good product," Roperti said. "And giving is probably the most important thing. I learned from him that the more you give, the more that act of giving seems to give back."

Roperti buys the turkeys from a man who gets them a day old from a hatchery and feeds them until they are 9 weeks old. The turkeys are shipped to Roperti the last week in August.

The turkeys walk around the five acres of the Roperti Turkey Farm on Five Mile Road. The wide open space allowing the turkeys a "free range" and the feed mix of corn, oats and wheat give the turkey meat its juicy texture, Roperti said.

"If you feed an animal properly, whether it is a lamb, pig or cow, it will be juicy, flavorful and tasty from what it's been eating," Roperti said. The mix is purchased from the Ida Co-op in Ida, Mich.

Roperti gives a reporter and photographer a quick tour of the fenced area where the turkeys roam and very old shoes are needed for walking. "The turkeys grow better," Roperti said. "It's a natural way for them to grow." At night, the turkeys crowd around a barn and some stay inside it.

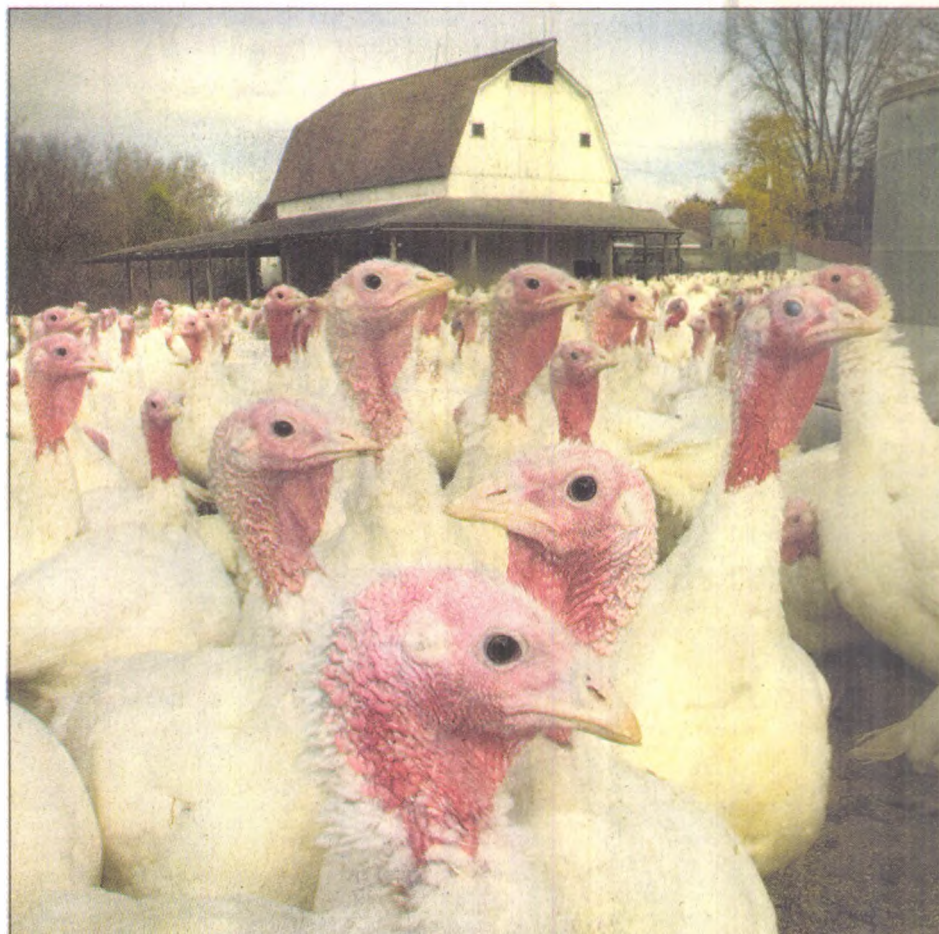


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christine Roperti's family has raised turkeys on Five Mile Road for more than 60 years.



Smoked turkeys are already coming out of the smokehouse.



This year's crop is looking tasty, and a little worried.

## Good employees, good company

Running a successful turkey farm is like any other business. "It takes good workers and I have very good workers," Roperti said.

"I appreciate them, and they appreciate me. They take a week off of work of their full-time jobs just to work here. Most of them have jobs, but they enjoy working for me."

Roperti prepares the smoked turkeys by brining the turkeys for 24 to 48 hours, then smoking them in the smokehouse for 17 hours. Those turkeys still need to be cooked once they are

Other customers have known about the turkeys for years — even decades.

## Truly 'farm to table'

Doug Mooradian of Canton said there's "no comparison" between a Roperti turkey and one purchased at a supermarket. Mooradian and his wife, Carol, hosted a "farm to table" dinner for six couples at their home earlier this month. The Mooradians got the idea for the theme, which emphasizes locally grown and produced foods, while visiting their son in San Francisco and taking a drive to Napa Valley, where farm to table is emphasized at the restaurants.

The couples each brought foods from farmers markets in Detroit and Ann Arbor, while the Mooradians purchased a turkey from Roperti, a 23-pounder. Mooradian had to give Roperti a 48-hour notice as to when he needed it.

The Mooradians prepared a turkey scallopin dish with it.

"It was a phenomenal dinner," Mooradian said. "This turkey was just so fresh and lean."

Mooradian said he and Carol have been purchasing turkeys for about 15 years from Roperti. They will buy another next week for their Thanksgiving dinner.

"She gets her family involved, and she really explains everything to you about the turkeys, like how much she pays for the feed," Roperti said. "She loves her customers."

Roperti's advice to those who want a turkey: call early and arrive early to pick it up. If customers want a turkey for Christmas, they should check availability by calling the day after Thanksgiving, Roperti said.

Roperti prefers the smoked turkey. "I love sweet potatoes, green beans and you have to have cranberries with it," Roperti said. But on Thanksgiving Day, the Ropertis apparently aren't in the mood for turkey. "We eat filet mignon," Roperti said. "We do a lot of hard work."



Christine Roperti is careful about what the turkeys eat.

brought home, Roperti said. She sells about 200 smoked turkeys a year.

Customers also request other parts of the turkey.

Turkey feathers are used for fishing lures. Soup makers already know the secret to good chicken stock is chicken feet, necks and backs, and turkey feet play the same role.

Some customers will fly into Detroit, then drive to their destination with the turkey. One flew into Detroit Metro Airport, then drove to pick up the turkey in Livonia, then continued to the Upper Peninsula.

Another drove from Toledo to pick up two fresh turkeys, one smoked one and a ham Roperti gets from Dearborn Sausage. "A guy from Dundee stopped by with his cooler and he was going Up North," Roperti said last week.



## Plymouth man named DMP vice president

Mark Brown of Plymouth, who has served as the Detroit Media Partnership's controller since 2005, has been named vice president/finance.

In addition to overseeing the DMP's financial operations, he will assume responsibility for the Information Technology division. Tracey Medley, the assistant controller since 2006, has been named controller.

The Detroit Media Partnership runs the business operations of the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown Newspapers*.

"Mark has played a critical role in the transformation of this company, spearheading many of the consolidations and system implementations," said Joyce Jenereaux, president of the DMP.

"He's been a great business partner to the other divisions of our company, helping them work through many operational and strategic issues." Brown joined the DMP in 1992 as a financial analyst, and later served as financial reporting manager and finance director. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan, and is a certified public accountant. Brown has two sons, both of whom attended Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.



Brown

# Salon realizes grandmother's dream

When Lisa Black Tucker and her husband, Aaron, opened Bliss Salon in September, it wasn't just the culmination of Lisa's dream.

The grand opening also helped Lisa start living a dream — then put on hold — decades earlier by her grandmother.

Matilda Szaraz, born in Budapest in 1915, had set out 22 years later to achieve her dream of becoming a hairdresser, starting an apprenticeship at a salon in the city. But when the depression struck, Matilda's mother forced her to give up the apprenticeship and get a job that not only supported herself, but helped get her brother through his own apprenticeship at a trade school.

Matilda met Joseph and married him in 1939. The couple went on to have three children — Gabor, Marta and Joseph Jr. — and, like most people of the time, worked six days a week, 12 hours a day to make ends meet, leaving Matilda's dream even farther behind.

The family escaped



Lisa Black Tucker, with grandmother Matilda Szaraz, lived her grandmother's dream when she opened Bliss Salon in Plymouth in September.

to Austria Christmas day 1956, then went to England in March 1957. After beginning their new lives in England, Matilda and Joseph watched their children flourish. Gabor came to the U.S. and is now retired from Ford Motor Company.

Meanwhile, Marta married and had two children, including Lisa, whose path soon seemed to mirror Matilda's. After graduating John Glenn High School in Westland, Lisa went on to college. A year later, she decided it wasn't what she wanted.

"My mother told me, 'Do whatever will make me happy, because you'll have to do it all your life,'" Black Tucker recalled.

Like her grandmother decades before, Black Tucker grabbed an apprenticeship at a local salon. When she earned her license and finished a degree in cosmetology, her dream took root.

That dream was realized when she and Aaron opened Bliss Salon at 5 Mile and Sheldon in Plymouth. Bliss is an upscale salon with experienced, knowledgeable



Matilda Szaraz with co-workers at the Budapest salon where she had an apprenticeship in 1937.

and friendly stylists and nail technicians. Among its stylists, Bliss boasts a Pureology Technical Advisor, a Redken Color Specialist, and a former Schwarzkopf educator.

Bliss specializes in color, special occasion and bridal parties, Shellac and spa pedicures. Stylists are also trained and specialized in full extensions providing additional volume and length.

The hard work brought tears to the eyes of Matilda, now 96 and still living in England.

"When she was told

### GIVING BACK

Bliss Salon will be partnering with Forgotten Harvest canned food drive beginning Black Friday and ending Dec. 23. All clients, neighbors, and friends are encouraged to bring in canned foods to donate to Forgotten Harvest to help those who are less fortunate have a great holiday season. For each can of food, donors will be entered in a drawing for a Schwarzkopf gift basket. The drawing takes place Dec. 23.

about the salon, she looked toward heaven and whispered, 'thank you for letting my granddaughter realize my old, almost forgotten dream,'" Tucker said.

Bliss Salon is located at 15083 Sheldon in Plymouth. The salon is open Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (734) 207-8680.

## PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Asset designation

Sherrie L. Webb-Zucker of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Plymouth has achieved the professional designation of Accredited Asset Management Specialist. Webb-Zucker successfully completed the Accredited Asset Management Specialist, or AAMS, Professional Education Program from the Denver-based College

for Financial Planning. Those who complete the program, pass a final exam and sign a code of ethics and disclosure form earn the AAMS designation.

This advanced training offers investment professionals the hands-on information needed to provide comprehensive financial services. Study topics include understanding the asset

management process to understanding asset allocation and strategies.

### RE/MAX affiliation

RE/MAX Classic, a local real estate brokerage, announced the affiliation of Associate Real-



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tor Angela Roe at their Canton location. Roe, formerly of Keller Williams in Livonia, specializes in resi-

dential real estate sales in the Plymouth, Canton, Wayne and Westland areas. Roe's expertise expands to leasing opportunities, buyer representation, distressed properties and condominium sales throughout Western Wayne County.

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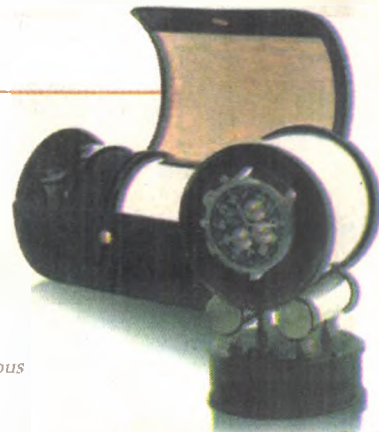
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## OUR VIEWS

# Time to heal, lead

## School board veterans must show teamwork

It's natural, after any election but particularly following one that wrought as much change as last week's Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education race, to ask, "What's next?"

After the last 18 months or so of upheaval, the answer to that question is easy. Heal.

You can rail all you want about the Republicans spending so much time and money on the election, or the union threatening business owners who supported certain candidates, and you'd be right. You can spend all the time you want complaining about misinformation and inaccuracies, about prior performances and history.

While all of those things — good and bad — likely played roles in the outcome, it's also difficult to deny the message voters sent last week. By snubbing all three incumbents — board President John Jackson and Trustees Nancy Eggenberger and Steven Sneiderman — voters were, in some measure, decrying the lack of cohesion and some of the decisions the current board made.

Several observers noted they felt the message from voters was: "We don't like the direction of the board." Of course, some say that means they don't like how the board has handled budget decisions and perhaps the potential closing of the school.

We believe it's more than that. We believe voters said, at least in part, "We don't like the dissension." We believe Jackson, Sneiderman and Eggenberger paid the price for 18 months' worth of vitriol and sniping, of backbiting and fighting. We agree with board Vice President Dianne Gonzalez, who noted following the election she might have suffered the same fate had she sought re-election.

We've said it before, and we'll say it again, with feeling: It's time for the in-fighting to stop. It's time for the board to begin working together, and we don't mean in January when the new board members take their seats.

And with four new members coming aboard, it's up to the board's two veterans — Judy Mardigian and Barry Simescu — to lead the way.

When the new board is seated in January, it will consist — aside from Mardigian and Simescu — of one member with three years' experience, and four brand new members. You could argue that Mike Maloney and Mark Horvath, two former board presidents, are experienced board members, but their experience came more than a dozen years ago, in very different times under different circumstances.

Horvath and Maloney could certainly provide strong voices, but they're going to have to put aside the loud criticism they leveled at the board during their campaign and dig in to work with the people upon whom they cast aspersions. They can no longer simply step to the microphone and tell board members what they should be doing; they have to be ready to step in — and step up — to do the hard work themselves.

But it will all start with Mardigian and Simescu. The two longest-serving board members have been on polar-opposite sides of some issues, but they've worked together to find answers on the budget which, when all the smoke clears, is still the board's biggest issue.

Mardigian and Simescu have to find a way to put the anger of the last 18 months aside. Each has been heard, and each has won some, lost some. Board members have to do more than pay lip service to the term, "Let's work together." It's time for them to actually do it.

And it's up to their veteran leaders to do just that.

Lead.



Mardigian



Simescu

## COMMUNITY VOICE

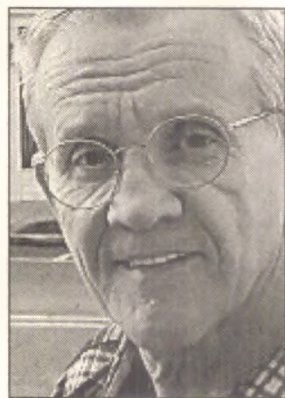
### What is your favorite part of Thanksgiving?

We asked this question in downtown Plymouth.



"The turkey. My aunt makes a really good turkey."

Vanessa Adelman  
Plymouth



"Friends and family. That's what life is all about."

Larry Holland  
Plymouth



"The family and the good food."

Josh Beamis  
Plymouth



"The family sitting down at the table to eat ... that is truly something to be thankful for. Everyone is alive and healthy ... God has truly blessed you."

Chris Herring  
Southfield

## LETTERS

### Shocked by grinding

I was watching the school board meeting the other night on cable TV. I was absolutely shocked to hear parents (some of whom I know, personally) describing what apparently goes on at the high school dances. My wife and I discussed it that night and she was shocked, too.

Our biggest surprise was the principal's response to the parent who was trying to restore an amount of decency to the dance when he stated, "Well, that's just the way they dance nowadays." No lights on in the gym. Girls bent over with their heads on the floor while boys were totally disrespecting these girls? Thank goodness a few parents were vocal enough to speak up. What are we teaching our kids about respect and sense of dignity about themselves?

Well, my astonishment just got worse when I read your article of how the school board is handling the situation. My first objection is that there is NO mention of the principal's obvious failure in duty. The root cause of how this situation could have happened needs to be front and center.

Secondly, Frank Ruggirello's response of putting students on the committee is ridiculous, and "online" surveys? Really? This just tells me that they think some folks WANT this type of dancing and they are going to leave it up to a vote.

Obviously, the kids do not know right from wrong or we wouldn't be reading this article. The committee needs to be made up of adults only. It needs to come out with a "dance policy" and standards of conduct.

Why does West Middle School have a strict and enforced dance policy? Why do other schools around the country make their students sign a standard of conduct policy prior to attending high school dances? Why did administrators look the other way and not choose to do anything? These are the problems that need to be investigated and fixed by the committee of adults.

Jeff Scannell  
Plymouth

### School board shakeup

The heightened interest in the Plymouth-Canton school board election process was heartening to see.

We need to keep the education of our students a priority if we are to continue to be a world leader. With four new board members elected, it is obvious that the former board's lack of coherence did not sit well with the voters.

Now it is time for the new board to put all past differences aside and strike a chord of harmony. Every day counts

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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Read or comment online: [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

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

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

in our children's education and we have no time to waste in making the tough decisions to redirect our great school district in a continuing path of educational excellence.

Mike Andro  
Canton

### Grind panel unnecessary

I am amazed that a panel needs to be set up on the "grinding" issue. I do not believe it is necessary.

It is the nature of children, especially teens, to push boundaries. It is part of the process to emerge as self-preserving adults who will need to fend for themselves. Children "push the buttons" of the adults who are supposed to provide leadership. Kids test the limits.

It is the responsibility of adults who work with children to set reasonable boundaries. The form of dance called "grinding" is not appropriate for school dances. What may go on at an adult night club is the responsibility of the adults present. School children do not have the right to "grind" while dancing.

If I were caught "grinding" in the aisles at Target or Kroger, I would probably be arrested or at least thrown out. If I were at the public library getting my "grind" on, they would show me the door. If I chose to "grind" while taking my neighborhood walk, I am sure that citizens would complain loudly.

"Grinding" is not a civil right, a First Amendment right, an expression of free speech.

Adults who work with kids must set boundaries and enforce them at school dances. Kids are expected to dress appropriately at school functions and they are expected to act like the adults they hope to become. If the school adults can't recognize their responsibilities to the children in their charge, those adults should find a new line of work, like being a bouncer at an adult disco club. Then they can look away and throw up their hands.

I love teenagers. I spent almost 40 years teaching them. I am not trying to ruin their fun. I want their teachers to be responsible to set limits for their education.

T.W. Donnelly  
Canton

### Corruption is corruption

There were many a newspaper sold during the Kwame Kilpatrick fiasco. This was by both of the local dailies. So much so that one could have wallpapered all the towers of the Ren Cen after they were done reading.

Now there is a new public enemy No. 1 and the media should not treat him any different than the way they treated the former mayor of Detroit. This sordid tale that paid an employee that voluntarily left a job to go to another one is just as ridiculous as the 'Red' Navigator incident that captivated an electorate and media some years ago.

I applaud Heather Cattalo and the investigative team over at Channel 7 for keeping the public abreast of the "Turkiagate." And for the rest of the media that chooses to not want to make this the story that it is, shame on you.

The blame for this mess does not fall solely on the back of the airport CEO, Turkia Mullin, but the elected official who is responsible for knowing what is going on under his watch. Robert Ficano does not deserve a pass on this mess and the media owe it to their base to get to the bottom of this. He needs to be called on the carpet in the same way that Kwame Kilpatrick was raked over the coals (rightfully so).

This is not the time for any double-standard grandstanding on the part of the media. In the same fashion that the media failed to expose the current mayor for not being this great businessman that he was made out to be, dropping the ball on this latest scandal encompassing the Wayne County Executive is not an option. The media should be going after him with the same vigor and venomous zeal that they went after Kwame.

For anyone that has been reading my posts over the years, you will know that I am in no way a fan of the former mayor. However, fair is fair and the media owes it to the public to expose what appears to be some wrongdoing in the county seat of Wayne. There is too much of a story being told that just does not add up and the media needs to get to the bottom of this in the same way that they got to the bottom of the Kwame soap opera.

Whatever "golden boy" perception that many had of Robert Ficano, it appears that the glow has been tarnished. If there is a culture of corruption over there, then what was good for the Kilpatrick goose is just as good for the Ficano gander.

Media; do your job and unwrap this gift that has been handed to you.

Eric Brown  
Canton



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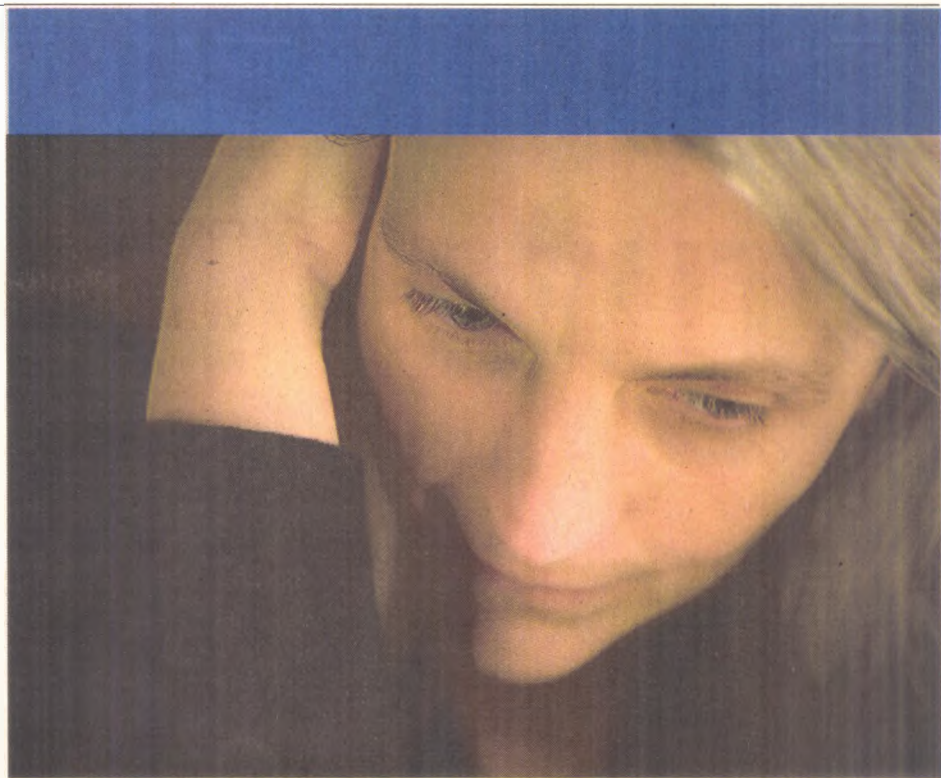
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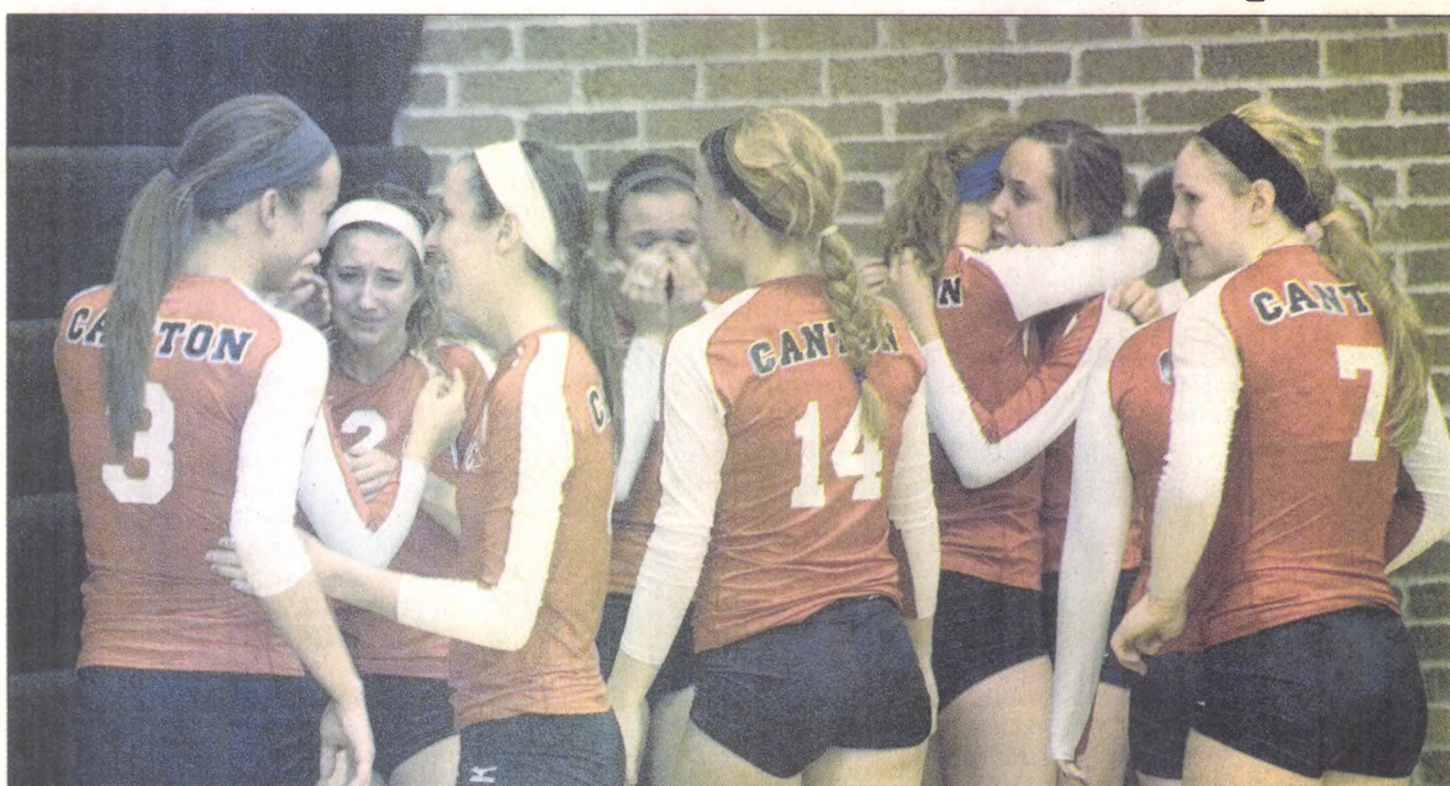
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## CLASS A GIRLS VOLLEYBALL QUARTERFINALS

## Crusher ends Chiefs' best year Chiefs take high road



Canton players console each other following Tuesday's season-ending loss to Brighton in a grueling, five-game set at Fenton High School.

