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EATERIES CLOSE THEIR DOORS, A2



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Santa letters

While Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus, he always makes time to read letters from children.

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa. Santa Claus has given the Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 22, issue.

Letters should be e-mailed to bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a JPEG photo of your child, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Monday, Dec. 12.

Hitting the stage

Children's theater troupe prepares for debut

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

After weeks of rehearsing at the Plymouth Historical Museum, the area's new youth theater company is moving into its new — though perhaps temporary — home.

Some 48 children enrolled in Belo's Caught in the Act Youth Theater began rehearsing Sunday at the Barefoot Productions theater on Main Street in Plymouth, in preparation for the company's fall productions this weekend: three plays, each for actors of a different age group.

"That's always a shock when they start going on stage," said company founder Sharon Belobraidich. "That takes time."

But Belobraidich, a retired teacher who used to run the Plymouth Community Arts Council's youth theater program, has directed many of the cast members before, and she's confident they'll be ready for their debut at Barefoot.

"They'll pull it together. They always do," she said.

Belobraidich, with support of parents whose children had studied with

Please see THEATER, A2



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fred the troll is Ian Barrette, and Liviana Capatina is the ballet dancer.



Director Sharon Belobraidich congratulates the cast for a good rehearsal.

District mulls plan to keep funding

All-day kindergarten targeted

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Facing the possibility of losing half of the district's funding for kindergarten students, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are moving ahead to an all-day program for more than 1,100 kindergarten students.

With the 2011-12 State Aid Act carrying a provision that cuts state funding in half for all kindergarten students in half-day programs that could carry over into the 2012-13 school year, Plymouth-Canton administrators got approval from their Board of Education Tuesday to begin developing and marketing an all-day kindergarten plan.

The need for some decision-making is made greater, according to Supt. Jeremy Hughes, because kindergarten roundup comes up in March.

"We're going to have to make this decision fairly soon," Hughes told board members at their meeting Tuesday. "There are certainly some financial implications."

The financial implications are severe. With an all-day kindergarten program, and estimating a \$7,350 per-pupil foundation grant, Plymouth-Canton would receive an estimated \$8.4 million from the state. However, if the district goes against the grain and continues with the half-day kindergarten it currently offers, that number drops to some \$4.2 million.

Plymouth-Canton is one of just three Wayne County school districts that don't offer all-day kindergarten.

Aside from the funding aspect, administrators also must wrestle with space issues. While the vast majority of the district's 16 elementary schools already have enough space to hold all-day kindergarten, three do not. Bird, Smith and Workman elementaries all fall short of the space.

Smith has only 19 of the 21 full-size

Please see FUNDS, A5

Petition fight headed back to court

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Armed with a deposition from Plymouth Township Clerk Joe Bridgman, a group of citizens working to put a tax question before township voters continues its fight today (Thursday) in Wayne County Circuit Court.

An 11 a.m. hearing is scheduled in Coleman A. Young Municipal Building, before Judge Wendy Baxter, on the attempt by the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township to have the court order township officials to put

a special assessment district proposal on the ballot for the Tuesday, Feb. 28, state primary. CAG members contend they have collected petition signatures from enough township property owners to force the Board of Trustees, under state law, to put such a proposal on the ballot.

CAG is asking for a 1-mill, five-year tax to support the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which is facing possible layoffs with the loss of more than \$900,000 of its annual revenue and about a quarter of its

Please see PETITION, A6

Big Apple business



TERRY WOHL

Plymouth-Canton Marching Band members James Kutcha, Walter Hanley, Erin Zaluzec, Dan Smith and Mike Wolf ham it up for the camera at the parade staging area on New York's 81st Street before stepping off in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. For more on the band, see our opinion page (A10), more photos on Page A8 and find a photo gallery at www.hometownlife.com.

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Ann Arbor Road eateries close their doors

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Two independent restaurants in Plymouth Township closed their doors recently, barely six months after opening last spring.

Blue Margarita II, on Ann Arbor Road east of I-275, closed around Halloween, and Moonlight Diner, a smaller eatery further west on Ann Arbor Road, closed a short time thereafter.