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Stationed in the front row, Canton's Lauren Martin set up a pass that teammate Erica den Boer hammered over the net Tuesday night.

The Chiefs and their fans at Fenton High School went crazy with joy, thinking they came all the back from a 2-0 deficit in games against Clarkston in a rousing Class A girls volleyball quarterfinal.

But it wasn't to be. A line judge ruled den Boer's spike hit the floor outside the back stripe to tie Game 5 at 14-14.

Moments later, the Canton dream of going to Battle Creek for the Final Four ended as Clarkston won 16-14 to claim the match 3-2.

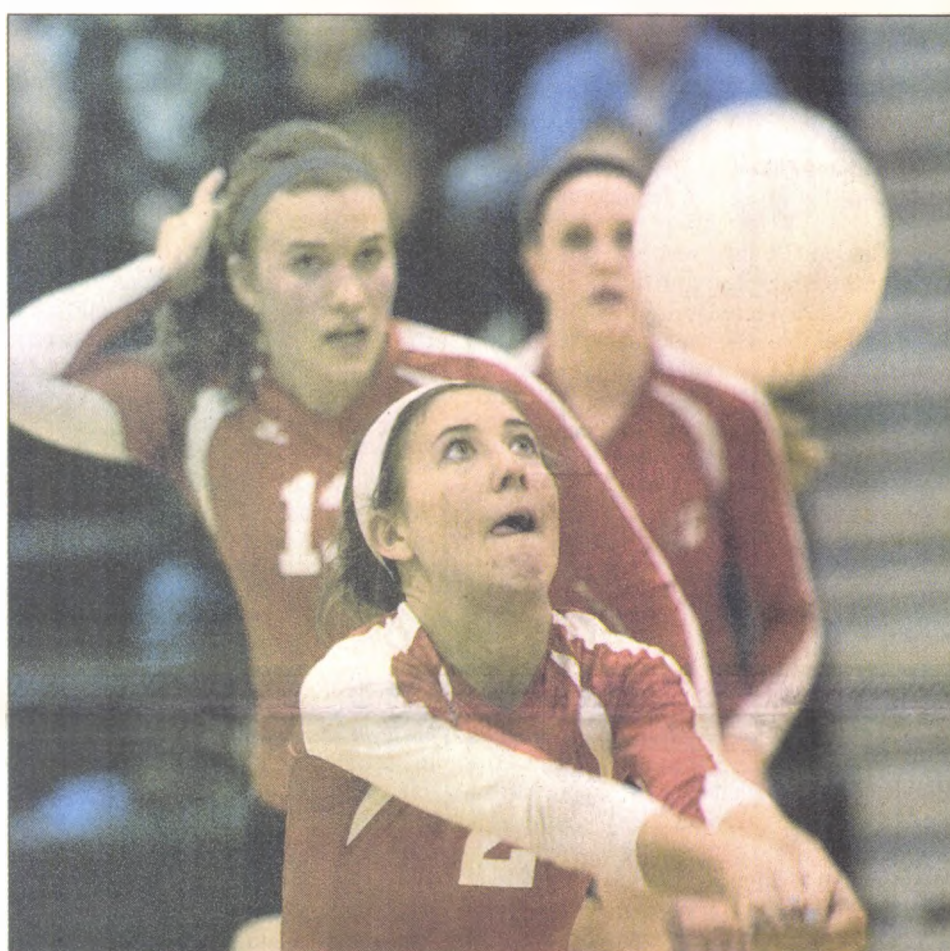
"I thought it was in, that's not my call though," said Canton head coach Mary Kryska. "He called it out."

With a laugh, Clarkston head coach Kelly Avenall said her team "got lucky on a call" but then said she couldn't tell if the ball was in or out.

"I don't know, I thought it was close," Avenall said. "It was close, I'll tell you that."

Canton players who were in the front row on the play thought it was a good point, however.

"Ultimately, it's the ref's call," said Canton senior outside hitter Kristen Muir. "I thought there was a touch on it, but nobody can really do anything about it."



Bumping the ball to keep a rally going for Canton is senior Lauren Martin (No. 2), while teammates Erica den Boer (No. 13) and Maggie Deloy stay ready.

**Reason to smile**

Also thinking a Clarkston player got a tiny piece of the hit was den Boer, one of Canton's best players throughout the match. "There was a touch on that last hit, there was a touch."

But both Muir and den Boer wore respectful smiles as they spoke and didn't have a hint of complaint in their voices.

That's because they came

farther than any other Canton volleyball team in school history. The Chiefs finished 42-10 and won their school's first regional championship in the process.

Still, Muir (34 digs, 11 kills, three aces) cited the wrenching emotional swing at the end of the match.

"Obviously it's hard," Muir noted. "We've been fortunate enough to win a lot of those

games, and sometimes you can't win them all.

"But everybody played their heart out in this game."

Senior outside hitter Alaina Turner (21 kills, nine block assists, 15 digs) credited the Wolves, spearheaded by the towering front row of senior Stephanie Marani (18 kills), juniors Rachel Dickerson (17

Please see CHIEFS, B3



Tim Smith

There couldn't have been a harsher final chapter to Canton's storied girls volleyball season. But because of the admirable way the Chiefs conducted themselves following their heart-breaking 3-2 loss to Clarkston in Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal, there is a classy epilogue.

A referee's call to reverse an apparent Canton point not only prevented victory in the heart-pounding deciding set, it gave the Wolves the opening they needed to prevail.

It would have been understandable if Canton head coach (and former Chiefs player) Mary Kryska and her players played the we-got-robbed card.

Nobody would have been surprised if feelings of frustration and anger bubbled over at Fenton High School.

That's not what happened. Players hugged each other, congratulated the winners and actually looked as though they would be playing at Battle Creek in Thursday's semifinal.

By the way, Canton's considerable fan contingent also was a collective class act despite the disappointing loss.

Maybe sportsmanship reigned because Canton outdid what anybody predicted they would, winning 42 times while steamrolling KLAA competition and grabbing district and regional trophies — for the first time in school history.

"We were basically just saying how proud each and every one of us (was) for making it this far as this season," said senior outside hitter Kristen Muir. "Nobody really expected us to go this far, with every match I thought we were the underdogs."

"That really gave us motivation and unfortunately we came up a little short."

There were smiles and no tears when she spoke.

Maybe sportsmanship reigned because a group of players led by talented seniors such as Muir, Alaina Turner, Lauren Martin and Maggie Deloy grew together as a unit and matured, too.

Evidence of that was their positive attitude despite being at their lowest ebb.

It showed that these young women know how to be winners in life as well as athletics.

Too bad they don't give out trophies for that.

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Canton and Plymouth Observers. He can be reached at tsmith@hometownlife.com or (734) 718-5306.

## Pool pinnacle

## PCEP girls swimmers ready for D1 finals

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Athletes from the six varsity girls swimming and diving teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park have been making positive waves all season.

And for a number of those girls, their season culminates with this weekend's Division 1 state finals at Eastern Michigan University.

Eight girls from the Plymouth Wildcats are EMU-bound, with seven Canton swimmers also participating.

Salem's contingent is six deep, led by four-time state qualifier Lauren Seroka.

Coaches from all three squads are pumped up about having so many quality athletes going to the finals.

The preliminaries are scheduled for Friday at Jones Natatorium with the finals the following day.

"They are excited

**FINAL LAPS**

**What:** Division 1 girls swimming and diving finals.

**When and where:** Friday-Saturday, at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium (prelims are Friday).

**State qualifiers:** Here's who will be going from the three Park teams (swimmers listed alphabetically):

• **Plymouth (8):** Alexa Earls, fr.; Linda Erickson, senior; Lexie Ethier, sr.; Lydia Matson, jr.; Stepha-

nie Matsui, sr.; Lydia Plencner, jr.; Emily Toro, jr.; Emily Weiner, jr.; • **Canton (7):** Delaney Adams, junior; Destinee Barmore-Hicks, sophomore; Claire Green, freshman; Hannah Jenkins, soph.; Abby Madison, jr.; Madeline Madison, soph.; Caitlin Orr, jr.; • **Salem (6):** Claire Amin, soph.; Abby Aumiller, jr.; Maddie Gorman, jr.; Jocelyn Lamoureux, jr.; Lauren Seroka, sr.; Julia Suriano, soph.

about the potential for great swims in the fast pool that Eastern Michigan University provides," Plymouth head coach Doug Schade said. "After putting in a season of hard work and dedication to both training and technique, the girls have set themselves up for success."

What you work for

For Canton head coach Ed Weber, this weekend is one the entire team has been building up towards.

"Several of this year's state team qualifiers for Canton have experience at this level," Weber noted. "This year we've placed a lot of emphasis on this meet, and expect

Please see SWIM, B3

## Whalers crank it up

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

After a bit of a slow start to the season, the Plymouth Whalers are cranking it up and Ontario Hockey League rivals are feeling the hurt.

On Sunday afternoon, the Whalers ripped 53 shots on Erie goalkeeper Ramis Sadikov and seven of those hit the twine as Plymouth rolled to a 7-1 victory at Compuware Arena.

That followed 8-4 and 8-0 wins, posted Friday and Saturday nights against Guelph and Sault Ste. Marie, respectively.

"The beginning of the year it was hard to get a little bit," Plymouth center Andy Bathgate said following the third rout in three days. "So many guys were away at (NHL) camp, we had 11 guys away."

"We finally got them back and with all of us together we're playing the right way."

Bathgate was one of three Plymouth players to register three points against the Otters, netting his seventh of the



RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth Whalers players Garret Meurs (No. 16), Stefan Noesen, Rickard Rakell (against boards) and Nick Malysa (No. 4) celebrate after Rakell scored Sunday against Erie.

season and adding two helpers.

Two of the NHL campers referred to by Bathgate — forwards Stefan Noesen and Rickard Rakell — each tallied two goals and an assist to pace the Whalers (13-6-2-1) to their fourth win in a row and sixth in seven outings.

**Deep and dangerous**

Other Plymouth markers were collected by forwards Alex Aleari (his 11th and fourth of the

weekend) and Jamie Devane while recent acquisition Cody Payne drew an assist for his first point as a Whaler.

With so many players capable of offense and gritty two-way hockey, Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci said he can roll four lines and eventually wear out opponents' defenses.

"It's pretty deep, definitely," Vellucci said. "It's a lot of fun to coach."

Please see WHALERS, B3



# Top girls harriers blaze the trails

## FIRST-TEAM

**Kerigan Riley, Jr., Liv. Churchill:** The junior captain earned all-state honors in Division 1 by finishing 20th in the state finals with a 5-kilometer time of 18 minutes, 40.8 seconds.

Riley, who carries at 4.07 grade-point average, also captured the Willow Metropark regional (19:24.3) and was runner-up in the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet (18:55.4). She also was Public Schools of Livonia (19:19) and Monroe Jefferson Invitational (19:19.4) champion. She also added a 15th at the Michigan State University Invitational (18:40.0).

"Kerigan is one of the most talented and decorated athletes to come through the Churchill cross country program," coach Sue Tatro said. "In addition to being extremely coachable, she is a hard-working and determined young runner with unlimited potential. It was a lot of fun watching her cap off her season as a regional champion and all-state runner."

"Kerigan has proven to herself and others that she is a powerful force, and I look forward to seeing what she can accomplish next season."

**Heather Smith, Sr., Mercy:** The senior runner ended her high school career with a 36th-place finish (18:59) at the Division 1 state meet. She ran a season best of 18:31 at the Brighton regional in which she was fifth. Smith also finished second in the Catholic League, fifth at the River Rat Invite and 17th in Oakland County. She won two CHSL divisional jamborees and was second in a third.

Smith is a four-year varsity letter winner, a three-time all-Catholic honoree, a two-time all-area, first-team selection and a two-time state qualifier. She was named Mercy's Catholic Women's Coaches Scholar Athlete of 2011 and an all-state academic runner by the coaches association.

"Heather has been a coach's dream," coach Gary Servais said. "She has improved and become more competitive each season. We look forward to an exciting track season for her this spring. Her time of 11:40 in the 3,200-meter run at the county meet last year gave us an idea that she would have a great 2011 cross country season. It will be very difficult to fill her shoes next fall."

**Gabby DeFlorio, Sr., Farmington:** The senior is a three-time state qualifier and three-time FPS city champion. DeFlorio finished third and 13th at the Shamrock and Spartan invites, respectively, seventh at Oak-

## 2011 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM

Kerigan Riley, Jr., Churchill  
Heather Smith, Sr., Mercy  
Gabby DeFlorio, Sr., Farmington  
Victoria Irwin, So., N. Farm.  
Lindsey Gallagher, Fr., Steve.  
Teagan Dillon, So., Mercy  
Sydney Anderson, Jr., Churchill  
Marina DeBiasi, So., Plymouth  
Nicole Traitses, Sr., Plymouth  
Bethany Pilat, Sr., Churchill  
Jenny Rogers, So., Farmington

## SECOND TEAM

Angela Wright, Sr., N. Farm.  
Erin Emmanuel, Fr., Churchill  
Allysen Eads, Fr., Mercy  
Megan McFarlane, So., Church.  
Adrianna Beltran, Sr., Salem  
Alejandra Beltran, Jr., Salem  
Emily Bizon, Jr., Salem  
Amanda Beyer, Sr., Salem  
Shannon Flynn, Jr., Salem  
Jessica Siegler, So., Canton

## COACH OF THE YEAR

Sue Tatro, Churchill

## HONORABLE MENTION

**Churchill:** Michelle Azar, Vivien Okechukwu, Lauren Bernhardt, Maggie Crum, Jenna Hickson, Elyssa Hoffmann, Erica Krupsky, Sediqa Nedam, Julia Twigg; **Franklin:** Madeline Herman, Tiffany Lambie, CC Shoemaker; **Stevenson:** Aphrodite Palazis; **John Glenn:** Abbey Wright, Shekinah Johnson, Kirsten Smith; **Ladywood:** Alexandra Darr, Katherine Taylor, Hannah Pereira; **Lutheran High Westland:** Erin Hardin, Erin Lyle; **Canton:** Emily Southern, Katie Grimes, Allison Spitz, Paige Calvert, Anna Gorzalski; **Salem:** Autumn Burin, Hannah Stoliker, Natasha Stevenson, Kelly Kerwin, Katy Robeson, Rebecca Lopez, Madison Goodpastore, Lauren Arquette; **Plymouth:** Elyse Gryniewicz; **Plymouth Christian:** Terra Crown, Megan McHugh; **Farmington:** Olivia Salinas, Sarah Gallagher, Joelle Locherie, Cara Whinnery; **North Farmington:** Sophia Farquhar, Erin Dennis, Maria Vicini, Christie Goodwin, Alyssa Robert, Rachel Rosinski; **Harrison:** Catherine Barkach, Shayna Kotzian, Erika Abbott, Jordan Scrimger; **Mercy:** Celeste White, Katelyn Toloff; **Garden City:** Mariah Carver, Breanna Grant, Hayley Plummer; **Redford Union:** Erin Miley, Kelly Miley.

land County and eighth in the Waterford regional. She also had second- and third-place finishes in two OAA White Division jamborees.

"Gabby is a super dedicated worker who cares about the sport and her teammates very much," coach Charles Bridges said. "She's such a good runner and talented kid; she's the girl who does all the right things. She gets enough sleep, watches what she eats, is at practice every day and runs on the weekends. Gabby is looking to continue her career in college and should continue getting better."

**Victoria Irwin, Soph., N. Farmington:** In her first year of cross country, Irwin finished 42nd at the Division 1 state meet with a season best time of 19:04. She was a medal winner in seven races, finishing eighth at the Early Bird, 16th at MSU, third at Linden, 15th at



Kerigan Riley Churchill



Heather Smith Mercy



Gabby DeFlorio Farmington



Tori Irwin N. Farmington



Lindsey Gallagher Stevenson



Teagan Dillon Mercy



Sydney Anderson Churchill



Marina DeBiasi Plymouth



Nicole Traitses Plymouth



Bethany Pilat Churchill



Jennifer Rogers Farmington



Sue Tatro Coach of Year

Oakland County, second at the River Rat, fourth in the OAA White Division and sixth at the regional. Irwin also finished second in the FPS city meet. She was the team's No. 1 runner all season and was named its most valuable runner.

"It was Tori's first year running cross country, and she was on an exponential learning curve on how to race," coach Bill Pinnell said. "She was solid for us all season, and she was very consistent with her racing. It did not matter what type of course we raced on, Tori was running consistently under 20 minutes."

"You finish where your goals are, and Tori's goal all year was to make it to the state meet. She's a very driven athlete; she is dedicated, determined and disciplined, and she has a strong desire to succeed. It was awesome seeing Tori run so well at the state meet. It was a great way to finish a successful season."

**Lindsey Gallagher, Fr., Liv. Stevenson:** The ninth grader missed qualifying for the Division 1 state finals by only one place with a 16th at the tough Huron Meadows regional (18:54).

Gallagher also took 10th at the Wayne County (19:53) and Kensington Conference (19:25) meets. She added a sixth at the Haslett Invitational (19:41) and took fourth at

the White Lake Lakeland freshman-sophomore meet while helping her team to a second-place showing.

"Lindsey hands-down is one of the most gifted runners I have had the opportunity of coaching," Stevenson's Keith Hearn said. "What makes Lindsey stand out from the rest is her drive. She comes to practice every-day ready to train with the purpose of getting faster than the previous week. Her hard work and work ethic propelled her to a level in which every race she felt as if she could compete to win. I am excited to see what the future has in store for Lindsey both as a runner and a student."

**Teagan Dillon, Soph., Mercy:** The sophomore and two-year letter winner ran her best time of 19:12 at the Brighton regional. She finished 20th but would have been a Division 1 state qualifier in other regionals. Dillon was first at Warren Mott, fourth in the Catholic League, sixth at the River Rat Invite and 33rd in Oakland County. Aside from the Mott race in which Heather Smith didn't run, she was Mercy's consistent No. 2 runner all season. Dillon also placed fifth, second and third in three CHSL division jamborees.

"Teagan will have the job of filling Heather Smith's shoes next year,"

coach Servais said. "She's a good leader who trains hard and races harder. We're looking forward to seeing her do well on the track this spring and in cross country again next fall."

**Sydney Anderson, Jr., Liv. Churchill:** The junior enjoyed a breakout season placing 92nd in the state finals (19:35.2), 13th at the regional (19:28.1) and 11th in the Kensington Conference (19:28.1). Anderson also earned academic all-state honors with a 4.25 GPA.

"It was a joy watching Sydney step it up to the next level this season," Tatro said. "She ran like a true veteran runner all season long, where she was a consistent top finisher in all of our meets. She is a confident and intelligent runner who truly knows how to prepare for her races. She is also a fabulous leader who is extremely supportive of her teammates. I'm looking forward to seeing her continue to improve into her senior season."

**Marina DeBiasi, Soph., Plymouth:** Just a sophomore, DeBiasi is already well on her way to an excellent high school career.

Her highlight of the season was registering a time of 19:09 at the KLAAs conference meet at Huron Meadows, for her personal best.

She also qualified for the Division 1 state meet, with a time of 19:44.63 at the regionals at Willow Metropark.

In October, DeBiasi's time of 19:55.51 was good for 12th place and an All-County medal at the Wayne County Championships, also at Willow.

"Marina is an extremely talented and gifted runner, who is just starting to realize her potential," coach Dale Maskill said. "Her combination of motivation, toughness and talent is rare and I'm excited to watch the rest of her running career at Plymouth."

**Nicole Traitses, Sr., Plymouth:** The senior showed leadership on the course and off, as she was the Wildcats' captain and MVP.

Traitses had plenty of highlights, capped off by her personal best of 19:32 at the Division 1 state meet. She qualified for the meet after registering a time of 19:58.20 at the Willow Metropark-hosted regionals.

Another top achievement came at the Wayne County Championships, where she came in 13th with a time of 19:58.65 — like teammate DeBiasi, good for an All-County medal.

"Not only is she a great competitor and a highly motivated runner, she is a pleasure to be around

and coach," Maskill said. "Nicole always has a smile on her face. Even in the worst of weather and the hardest workouts she keeps a positive attitude."

**Bethany Pilat, Sr., Liv. Churchill:** The senior placed 106th in the state finals (19:43), sixth at the regional (19:49.2) and 17th in the Kensington Conference (19:49.3).

She also excels in the classroom carrying a 4.06 GPA.

"Bethany had a solid four years at Churchill where she was a consistent varsity runner during her entire high school career," Tatro said. "Nobody is more dedicated than Bethany."

"Despite experiencing some adversity this season due to an injury and illness, she was able to rebound and finish her season on a strong note. I am proud of her determination and perseverance."

**Jenny Rogers, Soph., Farmington:** The sophomore ran in her first state meet and finished 116th with a time of 19:49 in the Division 1 race. Rogers

was 13th in the Waterford regional, 13th at the Lakeland freshman-sophomore race, fourth in the FPS city meet and seventh at the last OAA White Division jamboree.

"Jenny improved throughout the season and really came on the second half of the year," coach Bridges said. "Jenny's times gradually improved all year as she placed better and better."

"Overall, she ran a great state meet. She can go back there with confidence, knowing she can run better. I thought it was a good experience for her, and it was a nice cap to a really fine season."

## COACH OF THE YEAR

**Sue Tatro, Liv. Churchill:** The 16th year coach guided the Chargers to their 11th state finals appearance in 12 years.

Under guidance of Tatro, Churchill captured the Willow Metropark regional title and place runner-up in the Kensington Conference meet.

Churchill also captured to the Public Schools of Livonia Invitational and KLAAs South Division dual meet crown, as well as placing second at Wayne County.

"I am extremely proud of what the Churchill girls accomplished this fall," said Tatro, who ran track and cross country at Michigan State. "Their commitment, work ethic, dedication, and confidence made for a consistent and solid season from start to finish. I thoroughly enjoyed working with this group, and I feel that the positive team chemistry helped to contribute to our overall success this season."

## Varsity Steelers cap perfect season

Troy Polamalu would have given each member of the Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football team's defense a fist bump if he would have witnessed their impressive red-zone efforts during Sunday's Western Suburban Junior Football League Super Bowl at Westland John Glenn High School.

In a showing that would have made the NFL's Steelers proud, the P-C Steelers slammed the door on two Westland Comet drives inside the Steelers' 10-yard line to preserve a 6-0 victory and a perfect 10-0 season.

Among the Steelers' key defenders were D-linemen Vaishak Mendon, Jalen Cochran, Jake McKinnon; and linebackers Cameron

Stella, Alex Nicholson and Tyler Laurentius.

The game's lone score unfolded in the first half when Nicholson connected with Brennan Brooks in the corner of the end zone.

Both teams managed to move the ball successfully between the 20-yard lines throughout the second half, but neither team could reach paydirt.

An interception by Laurentius sealed the victory for the Steelers.

Offensively, the Steelers were powered by the running of Stella, who found sizeable lanes that were cleared by the blocking of Christian Pearson, Adam McKee, Eric Sawers, Ben Phillips, Jake McKinnon, Elie Atallah and Brooks.



JON VESPAZIANI PHOTO  
Cameron Stella played well on both sides of the line of scrimmage in the varsity Plymouth-Canton Steelers' 6-0 victory over the Westland Comets Sunday.

## CC stifles Pioneer

By Jeff Theisen  
Staff Writer

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central football prides itself on two things, playing a suffocating defense and pounding the ball on offense.

Saturday's 21-0 blanking of Ann Arbor Pioneer was a perfect example of what the Shamrocks are all about to wrap up the regional title at home.

With the win, Catholic Central will face Rockford 1 p.m. Saturday at Battle Creek Central High School.

Pioneer star running back Drake Johnson was the main focus for the Shamrock defense. He put up huge numbers throughout the season but was held to just 44 yards on 16 carries, playing both running back

and some quarterback.

Ann Arbor Pioneer (9-3) lost its starting quarterback earlier in the year, and the passing game suffered to the tune of 0-for-6 passing with two interceptions.

The Shamrocks took control early by rolling the opening drive of the game 66 yards on 13 plays for a TD. Quarterback Kyle Cooper completed a pair of passes and Zach Bock finished off the drive with a four-yard pitch to the left.

CC added a second touchdown, after taking over at the Pioneer 37 and using 10 plays to find pay dirt on a six-yard run by Anthony Darkangelo with 1:19 to play in the half. The big play of the drive was a five-yard run by David Houle on fourth and two at the Pioneer 17.

Catholic Central took that 14-0 lead into the half, but it might as well as been 140. The Shamrocks held the ball for more than 18 of the 24 minutes in the first half. The CC offense churned out 125 yards on the ground and 33 through the air in the first half. Pioneer ran 11 plays and gained just six yards with an interception to end the half.

Following a three-and-out by Pioneer to open the second half, the Shamrocks took complete command with the final scoring drive of the game.

Bock turned in a big punt return to set up shop at the Pioneer 30. Four plays later, Darkangelo scored untouched from the nine for a 21-0 lead.





Canton's state qualifiers include (from left) Caitlin Orr, Abby Madison, Destinee Barmore-Hicks, head coach Ed Weber, Delaney Adams, Madeline Madison and Claire Green. Not pictured is Hannah Jenkins.

**SWIM**

Continued from page B1

to compete in finals on Saturday. "It's a great group of girls that have a lot of talent. Even more encouraging than this coming weekend, is that all these girls are returning next year." Veteran Salem head coach Chuck Olson said members of his team "are excited about their opportunity to compete in what might be the fastest state meet ever." Months of hard work, physically and mentally, hopefully will pay off for the Rocks at EMU. Plus, they will get to see how they stack up against opponents from the tough KLAAC Central Division, such as Northville, South Lyon and Novi. "The Salem girls have prepared themselves for this upcoming weekend," Olson emphasized. "... As coach of these athletics, I am confident that they

will succeed in reaching the goals they have aspired to achieve." Following is a closer look at who will be competing under the bright lights at EMU for the Wildcats, Chiefs and Rocks: **PLYMOUTH:** The Wildcats will have participants in four individual events and three relays. Senior Stephanie Matsui qualified both in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle while junior Emily Toro is ready to compete in the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly. Also qualifying in the 200 IM is senior Linda Erickson. Meanwhile, Schade said the Wildcats will be bringing "members and solid seed times for all three relay events." Matsui, Toro and Erickson are in the relay mix along with senior Lexie Ethier, juniors Lydia Matson, Lydia Plencner, Emily Weiner and freshman Alexa Earls. "(We're) looking forward to a weekend of fast swimming," Schade added.

**CANTON:** Weber will accompany a large group of swimmers with previous experience at the state finals, even though none are seniors. They will jump out of the blocks in eight individual events and two relays. Three-time qualifier and junior Delaney Adams is set to make a splash in the two individual events and two relays. Weber said she qualified in the 200 IM, 100 fly and 100 breast, but "she will obviously swim two of those events." Qualifying for the second time are juniors Caitlin Orr (100 backstroke, 200 medley relay), Abby Madison (200 free relay) and three sophomores led by the fleet Destinee Barmore-Hicks, the KLAAC champion in the 50 free. Barmore-Hicks is slated to race this weekend in that event, along with the 100 free. She also will anchor two relays. Also making a second trip to the finals are soph-



Plymouth's state qualifiers are: (back row, from left) Linda Erickson, Emily Weiner, Stephanie Matsui and Lexie Ethier; (front row, from left) Emily Toro, Lydia Plencner, Lydia Matson and Alexa Earls.



Salem's state qualifiers are (from left) Claire Amin, Maddie Gorman, Julia Suriano, Lauren Seroka, Jocelyn Lamoureux and Abby Aumiller.

omores Hannah Jenkins (200 IM, 100 fly, relays) and Madeline Madison (200 free, relays). Last but not least is talented freshman Claire Green. She is set to swim in the 200 IM and 500 free along with relays, the coach added. **SALEM:** Of course, senior Seroka will be spearheading the group of Rocks who are taking part. Seroka will be all over the EMU pool, as she qualified in the 100 free,

200 free, 500 free, 200 IM, 100 breast and two relays (200 medley, 400 free). Juniors Abby Aumiller and Jocelyn Lamoureux are making their third trip to the finals. Aumiller's slate includes the 200 free, 100 back, medley relay and 400 free relay; Lamoureux will compete in the medley relay (an event Salem has five qualifiers in). Sophomore Julia Suriano, a two-time qualifi-

er, made the state cut in a handful of events, including the medley relay. Others are the 200 free, 500 free, 100 back and 400 free relay. Rounding out the roster for the Rocks are junior Maddie Gorman and sophomore Claire Amin, both two-time qualifiers. Gorman will take part in the 400 free relay while Amin is slated for the medley relay.

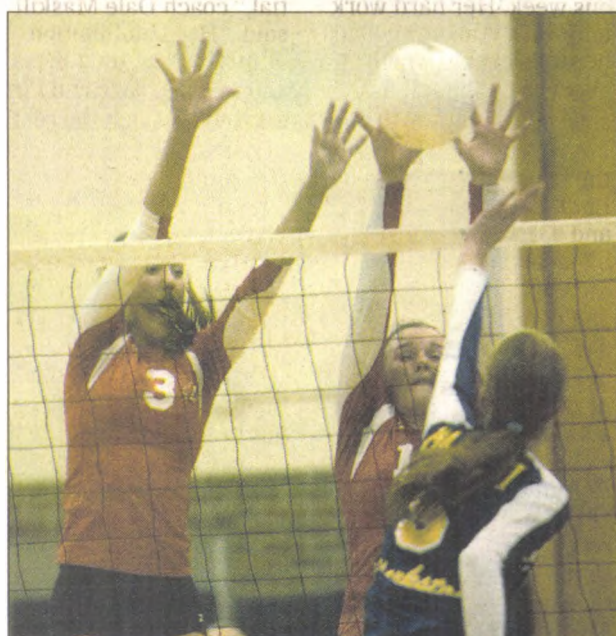
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**CHIEFS**

Continued from page B1

kills) and Kaley Konjarevich (17 kills). "They're definitely good hitters," Turner said. "They're swinging away at us and we couldn't dig it or block it. So they played a good game." Meanwhile, Turner revealed the sentiments expressed in several group hugs in the corner of the gymnasium. "It was great, we made Canton history and I couldn't ask for anything more from everyone," Turner said. "We played our hearts out, like I have no regrets at all."

**Down early** As for the Wolves, they'll take their 56-5 record into Thursday's Class A semifinal against Lake Orion. "My kids, I'm just so proud of the way they fought back that whole entire time," Avenall said. "After them (the Chiefs) winning the next two (games) and us being down in that fifth game ... there was a point that it could have gone either way." Kryska, however, lamented how her team found itself down early, losing the opening set 28-26 and letting a big lead slip away in Game 2 (Clarkston won 25-21). In the second set, the Chiefs went up 6-1 thanks to an early serving string by Martin (53 assists, three aces) and held a 14-10 advantage before Clarkston came back. And then for a while, it looked like the Wolves would sweep to victory as they broke out to a 14-9 lead in Game 3. The Chiefs trailed 15-12 when Muir stepped up to the line and reeled off five points to put Canton up 17-16. Senior right-side hitter Maggie Deloy (21 digs) made an all-out save in the back row to keep a rally



Putting up a double block against Clarkston's Stephanie Marani (No. 5) are Canton outside hitters Alaina Turner (No. 3) and Erica den Boer (No. 13).

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CLASS D: PCA FALLS**

Once again, Battle Creek St. Philip eliminated Plymouth Christian Academy from the Class D girls volleyball tournament. This time, on Tuesday at Bronson, the Fighting Tigers took care of the Eagles (3-1) in the quarterfinals instead of the finals (as was the case in 2010). It took four games to keep PCA (43-7-4) from again going to Battle Creek, where the semifinals and finals take place. No. 1-ranked St. Philip improved to 48-3-2. More information about the PCA-St. Philip match was not available as of press time.

going. Finally, senior middle blocker Jordan Tubaro (three block assists, one solo block) tipped the ball over for the go-ahead point. Martin served up six consecutive points to finish off the 25-18 victory and extend the match. Clutch during that span was den Boer (13 kills, six block assists, 21 digs), who accounted for two of the points. **The equalizer** In Game 4, the Chiefs carried that momentum forward and built a 15-7 edge — sparked by a four-point service run by junior defensive specialist Rebecca Middleton (15 digs). Clarkston's sophomore setter, Brianna Frakes, had other ideas. She served up eight straight points to make it 15-15 before a Canton sideout helped the Chiefs regain the lead. It was Martin whose serving put Canton in position to even the match, scoring three points to make it 22-18. A double block by Tubaro and Deloy gave the Chiefs their 25th point. Canton jumped out in Game 5, leading 6-2. But the Wolves kept chipping away and tied it up at 8-8. The deciding game went back-and-forth from there, until the agonizing turn of events for the Chiefs. "I don't think we played our best, but I thought we played good," Kryska concluded. "It's just that the other team outplayed us, and they're a great team."

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**WHALERS**

Continued from page B1

Vellucci said the Nov. 2 trade with Oshawa for Payne (a 6-2 center) is one of the factors for Plymouth's recent hot streak. "He (Payne) skates well, has good hands, he's only a 17-year old and it will be his draft year this year," Vellucci said. "I see a lot of upside, that's why we made the deal for him." The Whalers now have climbed to second place in the West Division behind Sarnia (which maintained first by one point with Sunday's 4-2 win over Mississauga). They currently are third in the conference.

**Just keep winning** "I don't think we're really chasing anybody," Vellucci said. "We just trying to win every game we can and if you put a bunch of wins together like we are we'll climb in the standings anyway." It took just 76 seconds for Plymouth's scorching offense to pick up Sunday where it left off Saturday. Rakell, after taking a pass from winger Garrett Meers, spun around in front of Sadikov and backhanded the puck between his pads. Just over eight minutes into the frame, Bathgate rushed up the right wing and sent a crisp pass to Devane in the slot and the 6-5, 220-pounder made no mistake. Early in the second period, Noesen — rounding back into form after missing five games with an injury — scored a power play goal. Bathgate chipped the puck along the back wall to center J.T. Miller, who then centered it to Noesen. "He's competing a lot harder now than he was before," said Vellucci about Noesen. "The injury was a big part of it. He competes hard and he's playing a lot better."



Plymouth Whalers forward Andy Bathgate (No. 9) shoots the puck into the wide-open Erie net, past Otters goalie Ramis Sadikov (No. 33) during Sunday afternoon's game at Compuware Arena. At right are Plymouth's Alex Aleardi (No. 40), who centered the puck to Bathgate, and Erie's Derek Holden (No. 26).

RENA LAVERTY

The Whalers kept pressuring the Erie goalkeeper and Aleardi was the beneficiary at the 6:54 mark to make it a 4-0 game. Taking a slap shot from the right point was defenseman Colin MacDonald and Aleardi redirected the puck into the goal from just outside the left post. Starting the play was Payne, for his first Plymouth point. Less than a minute later, Rakell followed with his second of the game and 11th of the year — going top-shelf after picking up a loose puck. With 4:28 remaining, the Whalers took a 6-0 lead on Bathgate's goal. Aleardi carried the puck into the Erie zone and fed it across the crease from the bottom of the right circle to Bathgate for a tap-in. Winning netminder Matt Mahalak, who stopped 33 of 34 shots, kept Erie off the board through two frames. He made four fine stops while his team fought off a two-man disadvantage. **The lone blemish** The Otters (3-16-0-0) finally scored at the 2:05 mark of the third period with a power-play tally. Mahalak kicked out a hard shot, but winger Stephen Harper banged in the rebound.

Finishing the scoring for the day was Noesen, his second of the game and fifth of the season. Noesen put a nifty fake on Sadikov, glided left-to-right across the crease and backhanded the puck against the grain with 14:09 left. According to Bathgate, the grandson and namesake of NHL Hall-of-Famer and former Detroit Red Wing Andy Bathgate, it's a lot of fun to play on a team with so many players capable of making the score sheet every game. "There's some really talented guys," Bathgate said. "With those guys, if they're going not many teams are going to compete with us." On Saturday night against Sault Ste. Marie, before nearly 4,000 fans at Compuware, Miller and center Mitchell Heard each scored two goals and netminder Scott Wedgewood stopped 30 shots for his second shutout of the season. Also scoring were Aleardi, Meurs, Plymouth High School alum Tom Wilson and Dario Trutmann.

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## BRODERSEN, HAZEL IONA

Age 79, November 12, 2011 of Westland. Beloved wife of George. Loving mother of Ronald (Trish) and Donna Brodersen. Dear grandmother of Joshua and Daniel. Sister of Louise (Jim) Balderas and Bettie (Windell) Phillips. She was preceded in death by grandson Caleb, brother Robert & his wife Helen, nephew Larry Basham & niece Linda Paraham. Funeral Services were held in Tennessee



**MILLARD, FREDERICK EUGENE "FRED"**

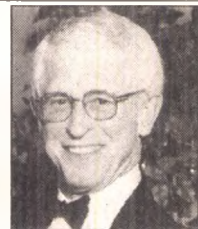
December 25, 1930 - November 10, 2011, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Barbara. Dear Father of Robbin (Lera) Millard, Dawn Lee Millard Sholtz, and Kim Lawrence Millard. Grandfather of James Edwin Sholtz, Mary Constance Leona Millard, Justin Eugene Kim Sholtz, and Jaclyn Rae Millard. A Funeral Service was held on Monday Nov. 14th at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville, MI. Those wishing to make a contribution in Fred's name are asked to consider the Ward Presbyterian Church, Deacons Fund, R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia was in charge of the arrangements. Please share a memory at: www.rgharris.com

## FISHER, NANCY

Age 54, of Traverse City, passed away peacefully Sunday, November 13, 2011 surrounded by her loving family. Nancy was born in Detroit on Friday, January 11, 1957, the daughter of Edwin T. and Mary E. (Stevens) Pfeiffer. She graduated from Plymouth-Canton High School in 1975, having lived in the Detroit and Plymouth areas until she moved to Traverse City in 1978. On Saturday, May 19, 1979 in Northville, she married Edward A. Fisher. She is survived by her husband Edward; her daughter Shannon Fisher of Traverse City, teaching in Stavanger, Norway; her son, Mitchell Fisher of Traverse City; her mother Mary Pfeiffer of Plymouth and her sisters Anne Marie (Richard) Klenc of Belleville, IL and Mary (Michael) Genrich of Plymouth. Nancy was preceded in death by her father Edwin "Ned" Pfeiffer and her father-in-law Alex Fisher. A time of celebrating Nancy's life was held Wednesday, Nov. 16 in Traverse City. Burial was in Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens. The family asks the memorial contributions in Nancy's name be directed to the American Cancer Society. Please visit Nancy's online guest book at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to record your favorite memory of Nancy for her family. The family is being served by The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, Traverse City.

## SOVA, JOHN H.

November 13, 2011 Age 81 of Westland. Beloved husband of Margaret and the late Joyce. Dear father of Mary (William) Lefler, Judy (late James) Hall, Tammy (Mark) Olson, Terry (Brian) Wiltse, Gordon (Shelly), David, and the late John H. Jr. Brother to Dolores Stevens, Marie Palmer, Ruby Dinkens, and Grace Severn. Grandfather to twenty four, Great Grandfather to fifty three. Funeral services at First Baptist Church of Garden City, 30268 Marquette, Garden City, Friday 1pm. Visitation at The Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Thursday 11am-9pm, and at the church Friday from 11am till time of service. Burial to take place at Knollwood Memorial Cemetery. Family Requests memorials to D.A.V., Detroit Rescue Mission, or the homeless shelter of your choice. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhth.com.



**TRUMBULL, GEORGE T. JR.**

Of Lansing, MI passed away October 30, 2011 after a brief illness. He leaves to mourn him his loving wife Jan Allemen of twenty-five years, two siblings Nancy and Elliot, and other family members including, Debbie, Sebastian, Emily, David, Lee, Christopher, Amy, Teresa, Tracy, Rhonda, Brenda, Kyle, Jessica, Colin, Emily, Drew, Ashton, Isaac, and Ryan; his mother-in-law, several brothers and sisters-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, George T. Trumbull, Sr. and Florine (Elliot), a brother-in-law, and his father-in-law. Born May 20, 1929, George's early childhood was spent in Bloomfield Hills. A graduate of the Cranbrook School, he went on to earn a B.A. in journalism from Michigan State University where he was a Beta Theta Pi fraternity brother. After graduating from MSU, he served as a first lieutenant in the army anti-aircraft artillery. In 1955, he started his career in journalism as a reporter for the Pontiac Press (now The Oakland Press), and in 1962 he was invited by former Governor George Romney, a man he greatly admired, to serve on his campaign staff and later as his assistant press secretary. He left politics in 1969 and consulted for a short time for Ernst & Ernst. He then worked for Panax Newspapers. In 1974, George made the transition from journalism to the world of public relations and athletics when he became the Midwest "continued in next column"

director of marketing and public relations for Adidas athletic shoes and apparel. George was a lifetime member of the MSU Alumni Association, a member of the MSU Snyder Society, University Club member, and an avid football, basketball, and hockey fan. The Olympics were also his passion. He was a patron of the arts, supporting and regularly attending performances at the Wharton Center. He served on the Board of Directors of Junior Achievement, the Board of Directors of the MSU College of Communication Arts Alumni Association, and was an active member of the Rotary Club of Delta Township. George was a lifetime member of the Episcopal Church and participated in numerous other organizations. He was known for his dignified demeanor, his creativeness, his sharp wit, his love of MSU, his passion for politics and sports, and his quest for adventure. He traveled to more than twenty-five countries including five trips to the African continent. He attended several Olympic Games, Final Fours, Big Ten Tournaments, and the Rose Bowl. He took great pride in his extensive book collection and his beautiful red corvette. He lived each day as a celebration of life. A Celebration of George's life will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W Ottawa, Lansing on Sat., Dec. 3 at 11:00 am. A reception at the church will follow. In lieu of flowers, Jan asked that gifts be made to two of George's great passions: MSU Men's Basketball Scholarships and Wharton Center's Seats 4 Kids program. Checks should be made out to Michigan State University and sent to University Advancement, 300 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824. Please note that your gift is in memory of George Trumbull. The family is being served by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Home, East Lansing. On line condolences may be at: www.greastlansing.com

## WALTON, SHIRLEY A.

90, passed away in Manteca, California on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Mrs. Walton was born in Tennessee on April 27, 1921. She worked as a Quality Control Supervisor at McDonald Douglas Aircraft. She was a member of the Baptist Church of Lucerne and an active member at the Lucerne Senior Center. She is survived by her daughters Betty Ann Litsey of Beulah, North Dakota and Nancy de Abreu and husband Frank of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; son Allan S. Walton of Manteca, California; granddaughter Patty Toombs and husband Jeff of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and grandsons Michael Gurzi of Florida and Thomas Gurzi of Auburn, California. Mrs. Walton had 8 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband William S. Walton; son, W. Harold Walton; and grandson Timothy Walton. A visitation was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at Kraft Bros. Chapel in Woodland, California. A graveside service was followed at Monument Hill Memorial Park in Woodland, California, under the direction of Pastor John Evertson of West Valley Baptist Church. Kraft Bros. Funeral Directors assisted the family with arrangements.



**WELLS, IRENE**

Age 80 November 14, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Paul G. Loving mother of Paulette (Frank) Wilson, Gary (Vicki), Jeanne (Norm) Frazier & Barb (Billy) Lankford. Dear grandmother of 16. Great grandmother of 26. Beloved sister of Evelyn, Johnny, Gregory, Rosemary and the late Rita, Dorothy & Jerry. She will be dearly missed by many family members and friends. Visitation Thursday 2-8pm. Funeral service Friday 1pm at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to Vitas Hospice. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

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<p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (Between Meridian &amp; Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends In Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, &amp; Creeden 734-522-6830</p>
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>	<p><b>Risen Christ Lutheran</b> David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info</p>
<p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 4801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1925 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 453-3196</p>	<p><b>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</b></p>	<p><b>WARD CHURCH</b> 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248-374-1983 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p>
<p><b>OPEN ARMS CHURCH</b> Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen &amp; Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington &amp; Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282</p>	<p><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b> Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</p>	<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p>
<p><b>North Congregational Church</b> 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School Faith - Freedom - Fellowship Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister</p>	<p><b>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com</b></p>	<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p>	<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p>



## Festival keeps dancers on their toes with classes, shows

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Two professional dance troupes will kick off the 6th Annual Oakland Dance Festival, a celebration of performances, master classes and auditions Friday-Saturday, Nov. 18-19 at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

DDCdances and Patterson Rhythm Pace Dance Co., will present "Together," a joint concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18 in the high school auditorium, 29995 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for festival participants. They are available at the door, or online at [www.detroitdancecollective.org](http://www.detroitdancecollective.org).

This is the first year the festival will run two days and include professional dancers.

"I'm excited to do this. The company is thrilled and it will be an interesting concert," said Barbara Selinger, DDCdances artistic director and a Farmington Hills resident.

The Harrison High School Dance Company, directed by Toi Banks, dance teacher at the school, expanded the one-day event to two days with the addition of the "Together" concert this year.

"I've worked with her students at Harrison High School over the years, but this is the first time I'm totally involved in the festival," Selinger said. "The festival has been growing every year. It's fantastic for dance."

DDCdances, formerly known as Detroit Dance Collective, has performed modern dance for 32 years, toured nationally and educated audienc-



DDCdances performs "The Room," a multi-media dance.



PHOTO BY STEVE SELINGER

Nia Silao performs with DDCdances.

es to contemporary dance through performances, lecture demonstrations and workshops.

Patterson Rhythm Pace Dance Company was

founded in 2000. Gregory Patterson, chair of dance and associate professor of dance at Oakland University, is artistic director.

### Modern, jazz

DDCdances will perform three works during the "Together" concert. The company will dance excerpts from *Dances for Isadora*, a historic work choreographed in 1971 by Jose Limon and inspired by the life of dance pioneer Isadora Duncan. The piece is performed to the music of Chopin.

Dancers also will per-

form *Pier: What is Left Behind*, a piece inspired by the contemplative nature of water, and *The Room*, a multi-media piece choreographed by Selinger in collaboration with photographer John Sobczak.