"Just didn't make it," said Joyce Ramirez, one of the partners at Blue Margarita II, a 210-seat Mexican restaurant, similar to the original Blue Margarita in Woodhaven. "Most of the people who came in were pretty happy with the place," but the restaurant didn't see enough traffic and perhaps didn't stand out enough to attract passers-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joyce Ramirez said the patrons who ate at Blue Margarita II, on Ann Arbor Road east of I-275, were "pretty happy," but the restaurant "just didn't make it."

by, continued Ramirez. She tried several marketing techniques, including discount coupons and thousands of fliers, but saw few results from those, she said.

"The place was beautiful. I think our food was decent," she said, but, "it got to the point where

I couldn't even pay my bills." Blue Margarita opened in April after an extensive interior makeover that gave it a Southwestern flair.

Ramirez, with decades of experience in restaurants, said she had to let go 15 full-time employees with the closing. Mean-

while, the original Blue Margarita, and another restaurant in the family, Los Galanes, in Detroit's Mexicantown, are doing "beyond excellent."

Partners from the Moonlight Diner, which opened, also in April, at a small strip mall on Ann Arbor Road near Main Street, didn't return calls earlier this week.

Moonlight was owned by three friends, one of whom was Dave Pawlowski, a trained chef who formerly owned the Omelette & Waffle Cafe in downtown Plymouth.

They billed their restaurant as a place to get healthy, home-cooked meals, and Pawlowski's chili was a frequent winner at Plymouth's annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff.

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(313) 222-2405



Assistant Cara Gross is ready to help kids with their lines.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THEATER

Continued from page A1

her through the PCAC, launched the company for actors ages 5-13 last summer.

She plans fall and spring shows each year, but is "still in negotiations" with Barefoot over whether to make that theater, the former Walker-Buzenberg furniture store, the troupe's permanent home. On Monday, rehearsals began at 4:30 p.m. and went into the evening; actors were getting used to the two-level stage at Barefoot, the lighting, and the wings just off the stage from which they'll make their entrances.

Belobraidich's actors are polishing three different youth-oriented shows based on classic folk tales: *The Three Bully Goats Griff*, *King Midas and the Touch of Gold*, and *The Frog Prince of Spamalot*.

"It's fun. Takes a lot of time to learn your lines, but it's fun," said Noah Flynn of Plymouth, a fifth-grader at Isbister Elementary.

Noah plays the court adviser to the king for the first half of *King Midas*, with Isabelle Tip-lady picking up the role for the second half. Belobraidich makes sure her productions have enough parts — with lines — for all interested actors, and both *Midas* and his adviser are taken up by new actors when *Midas* gets that golden touch.

The change works, Belobraidich said. "They do a nice job with it," she said. "They came up with a way to do it."

Noah worked with Belobraidich for several years at the PCAC; his mother, Sue, said acting has helped him build confidence and public speaking skills. "I really do think that's a big plus," she said.

Belobraidich, who is planning a round of spring shows for the first weekend in April, said she isn't sure whether the company will remain at Barefoot. But she's pleased with the support Barefoot's shown to her new venture, as well as the support from the museum and the community as a whole.

"It's worked out well. I've just been amazed," she said.

Belo's Caught in the Act Youth Theater will make its debut with three shows this weekend at the Barefoot Productions theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. *The Three Bully Goats Griff*, with a cast of 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds, will take the stage at 7 p.m. Friday and 12:30 p.m. Saturday; *King Midas and the Touch of Gold*, with 8-, 9- and 10-year-olds, is 2:30 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday; and *The Frog Prince of Spamalot*, with 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds, is at 10 a.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, \$6 each, will be available at the door.

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Snyder signs school election bills

Gov. Rick Snyder Tuesday signed legislation he said will save school districts millions of dollars by standardizing school board election dates.

Senate Bill 427, sponsored by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and House Bill 4005, sponsored by state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, require school districts to hold elections during the general elections in November of even-numbered years beginning Jan. 1. Estimates show this move could save some school districts upward of \$8 million over a two-year election cycle (in Plymouth-Canton, some \$80,000 was budgeted for last month's school board election).

"Utilizing a standard election

cycle will cut administrative costs and help schools maintain focus on educating students," Snyder said. "This change also allows for more consolidated elections so voters have the best opportunity to make their voices heard."

Since 2004, districts have had the option of conducting school board elections during the odd-year general election, the odd-year May regular election, the November regular election in even and odd years, or the May regular election in even and odd years.

In Plymouth-Canton, the move extends the terms of three board members — Judy Mardigian, Adrienne Davis, Barry Simescu — whose terms would have expired in 2013. It also extends the terms of

the four newest members — John Barrett, Sheila Paton, Mike Maloney and Mark Horvath — to 2016.

"I'm not thrilled," Mardigian, whose daughter was in kindergarten when she was first elected and is now a college graduate, said recently. "I would like to go out on the year I was supposed to. You make a commitment for a certain amount of time, and it's a commitment I take very seriously. I don't like having that decision taken out of my hands."

"I love the content of the work we do, it fascinates me and that's why I continue to do it. But at some point, it'll be time for people with kids in the district and more of a stake than I have to take up the challenge."

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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

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.

Location: Veterans Memorial Park, in front of Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth

Details: There will be a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony, a cooperative venture of the local veterans military organizations representing Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton, including American Legion Post #391, American Legion Post #112, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #528 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6695. The ceremony will conclude with the playing of "Taps" and the laying of memorial wreaths.

Contact: Frank Pawelak,

fpmasterkc@aol.com

SENIOR PARTY FUNDRAISER

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road in Canton

Details: Many direct sellers are holding a fundraiser for the 2012 Plymouth Canton Educational Park Senior Party for all three high schools. Direct sellers scheduled to be there include Boshesha Coffee, Dove Chocolates, Mary Kay, Pixie Pintz, Tastefully Simple, Bounce Away Moonwalks, Kika Paprika Clothes, Mische Handbags, Scentsy Candles, Thirty One, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Lia Sophia Jewelry, Pampered Chef, Shure Pets and Tupperware. A portion of the proceeds to benefit the senior party.

Contact: (734) 707-3602 for information

FARRAND FAIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Dec. 8, 4-8 p.m.

Location: Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar Lane

Details: Farrand Elementary School hosts its annual vendor/craft fair. Visitors can join organizers for a night of shopping, with lots of vendor items and crafts to choose from. Admission is free.

NEW HOPE OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 2, 7-10 p.m.

Location: New Hope Center for Grief Support, 17174 Crestbrook, Northville (north of 6 Mile, west of Ridge)

Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support, in cooperation with Toll Brothers Inc., will be hosting a Holiday Open House at Steeplechase of Northville. Visitors can tour the luxurious Harding Country Manor model home. The evening also includes raffles, appetizers from local restaurants, a chocolate fountain and musical entertainment. Cost

is \$40 per adult (21 and over only) prior to event; \$45 per person at the door (\$30 is tax deductible). New Hope Center for Grief Support reaches out to those grieving the death of a loved one.

PCAC EXHIBIT

Date/Time: Dec. 6-22; artist reception Dec. 17, 1-3 p.m.

Location: PCAC, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
The Plymouth Community Arts Council will feature the members of Pam Grossmann's Adult Drop-in Drawing Classes in an exhibit of winter and holiday art. Joining the group will also be members of Kay Rowe's Village Artists Studio. The work will be in various media, including watercolor, colored pencil, pen and ink, pastel and mixed media. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Contact: Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information.



Simply Dickens

Celebrate a nostalgic Christmas with the vocal group Simply Dickens, who will perform "Old World Christmas Carols" at the Plymouth Historical Museum 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. The show focuses on music of the 18th and 19th centuries, highlighting Christmas carols that were popular long ago. Some tunes will be familiar, while others may be a first-time experience. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door and can be purchased at the Museum or on the website at www.plymouthhistory.org. Museum doors will open at 6 p.m., the show begins at 7 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to come early to explore the museum's special exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story," which runs through Dec. 31. The Museum is located at 155 South Main Street, just one block north of downtown Plymouth.



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At the Canton Community Foundation's first Celebration of Success are (from left) Mike Balow of Ashley Capital, Susan Harvey of Ashley Capital, Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Dan Durack, former Canton administrative services director.



Foundation honors donors at Celebration of Success

The Canton Community Foundation's inaugural Celebration of Community Success Nov. 18 headlined a former scholarship winner and her story of achievement.

"I was so thrilled to receive a scholarship. It was so meaningful that the community was willing to invest in me," Canton resident Kim Mabie told donors. "It gave me a boost."