Patterson Rhythm Pace Dance Company will perform *Space*, choreographed by Patterson, and excerpts from *Swi-*

gin", which melds choreography and music of the 40s and 50s. *Space* explores personal space and how individuals can become either comfortable or uncomfortable when their space is invaded. *Swingin'* was first performed as an evening-length concert and was inspired by Patterson's work, *Sweet Ella Suite*.

"His work is different than mine because his is more contemporary jazz," Selinger said, adding that DDCdances focuses on modern dance. "I'm excited about presenting this to people of all ages."

The festival will continue on Saturday with college entrance and scholarship auditions from 9-noon, high school performance evaluations from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and master classes and workshops in ballet, modern dance, hip hop, musical theater jazz, improvisation-based modern dance, jazz, African dance, movement fundamentals and more from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.. It ends with a showcase of college dance groups at 7:30 p.m.

Admission for the college showcase is \$5.

Master classes cost \$12 per class and scholarship auditions are \$20. For registration forms, visit [harrisondance.wiki.farmington.k12.mi.us](http://harrisondance.wiki.farmington.k12.mi.us). For more information call (248) 426-1167 or e-mail to [harrison.dance@gmail.com](mailto:harrison.dance@gmail.com).

## Wear your hat to tea

The Transition Center of Schoolcraft College will host a tea party luncheon with a focus on hats at 11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 2, in the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia.

Valerie Greech, who spent many years living abroad attending events that required hats, will discuss "History and Design of Women's Hat Wear." She started researching and collecting hats after moving to the United States.

Reservations are \$20 per person and will include lunch prepared by the college's Food Services Department. Reservations deadline is Nov. 23 by mail — a form is available at [www.schoolcraft.edu/transition/](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/transition/) — or by calling (734) 462-4443.

schoolcraft.edu/transition/ — or by calling (734) 462-4443.

Greech will highlight the hat wearing tradition, which reached its zenith in the 1920s and officially ended with the "swinging 60s." A brief history of the origin of the most popular hat styles will be included, along with stories about the wearers who made them famous. Greech, who is a consultant for the shop, Detroit Vintage, will showcase some of her own vintage hat collection.

Greech's presentation is part of the Transition Center Luncheon Series. Proceeds benefit the scholarship programs of the Transition Center that are directed to the needs of non-traditional college students. For more information visit <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/transition/>.

### NOW SHOWING!

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November 18th 8:00 pm  
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313.333.0080

### Metro Detroit Pet Expo

This Weekend  
Suburban Collection Showplace  
SUBURBAN COLLECTION  
SHOWPLACE

Nov 18 - 4pm - 8pm

Nov 19 - 10am - 8pm

Nov 20 - 11am - 5pm

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 Kids 6-12

Kids 5 and Under are FREE!

Bring a can or bag of pet food with you to receive \$2.00 off of your admission price!!



### Pets Are Welcome!

Spayed or neutered adult pets on a short leash (6 foot maximum, no retractable leashes) may attend the Metro Detroit Pet Expo with a responsible guardian. Please note that due to health concerns of birds in the show, pet birds will not be allowed. Please visit the website to download the Pet Registration Form.

### Bring your pet or adopt one there!

Over 25 rescue groups in attendance plus tons of pet related items and services! Learn training techniques and enter your pet in our contests. Please visit our website for complete schedule.

### Free Inflatables for the Kids!

Joaquin Guerrero - K9  
Trainer & Ground Zero  
Search & Rescue

Rock n Roll K9s

Ultimate Air Dogs

Microchip Clinic  
Sat, Nov. 20: 12 - 2  
Sun, Nov 21: 12 - 2

Pet Pictures with Santa  
Wonderbull and Pawsitive Impact for  
Pets have teamed up to offer your pets  
and opportunity to take pictures with  
Santa!

Fri, Nov 19: 5-8pm

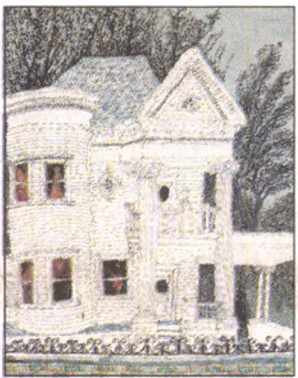
Sat, Nov 20: 10-12, 1-4, 5-8

Sun, Nov 21: 12-4

[www.MetroDetroitPetExpo.com](http://www.MetroDetroitPetExpo.com)



Art



Shaqe Kalaj's drawings and paintings — made with her feet — are on display through Dec. 24 at Art & Ideas in Plymouth. This drawing is of the Wilcox House.

ART & IDEAS

**Time/Date:** Through Dec. 24; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or by appointment  
**Location:** 15095 Northville Road, in Plymouth  
**Details:** "Downtown Foot Art" includes works by the gallery's artist-in-residence, Shaqe Kalaj. She focused on historical buildings in downtown Plymouth for her series of works which she sketched and painted with her feet in the outdoors over the summer  
**Contact:** (734) 420-0775

MICHIGAN WEAVER'S GUILD

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19  
**Location:** The City Gallery, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Holiday Trunk Sale with an array of handwoven items by members of the Guild. Admission is free  
**Contact:** (248) 473-1856

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

**Time/Date:** Through Dec. 10  
**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** The seventh annual Northville Holiday Art Market includes hand-crafted work in painting, printmaking, glass, mosaic, fiber, photography, jewelry and mixed media for sale by well-known local artists. Hours for the market are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. On "First Fridays" only in November and December hours are 1-9 p.m.  
**Coming up:** An Antiques and Fine Arts Appraisal clinic with Robert DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Art Galleries, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18. The registration fee is \$10 per item with a limit of 3 items per guest. Walk-ins without prior registration will be admitted on the day of the event if time allows. Guests may bring items such as antiques, collectibles, family memorabilia, furniture and artwork. Large or fragile items should be submitted by photograph. Coins, stamps, and jewelry will not be appraised at this event.



Canine Characters

Darius Tremaine, (left) Jillian Carey and Daniel Millhouse rehearse a scene from "Go, Dog! Go, a musical based on the children's book, by P.D. Eastman. The play, produced by the Eastern Michigan University Theatre, runs at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 and 9, and 2 p.m. Dec. 3-4 and 10-11 in the Quirk Theatre, located in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Building at East Circle Drive and Best Hall on Eastern Michigan University's campus in Ypsilanti. The play follows the antics of several colorful dogs who behave an awful lot like humans as they drive cars, get jobs, have parties and wear hats. The play is aimed at family audiences with children, ages 5 and up. Tickets are \$15 for regular admission, \$12 for students, \$9 for "mainstage" patrons and \$7 for children, ages 5-12. Call (734) 487-2282.

Register in person, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday or call Northville Art House  
**Contact:** (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Thursday in November  
**Location:** 744 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth  
**Details:** Drawings by Marilyn Meredith of Three Cities Art Club  
**Contact:** (734) 416-4278

VILLAGE POTTERS GUILD

**Time/Date:** Opening reception, 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19; and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20  
**Location:** 340 N. Main, G-11, behind Plymouth Crossing Restaurant, in downtown Plymouth  
**Details:** Holiday sale; refreshments served  
**Contact:** (734) 207-8807

Comedy

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

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings  
**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield  
**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday  
**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays  
**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Chris Barnes, through Nov. 19; J. Chris Newberg, Nov. 23, 25-26; Alex Ortiz, Nov. 30-Dec. 3; Chad Daniels, Dec. 7-10; Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31  
**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

**Time/Date:** Kathleen Madigan, through Nov. 19; Dave Landau, Nov. 25-26; Mike Green, Dec. 1-3; Kivi Rogers, Dec. 8-10; Lars Callieou, Dec. 15-17; David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31  
**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak  
**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Dance

MOON DUSTERS

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.  
**Location:** Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members  
**Contact:** Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Family

BAKERS KEYBOARD LOUNGE

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

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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

DETROIT ZOO

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

Film

PENN THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. and 9:10 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18; 5 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 19-20  
**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth  
**Details:** "Dolphin Tale," \$3  
**Coming up:** "Moneyball," 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 25-26 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27  
**Holiday Classics:** "It's a Wonderful Life," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 2-3 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4; "White Christmas," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8; "Polar Express," 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18; and "Elf," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23; all seats \$3  
**Contact:** (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Nov. 18 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Nov. 19  
**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit  
**Details:** "Fiddler on the Roof," tickets \$4  
**Coming up:** "Miracle on 34th Street," 8 p.m. Dec. 2 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 3; "Christmas Here We Come," featuring Laurel & Hardy in "Big Business" and guest artist Walt Strony on the Barton pipe organ, tickets \$12 for adults and \$8 for ages 12 and under; "It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 17  
**Contact:** (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit  
**Details:** Heidelberg 25 through Nov. 27; Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31 Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free  
**Contact:** (313) 494-5800

CRANBROOK

**Time/Date:** 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday  
**Location:** 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills  
**Details:** Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.  
**Contact:** (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday, through Dec. 18  
**Location:** In the heart of the University of Michigan campus, 434 S. State, Ann Arbor  
**Details:** "Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" will explore the story of a site excavation initiated by U of M in the 1920s and 1930s. It will illuminate the historical records of a single village community, located 80 kilometers southwest of Cairo in the Egyptian countryside, during Egypt's Greco-Roman period  
**Contact:** (734) 764-9304

Music

THE ARK

**Time/Date:** Dragon Wagon & Sargent Katz-n-Crump, Nov. 17; An Evening with Dar Williams, Nov. 18-19; Pieta Brown, Nov. 20; Drew DeFour, Nov. 22; Matt Watroba, Nov. 25; Mr. B, Nov. 26; Gemini, Nov. 27; Blackie & the Rodeo Kings, Nov. 27; John Primer, Nov. 29; Judy Collins, Dec. 1; The April Verch Band, Dec. 2; Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players, Dec. 3; Shawn Colvin and Rose Cousins, Dec. 3; Bill Kirchen Honky Tonk Holiday Show, with George Beard, Dec. 4; Riders in the Sky, Dec. 5; Lee Murdock: The Christmas Ship Concert, Dec. 6; Open Stage, Dec. 7; Melissa Ferrick, Dec. 8; Student Songwriter Series, Dec. 9; Commander Cody Band, Dec. 9; The Ragbirds present Ebird and Friends, Dec. 10; The Wheeler Brothers, Dec. 11; Raul Malo Christmas Show, Dec. 12; Decembersongs: An Acoustic Holiday Celebration, Dec. 13; Emerson Hart of Tonic, Dec. 15; Graham Colton, Dec. 16; The RFD Boys, Dec. 17; 10th Annual Concert for Peace, Dec. 18  
**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor  
**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

**BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY**  
**Time/Date:** Third Saturday of the month  
**Location:** JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth  
**Details:** The show includes eight open mic performances and a featured performer. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families and offer free admission to monthly concerts  
**Coming up:** Pairadocs Trio, with host Jeff London, 7 p.m. Nov. 19  
**Contact:** (248) 347-6881

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

**Time/Date:** Fourth Tuesday; next show is Nov. 22  
**Location:** Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth  
**Details:** Paul VornHagen quartet with VornHagen on reeds, Kurt Kranke on bass, Pete Siers on drums, and Chuck Shermetaro on keyboard; \$5 donation at the door  
**Contact:** (734) 453-1780

MOTOWN BEAT

**Time/Date:** Dec. 13  
**Location:** Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Holiday Brass by The Detroit Chamber Winds  
**Coming up:** "From Broadway to Hollywood with the MOT," Jan. 14, 2012; Blackthorn, March 9-10, 2012  
**Contact:** https://recreg.fh.gov.com or (248) 473-1848

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18  
**Location:** VisTaTech Center at the college, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia  
**Details:** Cellist Robert deMaine and pianist Pauline Martin will perform. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$10 per student  
**Contact:** (734) 462-4403

SOUNDS OF CANTON

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19  
**Location:** Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton  
**Details:** "Magic of Fall" concerts feature songs related to the seasons and Michigan's beauty. The Sounds of Canton consists of singers, 55 and older. The group often sings at nursing homes, community clubs and school groups. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students  
**Contact:** For tickets call (734) 394-5460; for information about joining the group call (734) 394-5485 or e-mail seniors@cantonmi.org.

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

**Time/Date:** Stella, Nov. 18; Claudia Schmidt, Nov. 19; The Potter's Field, Nov. 20; The Rickety Nelsons with Doug and Telisha Williams, Nov. 26  
**Location:** 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia  
**Contact:** (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

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FOX THEATRE





## An Unforgettable Feast

### A TUSCAN-INSPIRED HOLIDAY MENU

This holiday, serve an inspired meal bursting with the rich flavors of Tuscany. With these recipes — a moist and tender turkey, along with savory sides — you can create an unforgettable experience with family and friends.

These Tuscan-inspired recipes from Carapelli Olive Oil will enhance and lighten up your holiday favorites with the distinctive taste of heart-healthy olive oil. Naturally cholesterol free, olive oil is a monounsaturated fat, which makes it a healthful substitute for butter, shortening and other oils.

Whether you are entertaining a large crowd or serving up a small family-style dinner, this Tuscan Roast Turkey will be the centerpiece of your holiday table. The juicy flavors and crisp, golden brown skin come from a Tuscan Herb Paste made with fresh herbs and a blend of olive oils.

After you've tried Olive Oil and Herb Mashed Potatoes, you may never want to go back to plain mashed potatoes again. The creamy texture and robust flavor are a perfect complement to the turkey.

For another amazing side dish, try sweet and salty Brussels Sprouts with Caramelized Onions and Prosciutto — it just might become the family's new favorite.

The rich taste of olive oil promises to elevate your holiday cooking to delicious works of art. For more recipes that will turn any meal into an unforgettable feast, visit [www.carapelliusa.com](http://www.carapelliusa.com).



#### Brussels Sprouts with Caramelized Onions and Prosciutto

Serves 12

2 pounds fresh Brussels sprouts, blanched, quartered  
4 tablespoons Carapelli Premium 100% Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil  
1 onion, julienned  
1 ½ ounces prosciutto, sliced into ½-inch strips  
4 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar  
Sea salt  
Fresh cracked black pepper

Trim stem end of Brussels sprouts. Discard wilted outside leaves. Boil in salted water until cooked through (about 7 minutes) and just tender. Shock in ice water. Quarter the cooled sprouts.

In large skillet over medium-high heat, caramelize onions in olive oil for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from pan. Place in bowl, mix with prosciutto.

In the same skillet, over high heat, lightly brown Brussels sprouts. Add onion-prosciutto mix, toss.

Deglaze by adding white balsamic vinegar and scraping bottom of pan. Season with salt and pepper.

#### Olive Oil and Herb Mashed Potatoes

Serves 12

10 8-ounce potatoes, (about 5 pounds) peeled and cut in half  
¾ teaspoon white pepper  
1 ½ tablespoons kosher salt  
½ cup Tuscan Herb paste  
½ cup Carapelli Premium 100% Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil  
1 cup heavy cream, warmed

Boil potatoes in salted water. When cooked tender, mash potatoes. Mix salt and pepper with Tuscan Herb Paste, olive oil and warm heavy cream. Fold into potatoes.

#### Tuscan Roast Turkey

Serves 16

1 16-pound young turkey  
Kosher salt, to taste  
1 cup Tuscan Herb Paste  
1 teaspoon fennel seeds, crushed  
2 teaspoons celery salt  
3 fennel stalks with fronds, rough chopped  
3 onions, large dice  
1 stalk celery, small dice  
2 ¼ quarts chicken stock, divided  
3 ounces all-purpose flour

Remove giblets from turkey's cavity, rinse cavity and pat dry, set aside. Season turkey inside and out with kosher salt.

Mix Tuscan Herb Paste with crushed fennel seeds and celery salt. Crusted at the neck of the bird, slip your hand between the meat and the skin to loosen.

Rub half the paste mix under skin, and rub remaining paste inside the cavity and over the rest of the turkey.

Place two-thirds of the chopped onion and fennel stalks inside cavity. Truss bird.

Place turkey in a roasting pan. Roast at 400°F for 30 minutes.

Reduce temperature to 325°F and continue cooking the turkey to an internal temperature of 160°F, approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours. Baste turkey often during cooking with juices from pan. If turkey begins to overbrown, cover it loosely with aluminum foil.

As turkey roasts, simmer giblets (neck, heart and gizzard), the other one-third of the fennel stalk, onion mix and diced celery in 1 quart chicken stock until tender, approximately 1 ½ hours.

When turkey is done, remove from roasting pan and set aside to rest. Degrease roasting pan, reserving 3 ounces of fat to make a roux.

Deglaze pan with a small amount of chicken stock. Transfer stock to a saucepot, and add remaining stock and broth from giblets. Bring to a simmer and degrease.

Make a blond roux with reserved fat and flour. Add roux to the liquid, whisking well to prevent lumps. Simmer 15 minutes. Strain gravy through a fine-meshed strainer. Adjust seasoning.

#### Tuscan Herb Paste

Yield: 2 1/4 cups

1 tablespoon fresh basil  
2 tablespoons fresh rosemary  
½ packed cup fresh Italian parsley  
1 tablespoon fresh thyme  
2 tablespoons fresh sage  
½ teaspoon crushed red pepper  
¾ cup Carapelli Extra Light in Taste Olive Oil  
1 cup Carapelli Premium 100% Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Blend herbs and crushed red pepper with light olive oil using a blender or food processor, then stir in extra virgin olive oil.

Serving Ideas: Rub under the skin of turkey for Tuscan Roast Turkey. Use to flavor vegetables for grilling and mushrooms for roasting.



# Relax and eat out this Thanksgiving Day

Untie those apron strings, close your recipe files and let a local restaurant cook your dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Here's a sampling of locations, their prices and menus for Nov. 24:

• **Beaver Creek Tackle and Beer**, 1609 N. Wayne, Westland

The restaurant is open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. The turkey dinner costs \$13.99 for adults and includes white turkey breast, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetable, cranberry sauce, and bread basket. Children, 10 and under, pay \$4.99 for turkey, mashed potatoes and corn. Desserts are a la carte and include pumpkin pie for \$2.49 and apple dumpling for \$2.99. Make reservations at (734) 722-5330.

• **Courthouse Grille**, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth

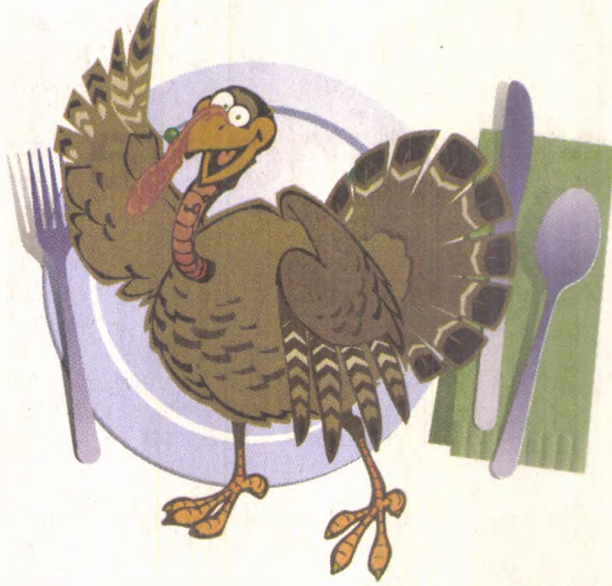
Choose seatings from noon-6 p.m. and order off of a special holiday menu that includes a roasted turkey dinner with gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing and a choice of mashed or sweet potato and green beans with almonds or honey-roasted root vegetable, soup and rolls for

\$17.99. Not a turkey fan? The menu also includes such dinners as roasted butternut squash ravioli, pecan-crust wall-eye, prime rib, Veal Parmesan and honey-roasted ham. Make reservations at (734) 453-2002.

• **Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center**, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, offers two buffets.

Reservations for the Golden Fox are available 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost for adults is \$31.95 and for children, 3-12, \$11.95. The menu includes a breakfast station with items such as scrambled eggs and Pumpkin Cranberry French Toast; a seafood station with shrimp, oysters, smoked white fish and calamari salad; soup station; salad station; an entree station with turkey pot pie, Cavatapi Noodles tossed with spinach and roasted pecans in a pumpkin coulis, chicken cutlets, baked Cajun tilapia, beef brisket; roasted turkey, and apple-glazed pork; omelet station; carving stations with turkey, prime rib, ham and more; and a dessert table.

A traditional Thanksgiving buffet also will be served 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fox Classic. Cost is \$21.95



for adults and \$9.95 for children, 3-12. Children under 3 are free. Salad bar, sides, ham and turkey, along with pumpkin, apple and pecan pies will be available.

For reservations for either buffet, call (734) 453-7272.

• **Ginopolis' Bar-B-Q Smokehouse**, 27815 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

The restaurant will be open noon-8 p.m. The turkey dinner is \$18.99 for adults and \$7.99 for children 10 and under. The dinner includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, salad and pumpkin

pie. Make reservations at (248) 851-8222.

• **G. Subu's Leather Bottle**, 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia

Make reservations at 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. Adults pay \$17.99 and children, 10 and under, pay \$10.99. The menu will include roast turkey, ham, cornbread stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams, corn niblets, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and apple pie. Call (734) 474-2420 for reservations.

• **Meriwethers**, 25485 Telegraph, Southfield  
A traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner is

available 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Adults pay \$21.99 and children, 10 and under, pay \$10.99. The dinner will include turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, butter-nut squash and pumpkin pie. Reservations aren't required but are accepted; (248) 358-1310.

• **One Under Bar and Grille**, 35780 Five Mile, Livonia

Seatings are available at 11 a.m., 1 p.m.; and 3 p.m. Cost is \$18.99 for adults, \$14.99 for seniors, and \$7.99 for children, 7-10. Children, 6 and under are free. The menu will include roasted turkey, baked ham, breaded white fish, cornbread stuffing, green bean casserole, potatoes, seafood bar, cranberry and orange relish, fresh fruit and cheese, assorted salads, desserts, chicken fingers, tater tots, mini corn dogs and beverages. Omelet and waffle stations included during first two seatings. Call (734) 464-5555 for reservations.

• **Sophia's**, 38259 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills  
Thanksgiving Day buffet will be served 2-6 p.m. Cost is \$14.99 for adults

and \$9.99 for children, 10 years and under. The buffet will include turkey and all the trimmings, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, ham, desserts and more. For reservations call (248) 987-2303

• **Station 885, 885 Starkweather**, Plymouth

The restaurant will be open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and will serve a buffet. Cost is \$21.99 for adults and \$10.99 for children ages 3-10. The menu includes roast beef, turkey, ham, baked chicken and salmon, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, cranberry relish, stuffing, lasagna, Pasta Primavera, fresh vegetables, baked mac and cheese, assorted salads, shrimp, fresh fruit, assorted appetizers, assorted desserts. Call (734) 459-0885 for reservations.

• **Thomas's Family Dining**, 3971 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Eat a special Thanksgiving Day meal with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, soup, pumpkin pie and more for \$12.00. Carry out available, too; (734) 261-8890.

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay



Vegetable Quinoa Pilaf makes a colorful, tasty side dish.

## Power up your plate with veggies

With only six percent of Americans getting the recommended amount of vegetables a day, according to The 2010 National Action Plan Report Card, National Fruit and Vegetable Alliance, access to delicious, easy and versatile veggie-powered meals is more important than ever. Marcus Samuelsson, an award-winning chef and cookbook author, has joined Birds Eye vegetables to help inspire and enable people to think about vegetables as a pleasure, to shake up old habits and help bring vegetables back to the center of the plate — especially for the next generation.

• **Don't Hide, Highlight Veggies**

Vegetables deserve center stage because they're amazing. They are delicious, colorful, good for you and taste great, too.

Inspiring people — especially kids — to discover the wonder of vegetables starts with highlighting vegetables as the center of the plate, not as an understudy. "Vegetables are great for any meal, so put them forward as a gift to your family every day," says Samuelsson. "It's extremely important that we start making nutritious, veggie-powered meals for ourselves and the next generation."

• **Follow the 60/40 Rule**

Instead of thinking about dishes as 60 percent pasta and 40 percent vegetables, turn it around, serving veggies as 60 percent and pasta as 40 percent of the meal. "Flipping the proportions of your favorite meals is a quick, easy way to incorporate more veggies into meals your family already loves."

• **Mix and Match Colors, Textures and Flavors**

Enjoy a variety of veggies at the same time to truly showcase the wonder of a veggie-powered plate. Incorporating many different veggies brings flavor, crunch and a nutritious punch to almost any dish. "My ideal veggie-powered plate is a Vegetable and Quinoa Pilaf. It's loaded with a wonderful broccoli, carrots and cauliflower medley from Birds Eye."

Build a customized veggie-powered plate at [www.Facebook.com/BirdsEyeVegetables](http://www.Facebook.com/BirdsEyeVegetables). For every veggie-powered plate created on Facebook, Birds Eye will donate vegetables for 10 meals as part of its Feed Kids Better initiative with Share Our Strength (up to 1 million meals through September 2012).

### Vegetable Quinoa Pilaf

Makes 6 servings

1 bag of Birds Eye Steamfresh Broccoli, Carrot and Cauliflower Medley  
1 cup quinoa  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
2 stalks celery, finely chopped  
4 scallions, white and green parts, thinly sliced  
1 tablespoon peeled and minced fresh ginger  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1 tablespoon chopped parsley  
½ tablespoon chopped fresh mint  
1 teaspoon smoked sweet paprika  
Salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
Cook vegetable medley according to package directions; drain and set aside.

Meanwhile, rinse quinoa well under cold water in a fine wire sieve; drain.  
Bring to a boil with 2 cups water and ½ teaspoon salt in medium saucepan over high heat. Reduce heat to low and cover. Cook until the quinoa has absorbed the water, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat.  
Melt butter in large skillet. Add celery, scallions, ginger and garlic and cook, stirring often, until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Add cooked vegetable medley and mix well. Stir in parsley, mint and paprika.  
Transfer quinoa to serving bowl. Fluff quinoa with fork. Add vegetable mixture and mix well. Season with salt and pepper. Serve hot.

— Family Features

## Chicken Cordon Bleu takes center stage

According to a recent survey conducted by Infogroup/Opinion Research Corporation on behalf of Perdue Farms, 91 percent of Americans believe in the importance of a sit-down, home-cooked meal.

While families today are busier than ever, they are willing to go to great lengths to get a meal on the table the entire family will enjoy, including:

- Customizing a recipe to their family's liking — 88 percent
- Preparing the best side-dishes to accompany the meal — 85 percent
- Purchasing higher-quality products — 74 percent

While the survey revealed roast chicken as Americans' best chicken dish, Chicken Cordon Bleu is the dish people most want to learn to cook.

Perdue's Executive Chef, Chris Moyer, created an easy recipe and how-to video for Chicken Cordon Bleu. He also incorporates some tips to help both cooking novices and enthusiasts get this great meal on the table:

- Start with high quality ingredients. Selecting all-natural chicken from a brand you can trust is a good place to start. Look for chicken with the USDA Processed Verified Seal.
- Want to dress it up? Use prosciutto ham, gruyere cheese and thyme for your filling.
- Side dishes matter, too. The survey also revealed that 95 percent of Americans feel that getting a nutritious and delicious meal on the dinner table is important to them — so make sure your side dishes consist of a healthy grain and a green vegetable high in nutrients and fiber.

Visit Perdue on Facebook to learn more about their commitment to providing better chicken and to find tips, tools and recipes for families to help get a great meal on the dinner table.

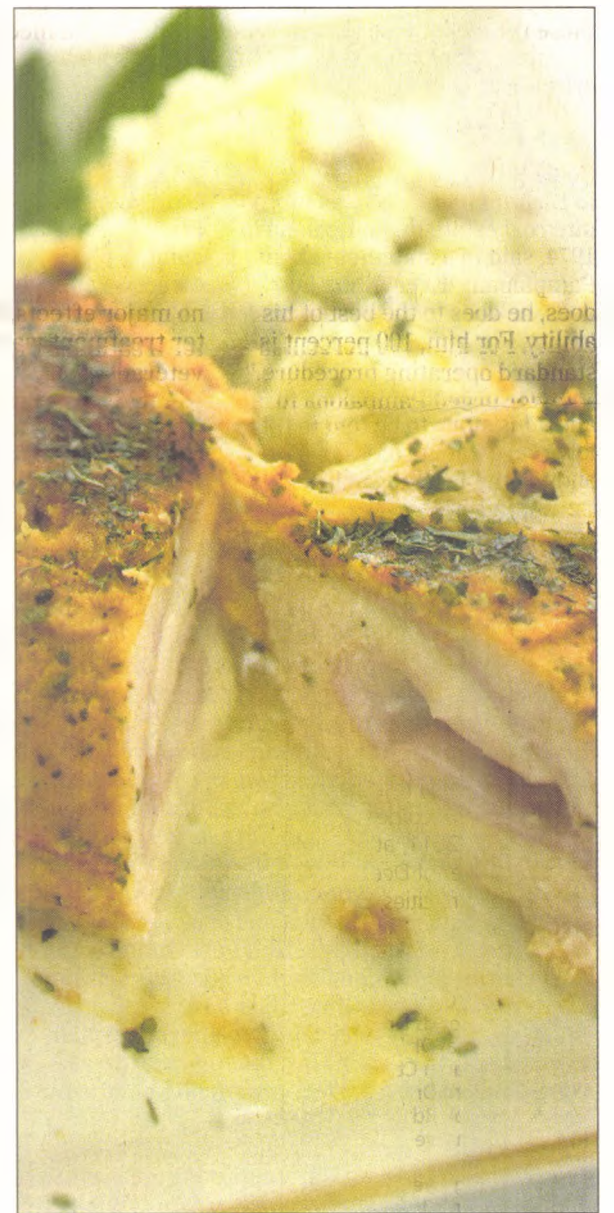


PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

### Chicken Cordon Bleu

#### Chicken Cordon Bleu

Prep Time: 10-15 minutes  
Serves: 3

#### Ingredients

1 package PERDUE® FIT & EASY® Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts  
6 thin slices of salt-cured Virginia-smoked ham  
3 slices domestic Swiss cheese  
1 whole egg  
¼ cup water  
¼ cup flour  
1 cup breadcrumbs  
½ teaspoon kosher salt  
½ tablespoon table ground black pepper  
1 tablespoon olive oil

Slice chicken horizontally without cutting all the way through to create butterfly breast. Place chicken on cutting board with sheet of plastic wrap over top. With meat mallet, gently pound chicken to even thickness of breast. Place two slices ham and cheese on one side of breast and fold back over. In bowl, whip together egg and water to create egg-wash. On two separate plates, put flour and breadcrumbs. Season flour with salt and black pepper. Carefully dredge chicken first into seasoned flour, then into egg-wash, followed by breadcrumbs.

Heat olive oil in ovenproof sauté pan. Place chicken in pan to brown. Cook for 2 minutes on one side, then flip each breast over. Place pan into oven at 350°F and cook until each chicken breast reaches 170°F internal temperature, about 20-25 minutes.

— Family Features



## 'Good Neighbor' builder reaches out to help returning veterans

By Julie Brown  
O&E Staff Writer

Vito Anthony Pampalona is a longtime real estate broker and owner of Vito Anthony Homes in Rochester. His company started in Rochester in the 1980s.

Pampalona, an Oakland Township resident, served in 1966-67 as a machine gunner on an assault helicopter in Vietnam. As he came home to start his real estate career in January 1968, he found Vietnam veterans often weren't treated well on the homefront.

As more recent conflicts like Iraq began, Pampalona, 65, started to work with disabled veterans at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. His efforts have grown since 2003, and he was recently recognized with the Good Neighbor Award of the National Association of Realtors REALTOR Magazine.

"I'm very proud of that award. It's quite an honor." There were many applicants, said Pampalona, earlier one of the 10 finalists for Good Neighbor recognition.

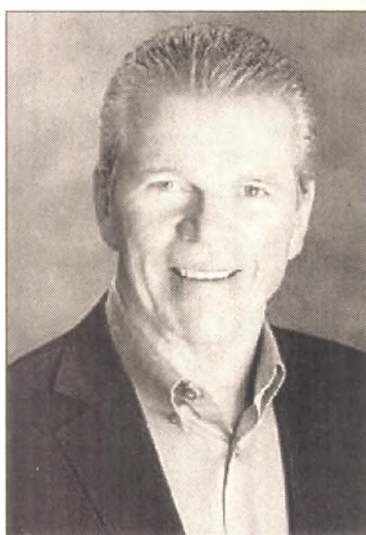
"I always felt when we came back we were not really appreciated and welcomed," he said of his fellow Vietnam veterans. "It was always in the back of my mind."

Iraq hostilities in 2003 were when he started to get involved. "It was just something I was doing and had a passion for. I felt very good in helping with these returning veterans. It just became part of what I do. I never really thought it would grow to this."

Bob Taylor, a practitioner with Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel in Birmingham, who was hired into real estate by Pampalona in 1974, said in a statement about Pampalona: "Everything he does, he does to the best of his ability. For him, 100 percent is standard operating procedure."

Taylor urged Pampalona to allow his story to be told to fellow real estate professionals and the public, and said he'd do the application.

Pampalona will host two yule parties this year, Dec. 7 and 8. Last year, he was invited to the Navy hospital. In Sep-



Vito Anthony Pampalona  
Good Neighbor honoree

tember, the Walter Reed hospital was combined with Bethesda National Naval Medical Center to create the U.S. military's largest medical facility, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center — and Pampalona looks forward to serving more military veterans there.

He will be at the new hospital this year, plus the Fort Belvoir, Va., Army base hospital.

"It took some of the patients when they closed Walter Reed," said Pampalona, who'll host a total of over 300 vets plus their families and caregivers.

As more recent conflicts continued, he's stayed involved.

"The need was there and more. Until all our soldiers come home, I'm staying the course." His goal is to help them to transition into civilian life.

"When you meet these young people, they've got tremendous adversity in front of them. Their lives are changing. It's a very challenging time for them."

He won the Distinguished Flying Cross. "I saw a lot of combat there. Combat has an effect on everybody." He's had no major effects, but felt better treatment was needed for veterans.

Pampalona is married, with four grown kids and two grandchildren 6 years and 9 months, "the love of my life."

"I've been successful in business. I'm fort to have a lot of resources at my disposal." He travels a lot to Washington, D.C., and built a barrier-free

home for a soldier in Macomb County with his partner and Homes for Our Troops.

"I'm lucky I have that time to commit to it. The Lord's been good to me. Those are all somebody's children that are in there and need help."

Family support helps Pampalona carry out his charitable work.

"They're very proud of it. They support me. They work with me." All his family is involved in fundraising efforts. All three sons have traveled to Walter Reed with him.

Pampalona has spent the past eight years raising money — nearly \$500,000 in total — for veterans.

REALTOR Magazine's Good Neighbor Awards recognize Realtors who have made an extraordinary impact on their community, or on the national or world stage, through volunteer work.

Thousands of vets per year are transitioning back home, Pampalona said. "There's all those different types of injuries and effects they have," he said. "A lot of them can't do the jobs they had before."

Some have a number of surgeries over period of years, and take many medications to ward off infection and pain. "It's very, very involved."

Five winners are announced each fall in REALTOR Magazine of the National Association of Realtors. Winners are recognized annually at the Realtors Conference & Expo, and receive \$10,000 grants for their charities. Winners also receive travel expenses to the conference and national and local media exposure for their cause. In addition to the winners, five honorable mentions each receive a \$2,500 grant.

The Good Neighbor Awards program was launched in 2000 and has since recognized more than 100 Realtors for their service to their communities. Through Good Neighbor Award grants and associated programs, Good Neighbor charities have received more than \$900,000 in donations.

Known as "Uncle Vito" to Walter Reed staff and patients, he has made sure that recov-

ering soldiers have comfy workout clothes, a pantry full of healthy snacks, good movies to watch, a huge collection of books and audio books, and gifts galore at an annual Christmas party that has become the highlight of the year for patients and their families.

"I try to fill the void in what the government is providing," he said.

Marine Corps Sgt. Tim Lang came home from Iraq with a fractured vertebrae and a missing right leg. He met Pampalona in 2007 while recovering at Walter Reed. "He treated me like I was a piece of gold," says Lang, 26, who's now retired from the military and lives in Ann Arbor. Lang was interviewed by the real estate magazine.

After about a year of sending packages, Pampalona worked with hospital staff to plan what has become his signature event, Uncle Vito's Christmas Party. The event features pizza, raffles, and gifts such as watches and electric toothbrushes.

Pampalona's holiday parties became legendary among the patients and staff at Walter Reed. Year round, he also provided enough snacks to fill an entire pantry, a video and audio library, and athletic gear for the injured soldiers.

"You could tell he spent some money — and put his heart in it too," says Lang, who recalls receiving a Detroit Pistons T-shirt, athletic shorts, CDs, videos, and a nice backpack at his first Christmas party hosted by Pampalona. "Everything in the bag was something we absolutely loved."

To get involved or donate, go to [www.yellowribbonfund.org](http://www.yellowribbonfund.org). Pampalona serves on the board of the Yellow Ribbon Fund. The organization, based in Bethesda, Md., helps with efforts for veterans. Pampalona most recently raised more than \$73,000 for the annual Yellow Ribbon Fund Golf Outing last summer at a country club in Rochester.

The National Association of Realtors website contributed to this report.

## Heed lawyer's words

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

Q: I am a member of the board and we haven't had our documents revised in 30 years. The attorney we went to said we should amend our documents to 2011 standards, but there are still board members that think we should go to the co-owners first for their approval to proceed. What do you think?

A: I have been confronted with that issue many times for many years. Some boards are not willing to spend money to upgrade

their documents which is just as important as fixing the roofs in many instances. Board members who refuse to spend money on improving and upgrading their documents which may, in some instances, include protecting the directors, Officers and committee persons from potential liability is unfortunately an act of penuriousness which may amount to gross negligence. You should write a letter to the other board members demanding that they take action so that you have documented your concern about the actions or inactions of the board. It is a board decision to proceed to draft new documents, not a decision of the association members.

Q: Our attorney boasts about his credentials as a consummate condo lawyer, but his collection administrators seem to not respond to our phone calls. I have tried to speak about it with him, but he has appeared to be more than rude in regard to accepting any criticism. What can we do?

A: It is unfortunate that you are experiencing that type of situation as I can attest to the fact that a law firm is only as good as the lowest administrative person working for it. I would not accept any rudeness on the part of the attorney and I would also tell the attorney that unless he or his collection underlings gets back to you with a satisfactory response, you will terminate their services. I would also tell the managing agent, if any, at the association that you are displeased with the service that is being provided which obviously reflects badly on the management company who may well have recommended that attorney.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit [bmeisner@meisner-associates.com](http://bmeisner@meisner-associates.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 8-12, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
4028 Amanda Ct	\$165,000
835 Ashton Woods Dr	\$50,000
1329 Centennial Dr	\$408,000
42091 Cherrylawn Ct	\$148,000
45101 Claymore Dr	\$170,000
2504 Cranbrook Rd	\$157,000
4039 Elizabeth Ave	\$73,000
200 Essex Ln	\$128,000
49791 Flushing Ave	\$380,000
49057 Founders Ct	\$385,000
47179 Glenhurst Dr	\$264,000
2672 Graham Ct	\$285,000
50096 Grant St	\$206,000
50130 Grant St	\$206,000
50144 Grant St	\$202,000

47817 Hastings Rd	\$320,000
42716 Lilley Pointe Dr	\$40,000
787 Meadowlake Rd	\$106,000
353 Queen Anne Dr	\$325,000
927 Queens Way	\$110,000
42700 Versailles Rd	\$130,000
1891 Vine Way Dr	\$49,000
1722 Whittier Dr	\$137,000
GARDEN CITY	
32953 Donnelly St	\$19,000
28355 Maplewood St	\$62,000
LIVONIA	
36968 Five Mile Rd	\$139,000
30355 Bretton St	\$78,000
29819 Buckingham St	\$81,000
36384 Dardanelia St	\$213,000
9804 E Clements Cir	\$92,000
17675 Francavilla Dr	\$165,000
9290 Louisiana St	\$131,000
32417 Meadowbrook St	\$89,000
29824 Minton St	\$80,000
37476 N Laurel Park Dr	\$118,000
9057 Newport Way	\$60,000
15516 Penn Dr	\$161,000

37813 Pickford Dr	\$186,000
20160 Rensellor St	\$70,000
30952 Schoolcraft Rd	\$100,000
36721 Sherwood St	\$121,000
19847 Stamford Dr	\$180,000
18292 Westchester Dr	\$395,000
29423 Westfield St	\$20,000
16596 Woodside St	\$160,000
NORTHVILLE	
47472 Arbor Trl	\$200,000
15428 Bay Hill Dr	\$510,000
19737 Hayes Ct	\$85,000
16753 Lyonhurst Cir	\$240,000
48209 Manorwood Dr	\$485,000
42956 Richards Ct	\$50,000
18018 Ridgeview Dr	\$75,000
39410 Springwater Dr	\$108,000
PLYMOUTH	
522 Ann St	\$245,000
1670 Cassidy Place Dr	\$134,000
48025 Colony Farms Cir	\$120,000
49426 Commons Blvd	\$525,000
44777 Erin Dr	\$135,000
15252 Farmbrook Dr	\$195,000

45557 Leighwood Ct	\$256,000
9634 Tennyson Dr	\$181,000
REDFORD	
9600 Crosley	\$89,000
14146 Norborne	\$70,000
17448 Wakenden	\$33,000
18655 Wakenden	\$15,000
WESTLAND	
33658 Blackfoot St	\$65,000
34127 Cowan Rd	\$89,000
38454 Deer Creek Blvd	\$82,000
8422 Fremont St	\$63,000
1457 Gloria St	\$70,000
32711 Grandview Ave	\$30,000
2431 Hannan Rd	\$250,000
131 Larchmont Dr	\$115,000
32029 Mackenzie Dr	\$55,000
32808 Merritt Dr	\$85,000
635 N Karle St	\$16,000
7753 Princeton Ct	\$67,000
722 Ravencrest Ln	\$92,000
328 S Marie St	\$101,000
8560 Sanford Dr	\$74,000
38527 Scott Dr	\$88,000

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 1-5, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
32297 Robinhood Dr	\$393,000
17355 W 14 Mile Rd	\$104,000
BIRMINGHAM	
995 Canterbury St	\$322,000
1485 Cedar Dr	\$212,000
2292 Dunstable Rd	\$177,000
1989 Graefield Rd	\$75,000
1200 Hillside Dr	\$385,000
1385 Pierce St	\$800,000
180 Ravine Rd	\$1,590,000
891 S Bates St	\$360,000
1505 S Bates St	\$299,000
1627 Stanley Blvd	\$458,000
767 Suffield Ave	\$1,420,000
2793 Windemere Rd	\$312,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
7285 Bingham Rd	\$181,000
2401 E Hammond Lake Dr	\$135,000
1556 Georgetown Pl # 30	\$84,000
451 Goodhue Rd	\$2,000,000
770 N Cranbrook Rd	\$816,000
6350 Telegraph Rd # 2	\$74,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
760 Briar Hill Ln	\$180,000
3705 Burning Tree Dr	\$345,000
4335 Echo Rd	\$480,000
7202 Lindenmere Dr	\$300,000
637 Overbrook Rd	\$398,000
5563 Pebbleshire Rd	\$306,000

4605 Ranch Ln	\$234,000
6223 Thorncrest Dr	\$237,000
6210 Westmoor Rd	\$275,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
8310 Arlis St	\$240,000
1772 Chateau Rd	\$110,000
2780 Ivy Hill Dr	\$240,000
4121 Mallard Ct	\$295,000
5870 Turnberry Dr	\$335,000
FARMINGTON	
22765 Frederick Ave	\$125,000
21252 Robinwood St	\$180,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
29239 Aranel St	\$132,000
37645 Avon Ln	\$183,000
38917 Country Cir	\$77,000
32386 Craftsbury Rd	\$115,000
28984 Forest Hill Dr	\$220,000
36973 Fox Run	\$265,000
28561 Green Willow St	\$148,000
29348 Morningview	\$255,000
31702 N Marklawn St	\$131,000
29346 New Bradford Dr	\$190,000
32220 Nottingham Knls	\$142,000
32348 Nottingham St	\$170,000
26362 Pillsbury St	\$186,000
31034 Pine Cone Dr	\$217,000
30341 Pipers Ln	\$201,000
38943 Plumbrook Dr	\$250,000
22146 Purdue Ave	\$48,000
39399 Silverthorne Bnd	\$245,000
32503 Sprucewood St	\$169,000
34907 Stoneridge Ct	\$280,000
30475 Sunderland Dr	\$192,000
21095 Whitlock St	\$128,000
28855 Wintergreen	\$200,000
FRANKLIN	

25800 Franklin Park Ct	\$290,000
25131 River Dr	\$390,000
MILFORD	
953 Abbey Ln	\$170,000
953 Abbey Ln	\$140,000
1598 Hunters Lake Ct	\$515,000
515 Knight St	\$151,000
1820 Pinewood	\$215,000
438 Pondview Ln	\$330,000
433 S Main St	\$63,000
712 S Millford Rd	\$67,000
599 Tower Ridge Ct	\$190,000
NOVI	
24974 Acorn Trl	\$370,000
50653 Amesburg Dr	\$552,000
25750 Beck Rd	\$71,000
50553 Billenca Dr	\$511,000
50854 Calvert Isle Dr	\$604,000
50945 Chesapeake Dr	\$670,000
23185 Donnington Ct	\$510,000
1310 E Lake Dr	\$370,000
26245 Fieldstone Dr	\$240,000
27472 Harrington Way	\$45,000
24369 Holyoke Ln	\$390,000
40502 Lenox Park Dr	\$238,000
23415 Mystic Forest Dr	\$315,000
24682 Olde Orchard St	\$56,000
24746 Olde Orchard St	\$57,000
45786 Sheffield Dr	\$253,000
41576 Thoreau Rdg	\$285,000
23610 Valley Starr	\$124,000
22009 Worcester Dr	\$380,000
SOUTH LYON	
216 Columbia Dr	\$237,000
770 McMunn St	\$107,000
23498 Prescott Ln W	\$415,000
21264 Wilford Creek Dr	\$305,000

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

**Real Estate Sales and Appraising**  
Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

**Seminar on Tuesdays**

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.



# HOMES

apartments.com HomeFinder

**Open Houses**

**HARTLAND VILLAGE**  
Open Sat. & Sun., 1 to 4pm.  
Land contract \$54,999  
Newer siding, windows, roof  
10130 Jackson St. Prudential  
Real Estate. 517-404-1645

**Duplexes & Townhouses**

**WESTLAND - Holiday Park**  
townhouse 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath,  
bsmt, patio. Asking \$38,000.  
248-797-0397

**Manufactured Homes**

**Westland Hills**  
2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, A/C,  
freshly painted, shaded  
yard, financing  
available.  
Insurance, home  
payment and  
lot rent included.

**Mobile Homes**

**REDFORD MOBILE HOME-**  
Warrick Village, Trailer 1 on  
Joy Rd bwn Beech/Telegraph  
\$5500/best. 313-680-9783

**Cemetery Lots**

**Glen Eden Cemetery - Livonia**  
In Garden of Ascension 3  
adjacent plots, \$1200/ea, or  
\$3000/for all. 734-731-3615

**Parkview Memorial Gardens**  
(Livonia) - 4 adjacent plots in  
Garden of Devotion sec 444  
graves 1-4. Originally  
\$1100/ea, asking \$750/each or  
\$2800/for all. 480-678-9566

**Manufactured Homes**

**CANTON HOMES FOR SALE**  
**\$16,900**  
Payments as low as \$825/mo. Includes  
insurance, home payment and lot rent.  
Financing available. 3 bedrooms/2 bath,  
deck, shed & appliances.

**SUN HOMES**  
Academy/Westpoint  
academywestpoint.com  
1-888-658-5659  
Some restrictions apply.  
Expires 11/30/11 EHO  
Sun Homes Services, Inc.  
2777 Franklin Rd, Suite 200,  
Southfield, MI 48034  
OE087592348

**CANTON HOMES**  
FOR SALE - \$9,900  
2 bdrm, 1 bath, A/C,  
freshly painted, shaded  
yard, financing  
available.  
Insurance, home  
payment and  
lot rent included.