More than 20 donors attended the luncheon celebration at Carrabba's on Haggerty Road in Canton. "This celebration is all about you - our donors. Without you, we would not be able to achieve what we do," said Jerry Grady, foundation board chairman.

Foundation President Joan Noricks and other board members thanked donors for their generosity that over the years has allowed the foundation to address basic needs, such as hunger, through the Open Door Ministry Food Pantry, and scholarships totaling \$521,000 to 504 recipients.

Mabie is an example of the impact of the foundation's scholarships, which includes college-aged students, as well as adults interested in completing their educations.

In 2006, Mabie, who was attending Washtenaw Community College, decided to

apply for a scholarship as she helped her oldest daughter apply for college financial aid. Mabie received a \$500 scholarship to continue her education.

The mother of four daughters, Mabie fulfilled her educational goals earlier this year when she received her master's degree in speech pathology and earned her dream job in the Livonia Public Schools. In October, Mabie and her husband, Brian, a pharmacist, gave back to the foundation.

"A recipient becomes a donor," Noricks said, announcing Mabie's gift at the celebration. "It is a beautiful thing."

While honoring donors, Grady highlighted other foundation accomplishments, including creation of the Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, which has created a group of philanthropic women who provide support to women and families in need. Other accomplishments include helping educate veterans and professional advocates at annual veterans' summits, and supporting area nonprofits with quarterly Lunch & Learn programming and annual community philanthropy summits.

"They actually do something with these funds," said Jim Demmer, former foun-

dation chairman and vice president of Jack Demmer Automotive Group.

Demmer told donors about his father, Jack, also a former board member, and one of the first supporters of the Canton foundation from the organization's beginning more than 20 years ago. The senior Demmer believes in giving back to the communities in which his customers and employees live, Jim Demmer said. "If we live in the community; we make an investment in the community."

The Demmer name has long been associated with the Canton foundation, whether as an event sponsor, contributor or the family's namesake scholarship. "The scholarships make a big difference, not just financially, but motivationally, as well," Jim Demmer added.

When Jim and his wife, Linda, decided in late 2009 to provide a donor-advised fund, they weren't sure what effort they wanted to support. With Noricks' help, they chose the Canton's Open Door Food Pantry. The Plymouth residents learned that Steve and Jackie Darr, who run the food pantry, also provide a job bank, job training and job referrals.

"We were really impressed with that," Demmer said.

CRIME WATCH

Burglary in progress

Two people returning to their home on Shadywood Lane, in the area of Wilcox Road and M-14 in Plymouth Township, interrupted a burglary in progress on the night before Thanksgiving.

The homeowners told police that when they drove into the driveway of their home about 7 p.m. on Nov. 23, two males ran through the back yard and climbed a fence, heading eastward into an apartment complex. The burglars had gone through three second-floor bedrooms, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, and jewelry was reported stolen.

Police used a tracking dog to search the area but did not locate any possible suspects. One officer searching the apartment complex, however, located four watches that had been reported stolen, and they were returned to the owners, police said.

Police said the burglars had entered the house through the back door after tampering with the lock. The two were described as males in their teens or early 20s, dressed in dark clothing; the victims told police they didn't think they could identify the pair.

Another break-in

Jewelry was reported stolen from a house on Marisa Court, in the area of Ann Arbor Road and Beck, after a daytime break-in on Nov. 21.

Police said the complainant came home that afternoon to find the front door wide open. The lock on the door had been damaged, police said, and the intruder or intruders had rifled through dresser drawers.

Garage burglaries

Two pieces of luggage packed with clothing, a global-positioning system unit and a bicycle were among the things reported stolen from the garage at a house on Northern Avenue, in the area of South Main and Joy Road, after a burglary there on the night of Nov. 20.

The luggage and GPS unit were taken from a Ford Taurus parked in the garage, while the bike was taken from the garage, a police report said. The burglary was discovered about 6 a.m.; police found no signs of forced entry.

On nearby Corrinne Street, a snowblower and a bicycle were

reported stolen from a garage on Nov. 25. It wasn't clear how the garage had been entered; the complainant told police that an outdoor light had been unscrewed from its base and the manual release on the garage door disengaged.

A police report said the complainant also turned over to them a flashlight that she found in the garage that didn't belong to her, and that she found two camping chairs kept in the garage had been set in a neighboring back yard.