**SUN HOMES**  
College Park Estates  
1-888-284-9760  
www.4collegepark.com  
Some Restrictions Apply  
Expires 11/30/11  
Sun Homes  
Services, Inc.  
2777 Franklin Rd.  
Suite 200  
Southfield, MI 48034

**Mobile Homes**

**REDFORD MOBILE HOME-**  
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\$1100/ea, asking \$750/each or  
\$2800/for all. 480-678-9566

**Apartments**

**FARMINGTON AREA:**  
Adult community - 1 bdrm,  
extremely updated, \$675/mo.  
2 full apts for \$995/mo!  
Call: (734) 564-8402

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
ANNIE APTS.  
1/2 off sec. dep. if qualified  
FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom  
\$505, 9 Mile/Middlebelt  
248-478-7489

**FARMINGTON MANOR APTS**  
1 bedroom, carport.  
Move-in Special Avail!  
From \$475. 248-888-0868

**GARDEN CITY** Spacious updated  
1 bdrm, a/c, deck, storage  
room, laundry. FREE heat  
/water! \$610. 248-346-6108

**LIVONIA - Mid 5/Middlebelt.**  
2 bdrm with laundry room  
in unit. \$725/mo.  
50% OFF 1st Month's Rent!  
Call: (248) 521-1978

**LIVONIA MANOR:** 2 bdrm,  
appliance. Heat/Water incl.  
Starting \$695/mo. 5 Mile &  
E/Middlebelt. 734-288-8430

**PLYMOUTH:** Downtown, quiet,  
1 bdrm, C/A, storage, carport,  
laundry facilities, walk-in closet.  
\$585/mo. 231-645-7222

**PLYMOUTH:** Prime location.  
1 bdrm. available. \$580/mo.  
Near downtown. incl. heat.  
No dogs. 734-455-2635

**WAYNE AREA - FURNISHED!**  
All utilities, affordable.  
Satellite. No lease!  
Various sizes. (734) 728-0739

**WESTLAND \$300\***  
Moves You In!  
Spacious 1 bedroom  
Private entry  
On-site maintenance  
Hurry, won't last!  
734-721-6699 EHO  
\*call for details

**WESTLAND**  
Hickory Woods Apts.  
\$224 MOVE IN!  
1 Month Rent Free  
(for qualified applicants)  
1 Bdrm-\$550  
2 Bdrm-\$650  
FREE GAS & WATER  
(734) 729-6520  
\*Short term leases  
available.

**Apartments**

**Westland Park Apts.**  
FREE RENT  
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath,  
\$595, 936 Sq. Ft.  
1 Bdrms start at \$530  
728 Sq. Ft. \*Special!  
\$100 off a month!  
\$200 Security Deposit  
Heat and Water Incl.  
(New residents only)  
with approved credit  
No Pets, C/A, Vertical  
Blinds, Intercom.  
Appliances include  
Dishwasher  
Very clean Apartments  
Excellent Maintenance  
(734) 729-6636

**WESTLAND:** 2 bedroom,  
1.5 bath. Laundry hook-up.  
Close to schools. \$600/mo.  
(248) 892-0262

**CONDO/TOWNHOUSES**

**CANTON:** Luxury condo, 2  
bedrms, bsmt, 2 car garage,  
fireplace, pool/workout room.  
\$1375/mo. 734-216-1933

**NOVI:** 2 bedroom,  
like new condo. Avail now.  
Bad credit may be okay.  
(248) 224-6696

**PLYMOUTH:** 1 bdrm with gar  
in a unique country setting.  
Min from downtown Plymouth  
\$675/mo + dep. 734-641-2009

**TAYLOR:** 2 bedroom.  
Available NOW. Like new.  
Bad credit may be okay.  
(248) 224-6696

**WOODHAVEN:** 3 bdrm.  
condo, like new. Att gar. Avail  
now. Bad credit may be okay.  
(248) 224-6696

**Homes For Rent**

**CANTON: 720 SCOTTSDALE**  
\$1,595/mo with a sec dep of  
\$2,492.50 to move in. 5  
bedrms, 3 1/2 bathrooms,  
family room w/ fireplace,  
finished bsmt, 2 car garage,  
patio, shed, stove & refrigerator.  
Prices and Pets are neg.  
Showings for this home are  
Wednesdays and Sundays at  
4pm or by appointment.  
Please call 313-920-5966 for  
more information or email us  
at scm901@yahoo.com

**COMMERCE TWP. Lovely**  
3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt, lake  
privileges, appl., fenced yard.  
\$955. 248-568-6119

**Homes For Rent**

**GARDEN CITY -**  
1 Bdrms only \$679  
2 Bdrms only \$619  
Newly updated. Hurry -  
Limited supply!  
New Management  
Bentley Square  
(734) 367-1087, EHO

**GARDEN CITY**  
2 Bdrms, bath, 1 garage, central  
air, laundry facilities, large  
living /dinning/kitchen - very  
cute home ready to move in!  
No pets! Immediate Occupancy.  
\$650. 734-341-8713

**LIVONIA:** 3 bdrm ranch, 1  
bath, full bsmt, 2 car gar  
\$1000/mo + sec. Non-smoking,  
no pets. 248-558-0159

**LIVONIA - Livonia schools,** 3  
bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car gar., lg  
fenced yard. \$995/mo. Open  
house Sat., Nov 19th, 12-5pm.  
For more info 734-266-2263

**Nevi Community - \$699/mo**  
Brand new 3 bdrm, 2 bath  
homes avail. Appliances & c/a  
included. Kim 866-611-0549

**PLYMOUTH:** 2 bdrm, 1 bath,  
loft, c/a, all appl., newly  
remodeled. Fenced yard 2  
bks. from downtown.  
\$950/mo. Short term lease  
available. (248) 924-0859

**REDFORD (N):** Clean, well  
kept 2 bdrm, partial finished  
bsmt, 2 car garage, no pets  
allowed, \$800. 313-592-8694

**WESTLAND - 3 bdrm,** 2.5  
car garage. \$800/mo + sec.  
Call: (734) 522-9298

**WESTLAND - Economical** 2  
Bdrm, updated, C/A, bsmt,  
new furnace. Stove, fridge,  
W/D \$700/mo. Sec 8 well-  
come! Agent: (734) 646-4957

**WESTLAND - Spacious** 3 bdrm  
cape cod. Hardwood, bsmt,  
gar., fenced. Nice area. \$995.  
Good credit. 985-290-9428

**WESTLAND:** 3 bdrm, 2 bath  
ranch home. Completely  
redone & appliances. Livonia  
Schools. \$980. 734-604-1789

**Mobile Home Rentals**

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
OWN OR LEASE  
**\$75/mo Or Less**  
• 3 BDRM • 2 BATHS  
• ALL APPL • WE FINANCE  
• NEW & PRE OWNED AVAL.  
Non-smoking. 734-858-8823

**Little Valley**  
248-231-0801  
www.LVHomes.net

**Living Quarters To Share**

**CANTON:** Quiet executive  
home on 5 wooded acres,  
\$325 incl cable & all utilities.  
Non-smoking. 734-858-8823

**FARMINGTON HILLS:**  
Professional to share immaculate,  
furnished house. Safe,  
\$395 incl. util., cable, W/D,  
Wi-Fi, maid. (813) 205-9926

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**  
1-800-579-7355  
WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**LIVONIA:** Whole house to  
share. Your 2 rooms plus  
bath, storage. \$500/mo + 1/2  
utilities. Call: (734) 776-2802

**Rooms For Rent**

**REDFORD:**  
Clean, peaceful home,  
large room, \$120/week.  
313-600-5514

**Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease**

**REDFORD TWP.**  
OFFICE SUITES  
2 Locations  
Beautifully redecorated.  
Great rates incl. utilities.  
CERTIFIED REALTY INC.  
(248) 471-7100

**Mobile Home Rentals**

**\$299 moves you in**  
30 days FREE rent!  
3 Bedroom Homes Starting at \$629  
\*some restrictions apply, must close by 11/22/11

**College Park Estates Sun Homes**  
Apply at: 4collegepark.com  
Hurry now! last!  
(888) 284-9760  
\*Some restrictions apply,  
call for details.  
Exp. 11/30/11 EHO

**Homes For Rent**

**Manufactured Homes for Rent**  
\$299 Moves you in.  
Close before 11/22/11  
and receive 30 days free  
rent! Beautiful 3 bed/  
2 bath home Starting  
at \$629 Call us today!  
(888) 272-3099  
Academy/Westpoint  
41021 Old Michigan Ave  
Canton, MI 48108  
\*Offer valid on select homes only.  
Expires 11/22/11, WAC  
www.academywestpoint.com

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Free Est. Lic & Ins.  
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**Roofing**

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Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic  
/ Ins. Call: (248) 346-4321

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Valleys, Chimneys, etc. Warr.  
Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic  
/ Ins. Call: (248) 346-4321

# SERVICES

hometownlife.com

**Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair**

**BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO.** -New & repairs  
Sr. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins.  
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**Cleaning Service**

**CINDERELLA HOUSEKEEPING**  
Honest, meticulous, experienced.  
10% OFF First visit!  
Call 734-772-2627

**HOUSE CLEANING**  
\$25/hr. Dependable, hard  
working & honest. \$10 off  
first visit. Call 734-604-8882

**Drywall**

**COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.**  
Plaster Repair. All jobs welcome!  
Lic/Ins. Free Est. 29  
yrs. exp. Mark. 313-363-6738

**Electrical**

**FAMILY ELECTRICAL**  
City cert. Violations corrected.  
Service changes or any small  
job. Free est. 734-422-8080

**Hauling/Clean Up**

**A-1 HAULING**  
Move scrap metal, clean base-  
ments, garages, stores, etc.  
Lowest prices in town. Quick  
service. Free est. Wayne/  
Oakland Central location.  
248-547-2764, 248-559-8138

**Landscaping**

**COMPLETE LANDSCAPING BY LACORE SERVICES**  
Clean-ups, landscaping, grading,  
sodding, hydro-seeding, all  
types retaining walls, brick  
walks & patios. Drainage &  
lawn irrigation systems, low  
foundations built up. Weekly  
lawn maintenance. Haul away  
unwanted items. Comm. Res.  
38 yrs. exp. Lic & Ins. Free Est.  
www.lacoreservices.com  
248-488-5955, 248-921-8818

**Painting/Decorating Paperhangs**

**ALL PATCHING - PAINT**  
Water Damage 50% off  
Taping by sheet  
(Free Priming) 248-667-1739

**PAINTING BY ROBERT**  
• Wallpaper Removal • Int  
• Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair  
• Staining. 25 yrs exp. Free est.  
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**QUALITY PAINTING**  
Livonia & Northern Suburbs.  
Interior - Exterior. Free est.  
Since 1967. (248) 225-7165

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**LEAK SPECIALIST** Flashings,  
Valleys, Chimneys, etc. Warr.  
Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic  
/ Ins. Call: (248) 346-4321

**Garage/Moving Sales**

**FARMINGTON HILLS:** Big  
Moving Sale. Thur. & Fri.  
9:30-4. 29163 Oak Point Dr  
13 Mile & Farmington.

**PLYMOUTH:** Nov 19, Noon-  
6pm. Furniture, glassware,  
lawn furniture, some tools,  
misc. 10496 Chestnut Ct, Ann  
Arbor Trail & 275.

**SOUTH LYON MOVING SALE**  
859 HEARTHSIDE ST  
FRI-SAT, Nov 19-20, 9-5pm  
LOTS OF GOOD STUFF!  
EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Observer & Eccentric  
Hometown Weeklies  
Just a quick call away -  
1-800-579-SELL

# BUY & SELL

hometownlife.com

**Found - Goods**

**BICYCLE:** Found men's bicy-  
cle in Milford. Found Nov 7th.  
Call to identify 248-505-9614

**Antiques/Collectibles**

**ANTIQUE CLOCKS FOR SALE**  
Larry & Jean Clark  
248-685-3827

**CHINA CABINET:**  
Late 30's, early 40's, dark  
wood, good cond. \$250/best.  
Call: (734) 427-7997

**Arts & Crafts**

**WANTED!** Crafters for our  
community craft show in  
Berkley, Dec. 10th, 10am-  
4pm. For info call: Barb  
Doppel at 248-217-7027

**Auction Sales**

**ESTATE AUCTION**  
Sat. Nov. 19th, 7pm  
Cultural Center  
525 Farmer  
Plymouth MI  
Tools & Related Items  
Collectibles & Antiques  
Juke Box, Beer Signs  
Outdoor Items  
1950's Evinrude  
Boat Motor  
Cash/MC/VISA  
Bank Debit Cards  
No Checks  
Doors Open 6pm  
JCC Auction Service, LLC  
734.451.7444  
jcauctionservices.com

**Estate Sales**

**Another Bernard Davis**  
Estate Sale: 313-837-1993  
Nov. 18-19, 8:45am-4:00pm.  
Tartletlake Community, 2286  
Greenlawn, Bloomfield Hills,  
48302. Go to estatesales.net  
for more info. See You There!

**Estate Sale**  
Filming for  
**HGTV's**  
Cash & Cari  
Season 3  
GREAT FINDS incl. Tons of  
Furniture, Vintage hats,  
& Fine China  
25865 Mulberry Dr.  
Southfield MI  
Nov 19-20, 10-5pm  
http://repurposeestate.com  
248.719.8332

**LIVONIA - Household** furniture,  
toys, Christmas, TVs, art  
work. Nov 17-20th, Thurs-  
Sun 9-5pm. 37150 Bretton, 7  
Mile & Newburgh

**ORCHARD LAKE**  
ESTATE SALE  
3340 Three Lakes Lane.  
Thursday, Nov. 17, 10-5 pm,  
numbers at 9: Friday,  
Nov. 18, 10-3 pm. Furniture,  
china, art, interesting items  
from world travelers. Go to:  
www.estatesales.net/  
estate-sales/230253.aspx  
or info and pics  
WONDER WOMEN  
ESTATE SALES,  
517-256-0695

**ENGLISH LABRADOR**  
Wonderful  
Christmas Present  
True beautiful AKC Choc-  
colate English Labradors!  
Rich deep chocolate Labs,  
wonderful pedigree; cham-  
pionship bloodline; show  
quality or companionship.  
Please, only the best homes  
for these ultimate family  
dogs! \$650  
313-651-9946

**MINI SCHNAUZER**  
8 wks. AKC, females, shots,  
black/silver. 734-776-9895

**SKIN TZU PUPS:** AKC, all  
colors, non-shedding, great  
family pet! 248.636.5133

**HOUSEHOLD PETS**

**HOLLAND LOPS - (4)**  
Adults, show quality.  
To a good home.  
Call: (248) 437-5534

**Lost - Pets**

**LOST CAT:** Male, silver/grey,  
short hair, 14 years old, needs  
medication, lost 11/11/14  
Merriam & 5 Mile. Reward.  
734-658-7261

**LOST DOG:** Cream colored,  
small, female Pomeranian.  
"Twinkles". Lost on 11/10 at  
Ford & Gully area.  
313-278-5500; 313-550-1712

**THE APARTMENT SPECIALISTS**

Even in these trying times, we still have the best prices!

**Westland**

**Parkcrest Apts.** Designed with ROOMMATES in MIND! Across from Meijers  
Livonia Schools  
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**Wilderness** SPACIOUS!!  
Livonia Schools  
2 Bdrms, 1000 sq. ft. CARPORTS POOL WASHER & DRYER inside unit  
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**Carriage House** Move-In Specials!  
Central Air Corner of Haggerty & Joy  
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**Garden City**

**Luna Apts.** Move-In Specials! Near Westland Mall  
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**Village Apts.** HUGE Bathrooms Bordering Westland  
(734) 425-0930

Take advantage of one of these great specials today!

**734-451-5210**  
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It's all about RESULTS!

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**THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR**

	30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending (734) 459-0782	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions (800) 593-1912	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A
AFI Financial (877) 234-0600	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group (800) 785-4755	3.75	0.125	3.125	0.5	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	3.75	0.75	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-8113	4.125	0.25	3.375	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	4.25	0	3.5	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	4	0	3.375	0	J/A/V/F
First State Bank (800) 372-2205	4.25	0	3.75	0	J/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	4.375	0	3.75	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	3.875	2	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Signature Mortgage Michigan (810) 588-4424	4	0	3.375	0	J/A/F
Talmer Bank & Trust (800) 462-2786	4.25	0	3.5	0	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 11/11/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.rmcreport.com](http://www.rmcreport.com).  
Key to "Other" column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported.  
All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032  
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Best of all, credit is available. Look to your local dealer to find a high quality, fuel efficient vehicle. Your dealer knows your market and can help you get financing to meet your needs. If you need a car, now is the time.

Visit your local dealership or cars.com to find a car today.

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**Auto Misc.**  
CENTURY TRUCK CAP for flareside pickup, red, \$400. Truck tool box, \$50. 2 used truck tires, \$40. 248-486-4771

**WE PAY TOP DOLLAR For Clean USED CARS**  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7500

**Autos Wanted**  
Sell your old car, we pay "CASH" for clunkers pick up is free! CALL: (313) 670-4329

**Family Owned Business**  
Buying all vehicles. Any cond. \$300 minimum. Free Pick-Up. Thank You. (248) 579-7488

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We buy running and junk cars, etc. We pay \$50-\$5000 cash on spot. Get more cash than dealer trade in or donation. 313-320-1829

**Trucks for Sale**  
CHEVY AVALANCHE 2006 Sandstone, 271, 4WD, and loaded! Winter ready Avalanche! Just \$18,973! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche hometownlife.com

**Trucks for Sale**  
CHEVY SILVERADO 2011 Summit White, LT, 2500HD, and 16K! This truck is a beast! Just \$31,595! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

**Vans**  
FORD E350 2011 15 passenger, White, 36K \$21,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

GMC SAVANA 2008 Summit White, PL, CD, 52K, and ABS! Perfect work van! Reduced to \$16,972! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

**hometownlife.com**  
PONTIAC MONTANA 2000 \$3,495 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

PONTIAC MONTANA 2001 Hot Chocolate, 57K, alloys, and power options! Family budget friendly! Just \$8,995! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

**Sports Utility**  
BUICK RAINIER 2004 Burgundy, AWD, only \$9,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

CHEVY SUBURBAN 2008 White, 43K, \$28,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 2006 Jet Black, SS, sunroof, and ABS! Abuse the octane! Just \$19,795! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

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**Sports Utility**  
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GMC ACADIA 2009 Blue Harmony, SLT, leather & AWD! Roomy & loaded! Just \$27,495! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

GMC ENVOY SLT 2008 Gray, 31K, certified, \$22,549 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

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**Antique/Classic Collector Cars**  
CHEVY APACHE TRUCK 1959 2 Dr., auto, anti-lock brakes, ps. This truck was lovingly 90-95% restored when KENNY TREECE left this earth way too soon, and now I've decided to sell it. Have lots of pix showing off the frame, etc. \$23,000/best. Call if interested: 615-591-0076

CHEVY IMPALA 1972-Convertible. Re upholstered, new paint, new top, etc. \$10,500. Tom 734-679-1447 ClassicsAutoStorage.com Safe, Secure, Heated/Winter. Monthly/Yearly. Call for Winter Special 734-502-0949

**Acura**  
ACURA TL 2003 3.2 auto, loaded \$10,495 NORTH BROTHERS-TROY 248-643-6600

**Buick**  
ENCLAVE CXL 2008 Silver-Blue 67K, \$25,495 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

LACROSSE 2008 Bleached White, CX, sunroof, and chrome! Quality engineering! Only \$13,997! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

LACROSSE 2010 Autumn Red, CXL, 16K & OnStar! Luxurious Buick engineering! Just \$25,995! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

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REATA 1990- Auto, ps, pb, pw, leather int. 139,500 miles. nice cond. \$895. Must see to appreciate. 734-459-2007

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**Lincoln**  
LINCOLN MKX 2009 Maroon Sunset, navigation, chrome, sunroof, etc.! Loaded all-around! Call for price! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche

MARK VII 1991 2 Dr., air, alarm, Auto, pl. cruise, anti-lock brakes, pw, Full service history, 1 owner, ps, am-fm stereo, leather, 49700 original miles family owned \$4900. 734-459-3403

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PONTIAC G6 Lt. Blue, 72K \$10,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

PONTIAC G6 2010 Dk. Blue 39K \$13,495 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

PONTIAC G6 2010 White, 39K \$13,495 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

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VIBE GT 2009 Burgundy, loaded, \$16,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

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GM cert., 53,000 miles, On-Star, extremely clean, silver w/ black interior, \$12,650. Mike: 248-866-0991

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PONTIAC G6 Lt. Blue, 72K \$10,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

PONTIAC G6 2010 Dk. Blue 39K \$13,495 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

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VOLKSWAGEN JETTA Dk. Blue 35K \$14,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

**Autos Under \$2000**  
FORD 1994 F250 TRUCK 174,000 miles, \$1499. SOLD

**NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 24TH ISSUE OF THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC/HOMETOWN WEEKLY CLASSIFIED SECTION**  
The Classified Department of the Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24th so our employees may enjoy Thanksgiving Day, with their family and friends. The office will reopen at 8:30am Friday, November 25th.

**Deadline for classified advertising For Thursday, November 24th issue - Deadline: Monday, November 21st at 4pm**  
**Deadline for Obituaries: For the Hometown Weekly Papers: (Milford Times, Novi News, South Lyon Herald and Northville Record): Deadline: Monday, November 21st at 9:30am**  
**For the Observer Newspapers: Deadline: Tuesday, November 22nd at 9:30am.**

We wish all of our readers and advertisers a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday!

The Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers Classified Department

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**2.99% financing**

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**\$199<sup>00\*</sup> PER MO. EVERYONE**

Other offers are available that may lower your payment as low as \$169\* See Dealer for Details • See if You Qualify

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LS Equipment Package 2.4 DOHC Ecotech 6 Speed Tapshift Auto Trans. Air Conditioning Power Locks Power Windows Remote Keyless Entry 33 MPG. Stk.# 2C4154

**2.99% financing**

**0 DOWN • Sign & Drive\***

**GM Employee \$207<sup>\*</sup> PER MO. EVERYONE \$221<sup>\*</sup> PER MO.**

12,000 mi. 39 mo. Lease

**2012 CHEVROLET EQUINOX**

LS Equipment Package 6 Speed Auto Trans. 17" Aluminum Wheels Power Windows Remote Keyless Entry 32 MPG. Stk.# 277149D

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**\$269<sup>\*</sup> 39 mo. per mo.**

**2012 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE**

LS Equipment Group 3.6 SIDI V6 Engine 6 Speed Auto Trans. Power Windows Power Locks 8 Pass. Key/Remote Entry 24 MPG. Stk.# 277149D

**0 DOWN • Sign & Drive\***  
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39 mo. Lease • 12,000 mi. per year

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2009 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE Phantom Black, LTZ, leather, and sunroof! Travel in style! Only \$29,995!

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2011 CHEVROLET CAMARO Gun Metal Gray, SS/RS, convertible, and loaded! Show 'em who's boss! Reduced to \$37,777!

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2008 SATURN OUTLOOK Purple Grape, XR, AWD & OnStar! Ready to roll! Reduced to \$20,977!

2008 CHEVROLET EQUINOX Eternal Silver, AWD, power options, and ABS! Winter weather ready! Just \$18,998!

2007 PONTIAC G6 Silver Streak, GT, convertible, and remote start! Great for any season! Reduced to \$16,995!

2011 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Cotton White, 16K, LT, and 2500 HD! Ready for winter's worst! Only \$31,595!

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**pets**

**Holiday safety**



hometown life  
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November 2011



**home**

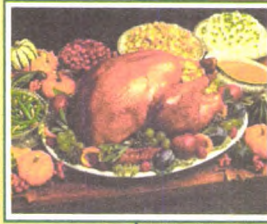
**Deck the hall with fresh greens**



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Order your holiday dinner EARLY...  
at holiday market

Whole Roasted  
Turkey.....\$2.99lb.  
Turkey Gravy.....\$2.99lb  
Premium Sides: Fresh Mashed  
Potatoes, Traditional  
Homemade Stuffing or  
Cranberry Relish.....\$3.99lb.



# Holiday Market

## CANTON

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Fresh Amish Turkeys.....\$1.99lb.  
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Turkey Breast.....\$1.99lb.  
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Holidays Own Thanksgiving  
Polish Sausage.....\$3.99lb.  
Original In Foil  
Dearborn  
Spiral Sliced Ham.....\$4.99lb  
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Cooked Shrimp.....\$20.99bg.  
*(2 lb. bag, 26-30 ct. per lb.)*  
Holiday's Own Smoked  
Salmon Chunks.....\$9.99lb.  
*(smoked on site)*  
Fresh, Wild Caught  
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## Wines

Come in and check out our wine  
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Haut Medoc 750ml....\$16.99ea.  
*Imported from France-hints of milk chocolate and bright cherry  
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Julien, Red Bordeaux 750ml.....\$60.99ea.  
2009 Chateau Moulin de Grenet, Lussac  
Saint-Emilion 750ml.....\$14.99ea  
*25% Cab 75% Merlot*



All Bordeaux  
10% Over Cost

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*This cheese was invented in the early 20th century in olive oil. It is made from  
cows milk, producing a white cheese with a delicate network of blue green veins.*  
Pecorino Romano (Sheep's Milk)...\$13.99lb.  
*Imported from Italy. Aromatic and pleasantly sharp, which is why it's one of  
the world's favorite pasta cheeses.*  
Oldani's Salamini Secchi.....\$9.99lb.  
*A great cured salami. Perfect with our fresh baked breads, cheese, olives  
and tomatoes.*  
Italian Fontina....\$12.99lb  
*Comparable to Swiss in taste and texture but with fruity  
overtones. This favorite Italian classic is alive with flavor  
that is colorful as springtime in the Asota Valley. Great for  
fondues, pizza, sandwiches and melted over vegetables.*  
Brie de France....\$10.99lb.  
*Brie is one of the world's favorite French cheeses' well  
known for its one of a kind mild taste and creamy, smooth  
texture. Try with fruity wines such as Bordeaux or burgundy.*



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*Italian country bread made with olive oil and wild yeast culture.  
A wonderful sandwich bread, great for soups and dipping oils.*  
Asiago Cheese Bread...\$3.99ea.  
*Made from our rustic Italian dough and Stella brand Asiago  
Cheese. Great with pasta!*  
Pain a Levain.....\$3.59ea.  
*One of our sourdough breads, mild soft flavor. Great for  
sandwiches or with our famous spinach dip.*

Italian Semolina.....\$2.99ea.  
*Classic Italian bread, great sandwich bread or toasted.*  
Sesame Semolina.....\$3.99ea.  
*Classic Italian bread, great sandwich bread or toasted!*  
Pumpnickel Bread....\$3.99ea.  
*Try it with your favorite lunch meats as a sandwich or perfect  
with our famous spinach dip.*

Holiday Market  
Sandwich  
Rolls.....\$3.99 6 ct.  
*Made with our famous Italian baguette  
dough...great for sandwiches, burgers  
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## Bakery

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*Layers of cake filled with decadent  
chocolate mousse, iced in chocolate  
mousse, covered in dark chocolate shavings topped with sugar leaves*  
5" Sm. \$14.99  
Peanut Butter Pie 9" Lg. \$19.99  
*reo pie crust filled with peanut butter mousse covered in chocolate  
granache, finished with a vine of chocolate buttercream and peanuts*  
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*libbys classic recipe, made on site to  
perfection. A holiday tradition!*  
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# Top tech gift suggestions

By **Jon Gunnells**  
Contributing Writer

**Y**ou can buy your loved ones ugly neckties, out-of-style Christmas sweaters or fruitcakes this holiday season — or you can buy them the coolest gadgets you've never heard of.

From electronic housewares to tablets, this helpful holiday shopping guide has suggestions for tech geeks and even the technically challenged.

## Mobile devices

Can't decide between a phone with a keyboard and a phone with a touchscreen? Why not try a phone you can draw on? The Samsung Galaxy Note is a cell phone trapped in a tablet's body.



The note has a 5.3-inch screen and can be activated by touch, or with a stylus which you can use to jot notes on maps, documents, photos and more.

You also can't go wrong with the new Apple iPhone 4s, or the Motorola Droid Bionic.

If the person on your list already grabbed a phone, particularly the new iPhone4s, protect them with the most advanced cell phone case yet: the Phone Suite Elite. This unique case has a built-in iPhone battery that can fully charge your device in two hours. The case is surprisingly small — checking in at 17mm — and costs about \$79.99

Please see **TECH, 22**

6

## DECK THE HALLS

with boughs of green



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## COOL YULE

Special events light up the holiday season



## 20 A SPREE FOR TREES

A visit to the Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm





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## BEER TRACKER

# Maudite

## — Make it a Dubbel



The recent popularity of craft beer has stirred the nation into a drinkers' renaissance, a rebirth of flavor, richness and discovery. As with most revolutions, the explosion has brought with it mind-numbing choices. Navigating the aisles at the local market can be a daunting task when the weekly beer budget is on the line.

Appreciation for craft beer is a sudsy journey which finds many toiling in the domain of specialty ales. Dubbel or double ales have gained much popularity in recent years. Many housed in 750ml designer bottles, these are often the jewels of the beer aisle. But "dubbel" what? In a word,



Nate Parsons

malt. The brewing process for a dubbel calls for twice the malt used in regular brewing. This increase in malt delivers higher alcohol content, due to the yeast feeding on the sugar in the malt. More malt equals more feeding ... equals more fermentation ... equals more alcohol!

As the weather turns colder many like the darker profile and spirited warming qualities of a dubbel ale. The malty aroma steeped with sweet fruit seems to complement dropping temperatures.

The complexities of malt and fruit spiciness, with restrained hop bitterness, will whisk all takers off to la-la land.

Maudite by Unibroue, is a tasty version of a devilish legend for those looking to make a pact with a higher power. Loosely translated "Maudite" means "damn" or "the damned." The word refers to the Legend of "Chasse-Galerie" (Flying Canoe) a tribute to the early Canadian lumberjacks of Nouvelle, France. The legend tells of eight daring woodsmen who, during winter, yearned to be home for the holidays. They conjured up the Devil and all of them pledged their soul in return for flying them home in their canoe. As they sailed across the moonlit sky, one of them managed to free himself from the pledge by invoking the name of God, which caused the flying canoe to come crashing down to earth.

Nate Parsons can be contacted at modevin@yahoo.com

### TASTING NOTES

- **Beer:** Maudite
- **Brewery:** Unibroue
- **Origin:** Quebec, Canada
- **Style:** Dubbel Ale
- **ABV:** 8 percent
- **Glassware:** Snifter, Goblet, or Chalice
- **Description:** A muted rust-color pour fills the air with traces of plum, raisin, and toffee. On the tongue, dark fruits are backed by bready malt and hints of alcohol warm the mouth. Cloves vanilla and nutmeg invigorate the taste buds while refreshing carbonation washes the palate upon exit. A layer of fruit and spice linger in the mouth which adds definition

with each repetition. Truly a full-bodied, refreshing world-class sipper from north of the border.

• **Conclusion:** A flying canoe of French Canadians is a stretch, but legends be "damned," this dubbel is worth the ride.

Where to Purchase

- Hillers Market, 425 North Center Street, Northville — 750ml / \$7.95
- The Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt Road, Livonia — 750ml / \$8
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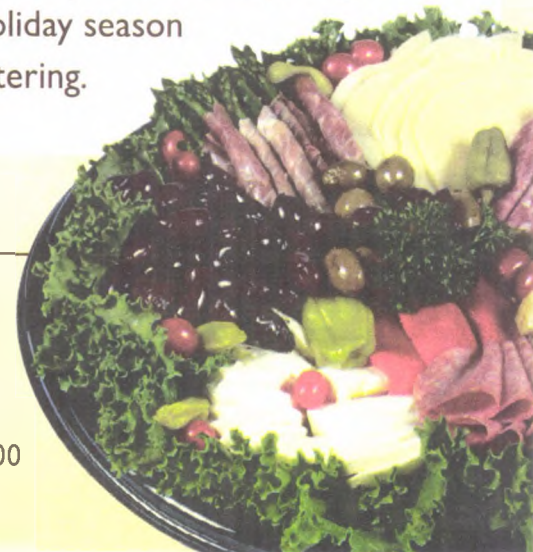


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# Holiday decorating

## the green way

By Helen Niemiec  
Contributing Writer

The sight and smell of fresh greenery is as much a part of the holidays as the smell of baking cookies. Area florists and greenhouses have a wealth of ideas to make greenery a decorating masterpiece.

Outdoor decorations can be put up around Thanksgiving and will stay green until at least mid-January. Indoors, the decking of the halls should be done no sooner than two weeks before the holiday, all greenery experts say.

A tip for either — spray the greenery with Wilt-Pruf to keep the cuttings from drying out.

### Exteriors

Homeowners use front doors, porch rails, fences and lamp posts as key sites for cedar roping, either left plain or embellished with lights, ribbons and ornaments.

John Steinkopf, one of the owners of the Farmington Hills Steinkopf Nursery, said wreaths remain a favorite.

"People like big wreaths, especially if they have a high-peaked garage," Steinkopf said. "We can put touches of holly or juniper berries to add to the texture."

Purchasers can then add lights if they so choose and the decoration is set.

"The boxwood wreath is making a comeback. A lot of people like those outside," he said.

Another popular choice is swags, either placed on the sides of front doors or in the center of the door.

"They can look interesting. Buy or make your own swag, attach it with florist wire to the door knocker and have that as a door's centerpiece instead of a wreath," Steinkopf said. "Add some pine cones, a bow or candy canes to make it more personal to your tastes."

Cedar roping always is a top seller, he said. Drape it across a door, over fences or swirled around lamp posts or porch step rails. "Some even put it across eave troughs to wrap the house in greenery," he said.

Steinkopf and Greg Brainer, one of the owners of Brainer's Greenhouse in Wixom, both raved about Western cedars, rather than Michigan cedars for long-term use.

"It's a dark green and seems to hang nicer," Brainer said. "They're more expensive but last twice as long."

A new trend in holiday decorating is using existing planters — both patio urns and flower boxes — as a feature.

Brainer sells pre-made arrangements that can be placed in a pot, or people can buy greens or use what they have in their yards.

"Our inserts are packed in peat so they hold moisture and that keeps it green," Brainer explained.

He said the greens arrangements can be dressed up with nonbreakable ornaments, ribbons and bows.

After the holidays, take out the bulbs and ribbons but keep the touch of green throughout the white, snowy winter days, he said.

Heather Glenday, Bordine's fresh greens manager at the



Dana Rybicki and Pat Calisti decorate the Wilcox House in Plymouth.

Please see GREEN, 8

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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## GREEN

Continued from page 6

Birmingham store, said using outdoor pots for holiday decorating is big this year and easy to do.

"You can make a statement on your front porch. Use Fraser fir, balsam, Douglas fir or white pine," she said. "Put in some golden arborvitae, things of different colors and a big bow."

To keep a patio urn decoration from looking too flat, Glenday recommends placing a nice-sized twig up the center to give it some height. Use a birch branch, spray it with a colored paint or select "the more dramatic" red twig dogwood or yellow twig dogwood for that accent piece, she said.

"Add preserved items like eucalyptus, which comes in its natural color or dyed in a range of reds and purples. You always want a pop of color," Glenday advised.

Bordine's carries those items and also dried pomegranates on a stick or palm flowers to add some color. Glenday said adding pine cones, ornaments and "a big red bow" around the pot will "attract the eye from the street."

### Interiors

People especially take care with decorating indoors, since those arrangements and touches will be seen much more by them and be a part of their overall celebration.

Laurie Medrea, landscaping designer at Plymouth Nursery, said possibilities are limitless. "Have some fun. Try things to see if they work," she said. Medrea likes to make napkin rings by twining greens. "Even simple touches can be a perfect complement to the overall look."

When setting the table for a holiday dinner, forgo the table runner and lay greens down the center. Add pillar candles, ornaments or even fruit and nuts, Medrea said.

Use floral foam (also called oasis) in table arrangements to keep everything hydrated and fresh, she said. "Put greens anywhere you want a holiday accent. I keep a small arrangement in my bedroom because it smells so wonderful," Medrea said.

Mantles are a favorite focal point but Medrea cautions that people should place fresh greens there only two days before a holiday or party.

"Greens laid on a mantle will dry quickly because of the heat in the house, more so if you use a fireplace and because of the heat of lights," Medrea said. "If you use lights, try the LED lights, which burn cooler. Then add some ribbons and bows — and glass icicles. The glass icicles catch the light and appear magical."



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Simple touches such as pine cones and a big bow can be a perfect complement to the overall look of a wreath.

Kathryn Brock, owner of The Village Florist in Milford, said two typical outdoor items can be brought indoors for the holidays.

Bring in an attractive garden pot and place it in the foyer. "Buy or use cut greens from your yard or purchased. Add lights, bulbs and ribbons," Brock said.

Another idea is to take a lantern that's been on the porch or deck and place it on a table.

"Fill it with fresh greens, a cardinal or owl ornament and berries. Tie a ribbon into a bow on the holder and you've got an attractive centerpiece," Brock said.

Trays are a popular home decorating accessory this year. Lay greens on the tray, she said, then add berries, ornaments or whatever adornment a person wants.

For laying greens the length of the table, Brock said another option to using candles or ornaments is to go to the local florist and have small vases of flowers put together for the accent. "It will add a nice touch of color," Brock said.

Dennis Crimboli, owner of Crimboli Nursery & Landscape in Canton, has his favorite greens — Douglas fir for its fragrance. "When you crush the needles, it smells like oranges," he said.

Though he no longer sells Christmas trees, he loves a decorated tree, especially if it is re-used. He recommends digging a hole in the front or back yard, filling it with straw and then going to a nursery to buy a live pine tree, the kind with the roots balled in burlap.

"Decorate it in the house and enjoy it," Crimboli said. "After the holidays, remove the straw from the hole and put the tree in it. Since the tree is dormant anyway, it will work out fine and you'll have a tree to enjoy in your yard all year round."

Crimboli said holiday trees don't need to be green. With his contemporary house, he had a unique tree. He took a pear tree, cut it down, sprayed it white and flocked it. After putting it in a tree holder, he decorated with strings of single-colored lights and topped it with a large partridge ornament.

"I had my partridge in a pear tree," he said.



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# Gift baskets:



practical and personal

By Helen Niemiec  
Contributing Writer

The common holiday dilemma is finding the perfect gift. A sweater that the buyer is eyeing may not suit the taste — or need — of the intended recipient.

In these days of more practical gifts, holiday gift baskets come in a wide range of items and prices, making them an idea worth considering.

Any market that has gift baskets will personalize the selections to a point. Most also offer the option of taking the item with you to present to the recipient or ship it to a far-away friend or relative. The gift baskets are included on market websites if a shopper wants to check them out before going into the store. Orders also can be handled online at most markets.

Dan Sonenberg, one of the owners of Johnny Pomodora's in Farmington Hills, said the store offers a variety of different themed gift baskets so someone can match up the preferences of the gift-getter.

"We have a lot of things to try, with prices ranging from \$29.99 to \$150, depending on how big a basket a person wants," Sonenberg said. "We have a lot of different themes. If someone likes sweets, we have cookies and candies; if they like Italian, we have pastas and sauces."

Items also can be substituted to more reflect the person receiving it, he said. "If your uncle really likes pistachios, we add those."

The "Johnny's Signature All Fruit Basket" is a popular pick, a classic offering at \$29.99. Other combinations of fruits and cheeses

and other offerings are available.

The Gourmet Medley starts with fruit but also adds panettone, cookies, cheese spread, coffee, tea, salmon pate and gourmet chocolates. They also have an "International Basket" and "A Taste of Italy" basket on their list.

"What we're finding is that people still want to buy gifts but are watching the cost. So we offer a number of baskets under \$50. We also can reduce cost by substituting a bottle of sparkling cider instead of wine," Sonenberg said.

Al Jonna, owner of Picnic Basket in Plymouth, said the most popular gift basket remains the fruit basket or a basket with an assortment of wines.

"There are also ones with nuts, crackers and jellies," Jonna said. "Someone just needs to come here, look at what we offer and we'll put together any kind of basket for them. If they know what they want, that's fine. If others want to pick from one of the baskets that we organize, that's fine too."

More personal baskets are a bigger part of his holiday orders now, he said. Jonna believes it is because more orders now come from individuals, with corporate orders still not returning to the level they were six or seven years ago.

Plum Market, with locations in Birmingham and Bloomfield Township, is known for its organic and vegetarian offerings. Those are reflected in gift basket offerings as well, though not limited to those tastes. Gift baskets range from \$40 to \$150, while most have food items there is one with natural

Please see BASKETS, 11







# Picture-perfect pumpkin pies

Make your holiday table its festive best with my top pie tips:

- Plan to make your crust ahead of time. Before rolling out, wrap in plastic and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Remove dough from your refrigerator when you start to make pie filling.
- Practice "mise en place"—measure everything for your pies and have them at hand before starting to bake.
- If you're a seasoned pie baker, start a sweet tradition by baking pumpkin pies with younger family members. They'll treasure your baking tips and ensure the family's pie heritage.
- Pies generally serve 8. But do as I do — make and serve more than one kind of pie — and you'll find everyone wants a sliver of each! So you can "stretch" a pie further that way.
- Remember that "pie tomorrow"—leftover — is always welcome!



Thanksgiving is just not complete without a pumpkin pie—it's the most treasured tradition on my holiday table. Amidst the flurry of activity on Thanksgiving morning, I'm glad that my pumpkin pies are make-ahead easy, desserts just waiting to delight us.



Mixing It Up With Jenny

It's hard to top the traditional Libby's Famous Pumpkin Pie recipe, which has been on the label since 1950. This pumpkin custard has the perfect creamy taste created by the blend of pumpkin and evaporated milk and allows the time-honored spice blend to come through. For a cool twist on tradition, Easy Pumpkin Cream Pie is an easy, luscious pie with the flavors of the season in a cool, creamy dessert.

## Libby's Famous Pumpkin Pie

Makes 8 servings

¼ cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
¼ teaspoon ground cloves  
2 large eggs  
1 can (15 ounces) Libby's 100% Pure Pumpkin  
1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestle Carnation Evaporated Milk  
1 unbaked 9-inch (4-cup volume) deep-dish pie shell  
Whipped cream (optional)

MIX sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger and cloves in small bowl. Beat eggs in large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and sugar-spice mixture. Gradually stir in evaporated milk.

POUR into pie shell.  
BAKE in preheated 425° F oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350° F; bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for 2 hours. Serve immediately or refrigerate. Top with whipped cream before serving.

TIP: 1 ¼ teaspoons pumpkin spice may be substituted for the cinnamon, ginger and cloves; however, the taste will be slightly different. Do not freeze, as this will cause the crust to separate from the filling.

Nutrition Facts per Serving: 280 calories; 100 calories from fat; 11g total fat; 5g saturated fat; 70mg cho-



lesterol; 350mg sodium; 40g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 25g sugars; 6g protein; 130% DV vitamin A; 0% DV vitamin C; 15% DV calcium; 4% DV iron

## Easy Pumpkin Cream Pie

Makes 8 servings

1 9-inch (6 ounces) prepared graham cracker crust  
1 can (15 ounces) Libby's 100% Pure Pumpkin Pie  
1 package (5.1 ounces) vanilla instant pudding and pie filling mix  
1 cup Nestle Carnation Evaporated Milk  
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice  
2 cups (about 6 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided  
1 cup fresh raspberries (optional)

COMBINE pumpkin, pudding mix, evaporated milk and pumpkin pie spice in large mixer bowl; beat for 1 minute or until blended. Fold in ½ cups whipped topping. Spoon into crust. Freeze for at least 4 hours or until firm. Let stand in refrigerator for 1 hour before serving. Garnish with remaining whipped topping and raspberries, if desired. Serve immediately.

Nutrition Facts per Serving: 280 calories; 100 calorie from fat; 11g total fat; 6g saturated fat; 10mg cholesterol; 380mg sodium; 42g carbohydrate; 2g fiber, 30g sugars; 4g protein; 130% DV vitamin A; 10% calcium; 6% DV iron

Jenny Harper is Consumer Test Kitchen Project Manager for the Nestle Test Kitchens and VeryBestBaking.com. Novice pie baker? Learn to make a crust like a pro and turn out a pie to be proud of at [www.VeryBestBaking.com](http://www.VeryBestBaking.com).

— Family Features

## BASKETS

Continued from page 10

soaps and lotions.

A "Snack Celebration Gift Basket" has nuts, pretzels, potato chips, coffee, candies, crackers and dipping mustard. There also are "Italian Dinner," "Chocolate & Sweets," and "Michigan Made" baskets. The Michigan basket features items from Germack nuts, Zingerman's coffee, American Spoon Foods and others. For those on restricted diets, there is a gluten-free basket filled with pretzels, chips, candy, granola, crackers and other items made without wheat flour.

Papa Joe's Gourmet Market in Birmingham has an array of specialty gift baskets, with the variety captured in their fanciful names — "Talk Chocolate to Me," "Beer Crate," "Bed n' Breakfast," and "Asian Splendor." Baskets focused on coffees and wines also get customer attention.

For the holidays, Papa Joe's launches five seasonally themed packages. "The Classic" has munchies, party cheese and crackers, gourmet candy and cookies. "Winter Wonderland" comes with all the items needed for a cold, snowy night, including two mugs, cocoas, cookies and other treats.

Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery, in Redford, can give people an ethnic option. For the first time, Ackroyd's will have assembled gift baskets in their shop for the holidays. People can either purchase a ready-made basket or request a theme or an assortment to be made into a basket.

"We've always made up gift baskets but this year we're going to offer already made baskets, for the ease of our customers," said Megan Ackroyd. The shop is owned by her father, Allan.

Ackroyd's baskets are geared to people who have roots in the British Isles but also offer a unique gift, even for those who don't possess a drop of Scottish blood. "Who doesn't love shortbread?" she asked.

All items are made from old Scottish recipes (the store is in the third generation of ownership) or nonperishables are purchased from companies in the British Isles.

Ackroyd's does ship baskets or boxed selections. Shipping meat pies, pasties and the like are not a problem and are popular choices, Ackroyd explained.

A different kind of gift basket can be

obtained from the Old World Olive Press, located in Birmingham and Plymouth. The Michigan-based store boasts 20 types of olive oil, 24 vinegars and a variety of spices, rubs and seasoning blends. All can be used in cooking or in combinations for bread dipping as an appetizer.

Cory DeLong, owner, said that the gift assortments are very popular. Two-, four- and six-bottle sets are available.

"We do have a unique twist on the 'gift card' here. We sell a two-bottle package. The gift purchaser actually leaves with two empty bottles and a gift card. The person who gets the gift can come in and swap out those bottles and gift card for two full bottles of their own choosing," DeLong explained.

He said customers really have liked that as an option. "They still get a gift to open but the flavor will be of their choosing," he said.

DeLong said the idea came from a customer at his flagship store in Rockford, Mich.

Shipping of vinegars and oils can be a problem, he said. Instead of a pretty presentation, the bottles have to be wrapped individually and boxed separately. "It costs a lot to ship because there is a lot of layering of boxes," he said.

DeLong recommends either hand-carrying the gifts or sending the empty bottle gift/gift card.

For those who prefer to send gifts of homemade cookies and breads, one option is using a mailing

service rather than trying to pack it oneself.

Eric Ladwig, owner of The UPS Store in Livonia, said that he and his staff have been at their location for 16 holiday seasons now and are expert with getting fragile yummies to their intended destinations.

"In tough times, we get a lot more of these homemade gifts to ship," Ladwig noted. "Truthfully, I'd rather have that kind of gift. I know someone took the time to make me something that is special."

Whether using his shop or doing it oneself, cookies should be laid flat with a sheet of stiff cardboard (that can be purchased in cake decorating stores and some craft stores) between the layers of cookies. The final container should be wrapped in bubble wrap to keep items from shifting.

Homemade jams and jellies can be wrapped with bubble wrap to protect them during their journey.