On Ball Street, which is also nearby, a stainless steel grill was reported stolen in a break-in of a detached garage that occurred on Nov. 21 or Nov. 22. A door to the garage, and the door frame, had been damaged, police said.

Vehicle vandalism

At least two vehicles parked outside apartments on Risman Drive, in the area of Plymouth Road and Haggerty, were vandalized on Nov. 20 or early the next day.

A football-sized rock was thrown through the rear window of a Nissan Sentra, while two tires on a Mercury Sable were punctured, according to police reports. The incidents were discovered on Nov. 21, police said.

The owner of the Sable with the slashed tires told police there had been several other such incidents.

Tire thefts

Spare tires were stolen last week from three Ford Econoline work vans at a business on General Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley.

The thefts occurred Nov. 20 or early on Nov. 21 and were discovered Nov. 21, a police report said. The spare tires had been stored underneath the Econolines, and a tool had been used to lower them, the complainant told police.

Larceny from van

An in-dashboard electronic component — a combination radio and navigation system — was reported stolen from a Chrysler Town & Country van that was broken into Saturday night.

The van had been parked at the Hilton Garden Inn, on Sheldon Road north of M-14. A window on the van had been broken out, police said, and the break-in was discovered Sunday morning.

By Matt Jachman

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Canton woman awaiting lung transplant

Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell only has one thing on her Christmas list, but it's a big one: a new lung.

Bracewell, a Canton resident, needs a lung transplant, but the costs are overwhelming. So volunteers are planning a bowling fundraiser to help.

In 1998, Bracewell came down with a bad cold that eventually worsened to pneumonia. She was referred to a pulmonologist, who diagnosed her with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, which has severely damaged her lungs. She knows firsthand how devastating COPD can be, as both her mother and aunt suffered from the disease. She has had frequent episodes of pneumonia since 2006, and her COPD continues to worsen. Doctors say a lung transplant is critical to her survival. She has undergone evaluations and was recently added to the transplant waiting list.

Despite her health battles, Bracewell, 63, is extremely positive and



Volunteers are holding a Dec. 11 bowling fundraiser to benefit Canton resident Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell (above) with medical expenses relating to the lung transplant she needs.

treasures every single day. She is determined to overcome her illness so she can return the many favors people have done for her.

Bracewell said she feels "blessed and thankful" for the love and support from her husband, Charles, and their two children and seven grandchildren. She "looks forward to the lifesaving transplant" that will give her the energy to get out of bed each day without a struggle. Because she

fighters for every breath, she is unable to enjoy activities such as bowling, taking walks and exercising, but she stays busy by reading and playing cards.

According to officials at the National Foundation for Transplants, a lung transplant costs approximately \$450,000. Even with health coverage, Bracewell faces considerable medical expenses related to her transplant, NFT officials said. For the rest of her life,

A CHANCE TO HELP

What: Bowling fundraiser for Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell
When: 4-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Where: Novi Bowling, 21700 Novi Road in Novi.

Why: To help Canton resident Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell with medical expenses relating to the lung transplant she needs.

Highlights: The event will include side jackpots and brackets, 50/50 raffles, a bake sale and a silent auction for items such as Carhartt clothing and snowmobile vacation packages.

Cost: \$20 (includes two games, two slices of pizza and soft drinks)

More help: To make a donation in Bracewell's honor, visit www.transplants.org, or mail a contribution to the NFT Michigan Transplant Fund, 5350 Poplar Avenue, Suite 430, Memphis, TN 38119. Be sure to write "in honor of Darlene Bracewell" in the subject line.

she will need follow-up care and daily anti-rejection medications. The cost of post-transplant medications can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month, and they are as critical to her survival as the transplant itself, the

NFT said.

Although she "enjoyed" her job as a cost analyst, Bracewell has been unable to work since 2008, adding to the financial strain.

To overcome these financial challenges,

Bracewell turned to the NFT for assistance. NFT is a nonprofit organization that helps transplant patients raise funds to pay for medical expenses.

"Can you imagine fighting for every single breath you take?" said Laura Hughes, NFT fundraising consultant. "That's the reality for Darlene. Most of us take the simple act of breathing for granted, but Darlene is painfully aware of each breath. At NFT, we're dedicated to helping Darlene raise the necessary funds so she can focus on her health without constantly worrying about the costs."