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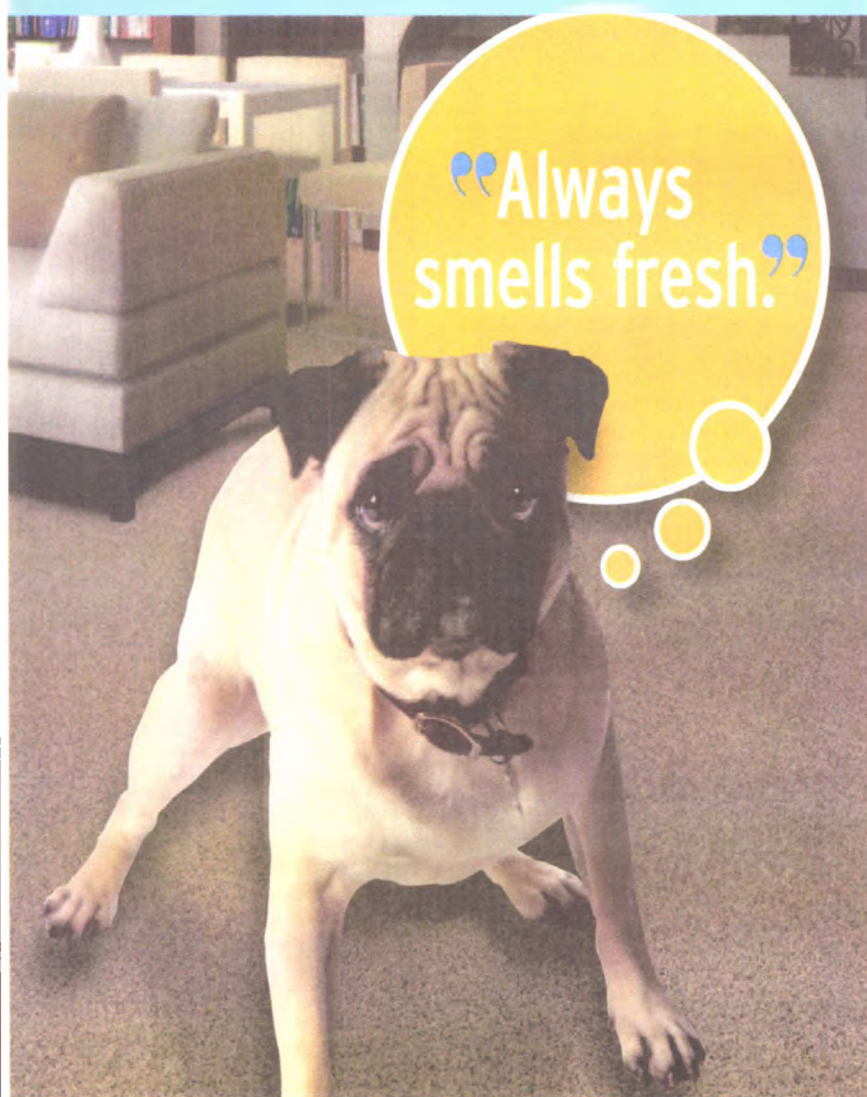
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## Countdown to a flavorful feast day

Well worth the 364-day wait, the time-honored bounty of Thanksgiving dinner rouses eager anticipation for weeks in advance of the big day. Whether you're a seasoned dinner host or an eager first-timer, treat your guests to an unforgettable feast – from the main attraction all the way through to dessert.

To help simplify the planning process, McCormick is counting down to Feast Day, sharing inspiring recipes and helpful tips at [www.Facebook.com/McCormickSpice](http://www.Facebook.com/McCormickSpice). In a series of themes, the Countdown will guide you through the meal's most essential elements, from spectacular side dishes, turkey and gravy preparation to the pie.

"The Thanksgiving table is filled with favorite dishes – and it's the signature twists on those favorites that can make them stand out," says chef Mark Garcia of the McCormick Test Kitchen. "The key to the most memorable food exFor more Thanksgiving inspiration and recipes visit [www.mccormick.com](http://www.mccormick.com). Let the countdown begin!"

### Roasted Sweet Potatoes with Cinnamon Pecan Crunch

Swap your secrets for spectacular sides in the "Countdown to Feast Day," like Roasted Sweet Potatoes with Cinnamon Pecan Crunch, a tasty variation of typical Thanksgiving sweet potatoes.  
*Prep Time: 15 minutes*  
*Cook Time: 1 hour*  
*Makes 8 servings*

<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup firmly packed brown sugar, divided

- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1½ teaspoons McCormick Ground Cinnamon, divided
- 1½ teaspoons McCormick Ground Ginger, divided
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 6 tablespoons butter, cut up, divided
- ½ cup flour
- 1 cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Mix <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup brown sugar, orange juice, vanilla, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon each of the cinnamon and ginger, and salt in large bowl. Add sweet potatoes; toss to coat well. Spoon into 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with cranberries. Dot with 2 tablespoons of the butter. Cover with foil. Bake 30 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, mix flour, remaining <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup brown sugar and remaining 1 teaspoon each cinnamon and ginger in medium bowl. Cut in remaining 4 tablespoons butter with a fork until coarse crumbs form. Stir in pecans. Remove sweet potatoes from oven and stir gently. Sprinkle evenly with pecan topping.

3. Bake, uncovered, 25 to 30 minutes longer or until sweet potatoes are tender and topping is lightly browned.

Nutrition Information Per Serving:  
 439 calories, Fat 19g, Carbohydrates 63g, Cholesterol 23mg, Sodium 257mg, Fiber 6g, Protein 4g

— Family Features

## Healthy holiday recipes

Eating healthy during the holidays can be difficult. Between scrumptious sweets and hearty special occasion meals, the extra calories can quickly add up.

There's no need to entirely forgo your favorite festive foods this season. Get creative in the kitchen and try substituting healthier ingredients into your favorite recipes. Instead of mayonnaise or cream cheese, use Chobani Greek Yogurt. It's a great way to cut out extra calories from decadent dishes without sacrificing taste. Greek yogurt also has two times more protein than regular yogurt and it's a great source of calcium.

Have fun in the kitchen and try out some holiday cooking with these two delicious and nutritious recipes. You can find more at [www.chobanikitchen.com](http://www.chobanikitchen.com).

### Turkey Potpie

Yield: 4 servings

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, chopped
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup peeled potato, diced
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup celery, chopped
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup butter, cubed
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup all-purpose flour
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon salt
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon rubbed sage
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 cups cooked turkey, cubed
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup frozen peas
- 1 cup 0% Plain Chobani
- 1 sheet refrigerated pie pastry

In large saucepan, saute onion, carrot, potato and celery in butter until tender. Add flour and seasonings until blended; gradually add broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in turkey, peas and Chobani; divide mixture among four ungreased 5-inch pie plates.

Divide pastry into quarters. On a lightly floured surface, roll each quarter into a 6-inch circle; place over filling. Trim, seal and flute edges; cut slits to vent.

Cover and freeze two potpies for up to 3 months. Bake the remaining potpies at 375°F for 18 to 22 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.



To use frozen potpies: Remove from the freezer 30 minutes before baking. Cover edges of crusts loosely with foil; place on a baking sheet. Bake at 375°F for 30 minutes. Remove foil; bake 15-20 minutes longer or until golden brown and filling is bubbly.

Nutritional Information: Calories 510, Calories from Fat 240, Total Fat 27g, Saturated Fat 12g, Trans Fat 0g, Cholesterol 90mg, Sodium 900mg, Total Carbohydrate 36g, Dietary Fiber 3g, Sugars 7g, Protein 31g

### Cranberry Orange Bread

Yield: 10 (<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch) slices

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoons baking powder
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon baking soda
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon salt
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup 2% Plain Chobani
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon grated orange zest
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups fresh cranberries
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup walnuts, lightly toasted and chopped coarsely

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 9 x 5-inch loaf pan with nonstick spray. In medium bowl, combine dry ingredients. Set aside.

In large bowl, mix together Chobani and sugar. Add egg and combine. Stir in orange juice. Add dry mixture to wet mixture. Mix only until just combined. Carefully, fold in orange zest, cranberries and walnuts. Pour into prepared pan.

Bake for 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Carefully invert pan to remove, and finish cooling on rack.

Wrap in plastic and foil. This bread is extra delicious on the second day.

Nutritional Information: Calories 160, Calories from Fat 30, Total Fat 3.5g, Saturated Fat 0.5g, Trans Fat 0g, Cholesterol 15mg, Sodium 230mg, Total Carbohydrate 31g, Dietary Fiber 1g, Sugars 15g, Protein 5g



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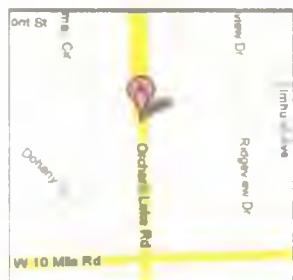
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# Sudoku

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

	2		5	6	1			
1		6						5
			2	4				
	5							
7		3	9	4				
			5	1	8			3
	3		1					
9			6					8
4			7					

Level: Intermediate

								1
3		5						6
		4		2		5	3	
9				4				
			8	1				
	4	3				9		
		1	5	6				
6				4		7	8	
			7	3				

Level: Advanced

				8				
6	2							
		7		5		1	4	
				4	1	3		
			6				1	5
		5		7	2			
						9	2	
		1	3		7	4		
4			9				8	

Level: Intermediate

Answers found on page 22



(ARA) — The holiday season is filled with a frenzy of activities from decorating the house to baking sweets to gift buying and wrapping. Adding decorations to your mantel or front yard adds a festive look to your house, but pet owners should also take a moment during the busy decorating season to examine how they make the season bright — and safe — for their pets and families.

According to new research from CSA International, a global testing and certification organization, 60 percent of pet owners are concerned about their pet's safety when leaving them alone in a house. Three in 10 Americans have either experienced or know someone who has experienced a holiday decorations-related accident with a pet that required a trip to the vet's office.

While the types of accidents varied, it's important to remember these CSA International holiday safety tips to help keep your pets and family safe.

- Cords are not chew toys: But, sometimes you can't prevent your pet from sneaking a sniff. Carefully inspect holiday light strings yearly and discard any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders or loose connections. Ensuring that all holiday decorations are in proper working order and all cords are fully insulated are important steps to avoiding electrical and fire hazards and keeping pets safe when you're away.

- Up, up and away: When decorating a tree or other indoor areas, place breakable ornaments and electrical decorations up high to protect both small children and pets. It's also important to keep potentially deadly ingestible items out of pets' reach, such as chocolate, poinsettias, tinsel and colorful ornaments that may look like a ball or toy.

- Spot the mark to keep Spot safe: When purchasing light strings, extension cords or electrical decorations, look for a certification mark such as one from CSA International. This provides assurance that products are tested and certified to applicable standards for safety and performance.

- Fresh or fake, be safe: If you buy a real tree, make sure it's fresh. Fresh trees are less likely to dry out and become a fire hazard. Artificial trees with electrical lights should have a certification mark on them and should be made of fire-resistant materials. Pet owners should tether their Christmas tree to a wall to avoid tipping.

- No sparks for Sparky: Whenever possible, protect family and pets from electric shock by connecting all outdoor lighting into receptacles protected by weatherproof ground fault circuit interrupters.

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# Tree farm inspires the holiday spirit

By Dennis Zelazny  
Contributing Writer

**D**o you know where your yule tree is?

For some, it is stored in pieces, boxed up in the attic or basement. And for the naturalists, there are the local tree lots. Just in case you were wondering, a yule tree is a Christmas Tree, which is a decorated evergreen coniferous tree, real or artificial. It is a tradition associated with the celebration of Christmas dating back to 16th century Germany.

If you're considering a real tree this year, take the time and visit a tree farm. There are many tree farms in southeast Michigan. Go to [www.christmas-tree.com](http://www.christmas-tree.com) for a list. It's a great experience,

even if you don't purchase a real tree.

One special farm nearby is Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm at 4780 Seymour Lake Road in Oxford. The tree farm has earned environmental certification from the state of Michigan and Michigan Farm Bureau for its Earth-friendly



Dennis Zelazny

farming practices.

Owners Frank and Catherine Genovese started the farm in 1977. They can help you "tag" that perfect tree now and get it ready for pickup at a date closer to the holiday.

This was my first visit to a tree farm and I left with a wonderful feeling — an early glimpse of Christmas. The farm is the Genovese home, complete with 6,000 Christmas trees.

Frank explained that the farm expanded as their children Nicholas and Michael grew. Frank greets everyone with a hug. He is an avid organic gardener and applied many of the same Earth-friendly principles to the farm that he used in his garden. After many trials and field improvements, the family has developed the farm into a peaceful sanctuary where they grow many varieties of beautiful evergreens.

They specialize in varieties of premium "Snow Fresh" trees. It was hard to decide which I liked best — Fraser fir, concolor fir, corkbark fir, the exotic Korean fir, balsam fir, blue spruce, Black Hill spruce, Serbian spruce, white pine and Scotch pine, to name a few.

Trees designated as "Snow Fresh" are a premium quality. The "Snow Fresh" pro-



DENNIS ZELAZNY

Catherine and Frank Genovese own the Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm in Oxford. Catherine is already working on plans for her yearly wreath that will be presented to Gov. Rick Snyder next month. All materials used come from the tree farm.

gram is a Michigan tree growers' quality designation given to those farms that qualify and enroll in the program.

Frank and Catherine, who recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, make everyone who visits the farm feel welcome. Catherine says she wants guests to "leave your troubles behind, cherish all the love of the season and truly enjoy all the beauty around us." The farm is very well-tended and has a quality offering of trees. The idyllic setting is punctuated by the deer and goats that roam free on the grounds. And have you ever smelled an orange-scented Christmas tree?

The couple has invested in more than 36 miles of drip irrigation. Trees are staked and shaped by hand. The trees are in natural shades of greens and blues. When the trees are planted, the varieties are rotated in order to aid



For more pictures of my visit to Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm.

Please see TREES, 22

## TREE FACTS

### HELP DONATE THE 100,000TH TREE

Trees for Troops® is a program of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation. Since the program's inception in 2005, Christmas tree growers from across the



U.S. have generously supported military families by providing 84,000 fresh cut Christmas trees.

For the past several years, FedEx has helped to deliver, on average, 17,000 real Christmas trees each year to 60-plus military bases throughout the U.S. and overseas. Visit [www.christmasspiritfoundation.org](http://www.christmasspiritfoundation.org) for ways you can help or get involved.

### MAKE IT A REAL MICHIGAN CHRISTMAS

A new campaign for 2011. Growers in Michigan are asking residents to celebrate the season in style with Michigan-grown poinsettias and fresh Michigan Christmas trees. Buy some for your enjoyment or to give as gifts, and enjoy the wonderful benefits from making these Christmas staples a part of your holiday tradition. Visit [www.realmichiganchristmas.com](http://www.realmichiganchristmas.com) for more information.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Michigan Christmas Tree Association is making it easier for consumers to find that perfect farm-grown tree with the addition of Christmas tree farm and Christmas tree retail lot "locators" on its website. By visiting [www.mcta.org](http://www.mcta.org), families interested in finding a location to purchase a tree have the opportunity to quickly view a state map and identify farms and retail lots convenient to them.

"There is nothing that compares to the fragrance of a fresh-cut Christmas tree," says Marsha Gray from the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. "A farm-grown tree just makes Christmas feel like Christmas."



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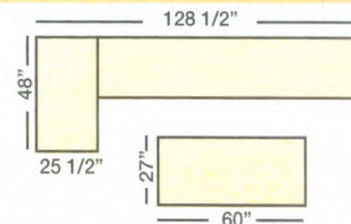
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## TECH

Continued from page 3

### Housewares

From the braintrust that brought you the iPod, comes an interactive thermostat that can save you up to 50 percent on your energy costs. The NestLabs Learning Thermostat is an advanced, programmable thermostat that uses sensors to detect when you have left your house. The \$249 thermostat can be programmed from a smartphone, tablet or computer. Unfortunately, it is currently on back order — but if you're recipients don't mind waiting, they can get it in February.

You have likely seen Wi-Fi enabled phones, computers and even TVs — but now there's even a Wi-Fi scale. The Withings Body Scale can track your weigh-ins, monitor your body fat and send it to the Withings website for easy tracking.

Take your healthy lifestyle to the next level with a FitBit lifestyle organizer. The \$99 device available at Fitbit.com tracks your entire day including sleep, caloric intake, steps and more.

### Camcorders

If you were waiting for video cameras to get smaller and more convenient, wait no longer. The Looxcie LX1 camcorder is a tiny headset camera that connects above your ear like a Bluetooth headset. The Looxcie cam presents your individual point of view that can be adjusted using your smartphone. And for as less than \$120 from multiple retailers online, the unit is affordable, too.

### Tablets

Not lucky enough to nab a \$99 HP tablet during the 2011 fire sale? Join the club. You can still however, buy the next

best thing — the Kindle Fire. The tablet, which was released this fall, features a 7-inch screen, built in Wi-Fi, weighs in at 14.6 ounces and retails for \$199.

If you want a 3G capable tablet (faster wireless speeds) there are a number of options including the 16GB iPad 2 (\$539).

### Enhanced TV

For those who want to surf the web and the channel lineup in one device there's Apple TV, Google TV and the economical Roku LT. For \$50, Roku LT can stream Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and more in 720p.

Of course, high-definition TVs with built in Wi-Fi are also great gifts and there are many models from 21 to 50 plus inches to fit any budget and any room.

### Top three games for 2011

It wouldn't be the holiday season without scores of new video game titles for the kids (and some adults, too). Here are few of the most anticipated games of the season.

**Call of Duty 3: Modern Warfare** — Available for Xbox, PS3 and PC for \$59 and for \$49 for the Wii

**Madden NFL 2012** — It's never too late to get in on the action from this classic EA Sports title which is available on the Xbox and PS3 for \$59, the Wii for \$49 and the PSP for \$39.

**Just Dance 3 Katy Perry Edition** — A family dancing game available for Xbox Kinect and the Wii for \$33.99 and the PS3 for \$39.99

**Jon Gunnells**, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.



Potted Living Trees are grown in containers. They are lightweight and easy to handle. They are available in many species and in several sizes.



PHOTOS BY DENNIS ZELAZNY

Frank Genovese shows how his living trees are double potted and how some of the 36 miles of drip irrigation works. Living trees are planted in light-weight mix and never have their roots cut. They are ready for spring planting after being used as an indoor Christmas Tree.

## TREES

Continued from page 20

in maintaining a disease-free environment.

While hunting for the perfect tree, customers are treated to Christmas music. Both Frank and Catherine are available to help answer questions in your search for the perfect tree.

One of Frank's favorites — one he has put a lot of time and effort into growing — are "potted living trees," evergreens grown in a lightweight mix for easy handling. These trees are intended for use as an indoor Christmas tree and then for planting as the ultimate "green" experience.

The living Christmas trees up to seven feet are actually grown in pots for better survivability. Living trees are available in blue spruce, Norway spruce, Black Hill spruce, Serbian spruce and Fraser fir and range in size from two to six feet tall. The pot makes them 12-15 inches taller when displayed in the house. These living trees can be used indoors, then planted in your yard.

When asked why he works the tree farm, Frank says that growing Christmas trees produces oxygen, cleans the air and water and provides animal habitats. It is a natural way of combating the carbon footprint left by the demands of our modern society. When you buy a tree at Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm and bring back the tree tag between April 15-30, they will give you a four-year-old bare-root to plant at your home.

Find out more about the tree farm at [www.candytreefarm.com](http://www.candytreefarm.com).

See you next month ... having a Dickens of a good time!

## Sudoku Answers

Intermediate

8	4	2	9	7	5	3	6	1
3	1	7	6	4	8	2	9	5
5	6	9	1	3	2	4	8	7
1	5	3	7	8	6	9	4	2
7	2	8	3	9	4	5	1	6
6	9	4	2	5	1	8	7	3
2	3	6	8	1	9	7	5	4
9	7	5	4	6	3	1	2	8
4	8	1	5	2	7	6	3	9

Advanced

8	9	2	6	3	5	4	7	1
3	1	5	4	8	7	2	9	6
7	6	4	1	9	2	8	5	3
9	8	6	3	2	4	5	1	7
5	2	7	8	1	9	6	3	4
1	4	3	7	5	6	9	2	8
2	7	1	5	6	8	3	4	9
6	3	9	2	4	1	7	8	5
4	5	8	9	7	3	1	6	2

Intermediate

5	1	4	7	3	8	6	9	2
6	2	8	4	1	9	5	3	7
3	9	7	2	5	6	1	4	8
8	6	2	5	4	1	3	7	9
4	7	9	6	8	3	2	1	5
1	3	5	9	7	2	8	6	4
7	5	3	8	6	4	9	2	1
9	8	1	3	2	7	4	5	6
2	4	6	1	9	5	7	8	3



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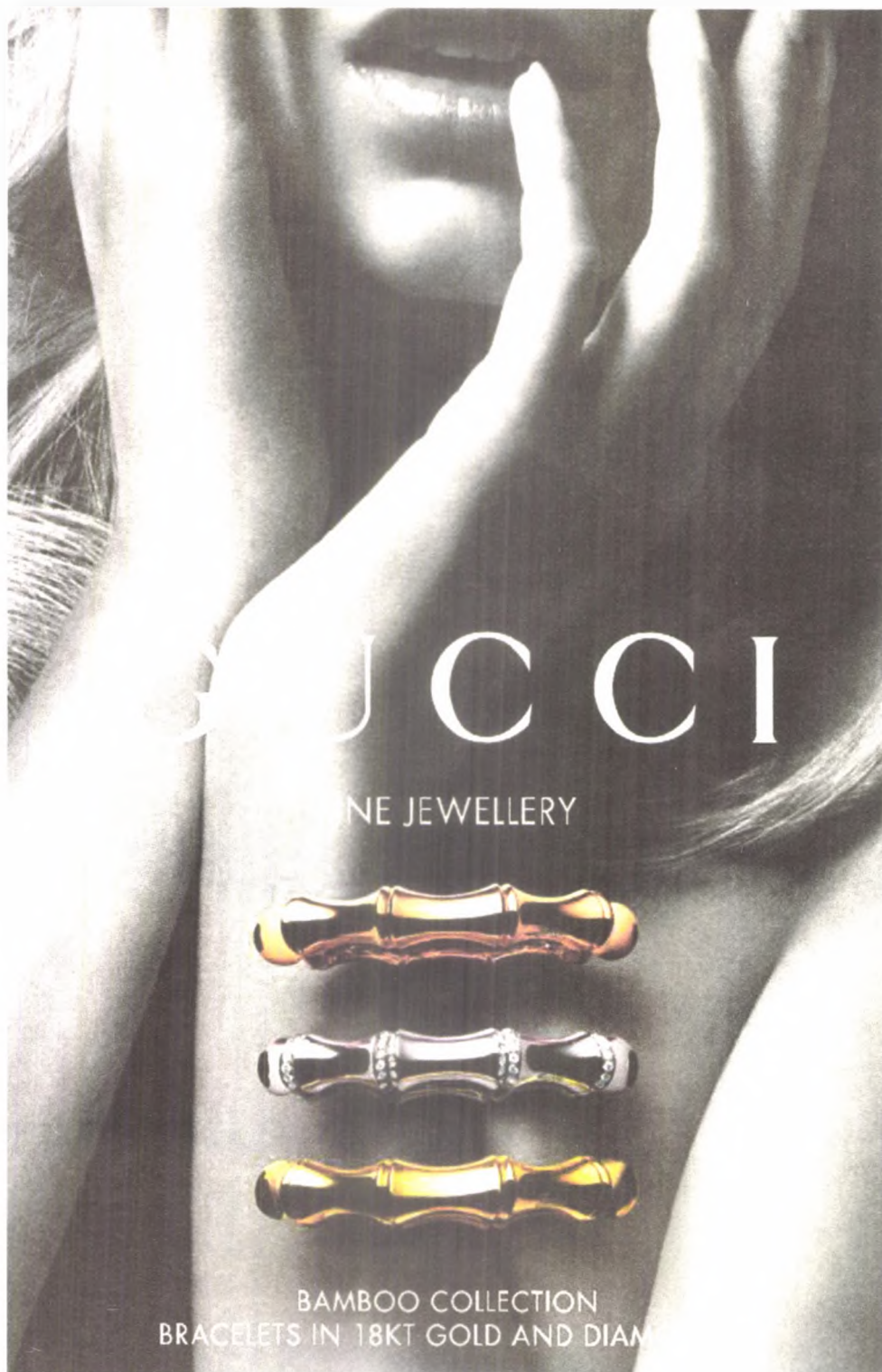
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