NFT currently assists more than 1,200 transplant candidates and recipients nationwide. For more information about NFT, call 800-489-3863 or visit www.transplants.org.

FUNDS

Continued from page A1

classrooms it would need to house an all-day kindergarten program, while both Bird and Workman fall one classroom short.

"Those three schools are pretty tight even without all-day kindergarten," said Kurt Tyszkiewicz, the district's director of student services, staffing and policy. "There's going to be a need to look at how we manage those buildings."

Hughes said that, while the state aid act currently includes the provision for funding for all-day kindergarten, legislators are "being pressured" to give districts at least one more year.

"There is pressure on Lansing, especially in these (economic) times, to not put that economic burden on us," Hughes said.

While much of the presentation surrounded funding, Pete Kudlak, the district's director of elementary education, extolled the educational benefits of an all-day kindergarten. Surveys, he

said, showed all-day kindergarten students show improvements in their later academic life in everything ranging from test scores to attendance.

He said the move to all-day kindergarten would give teachers more time to ... well ... teach.

"Teachers in the half-day program are working very hard to get all their information in," said Kudlak, a former elementary teacher. "Having that gift of time to delve into the curriculum is magical."

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PETITION

Continued from page A1

coverage area beginning next month, when the city of Plymouth leaves the department it has shared with the township for about 16 years.

Township officials, however, argue the law wouldn't limit any special assessment millage to what CAG proposes, and that therefore the petitions may have been misleading. Officials also

say it's unclear whether the signatures on the petitions represent the ownership of at least 10 percent of the land to be in the proposed special assessment district. If nontaxable property, such as churches and schools, is included, officials say, the 10-percent threshold is not met.

Bridgman calculated that the petition signatures represented 10.9 percent of the property in the proposed district, but he didn't include tax-exempt prop-

erty. CAG attorney Lisa Stempien said Judge Baxter will be presented with a deposition from Bridgman that explains how he made the calculations.

Judge Michael Sapa-la ruled against CAG's request for court intervention Nov. 23, after nearly an hour of argument, saying he didn't have enough evidence showing the 10-percent threshold had been met.

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Fundraiser helps homeless

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton church will embrace the true spirit of Christmas — helping those in need — by displaying more than 100 nativity scenes and collecting donations to fight Michigan's homeless problem.

Miniature to life-size nativity scenes from folk art to elegant and from whimsical to reverent will be on display this weekend inside the assembly hall of St. John Neumann Catholic Church, on Warren between Canton Center and Sheldon, said Barbara Weir, one of the event coordinators.

St. John Neumann parish and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Elizabeth Fagan Division will host the display to raise money for homeless programs sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which helps families in Canton and other communities.

Nonparishioners are welcome. Display hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday and continue Sunday after the three morning Masses and then 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.

Simply titled "No Room at the Inn," the event draws from a biblical passage to

illustrate the plight of the homeless and needy in the local area and beyond, organizers say. The event mirrors one started nearly 20 years ago in California that has since raised more than \$250,000.

According to a report from the Lansing-based Michigan Coalition on Homelessness, 100,000 Michigan people, including 22,000 children, were homeless at some point during 2010. Many others remain on the brink of being without a warm home as cold weather tightens its grip.

Sally Harrison, director of rental assistance and homeless solutions for the Michigan Housing Development Authority, called the situation "sobering" in a letter contained in the coalition's annual report.

"The economy continues to take its toll," she wrote, "and the foreclosure crisis persists."

Much like the coalition, St. John Neumann hopes to fight the problem by raising money and finding solutions to help the homeless.

Weir cited research noting that families are now the largest population of homeless. Moreover, she said many people in Canton and neighboring communi-

ties are one paycheck away from potential homelessness because they can't pay for housing, utilities, food and medical bills.

Weir said some people are living outdoors and out of cars, hotels or a friend's garage or porch as they struggle to find their independence — and many of them aren't counted among the homeless.

Organizers of the St. John Neumann-based nativity displays are asking for \$5 donations for adults and \$1 for children, though larger amounts would be accepted.

St. John Neumann parishioners plan to bring their nativity scenes from their homes for the display — scenes made of crystal, wood, porcelain china, clay, felt and fabric. Sets depicting the Christmas story came not only from the United States but countries as far away as Italy, Germany, Mexico and Africa.

To arrange for tickets in advance or for more information, call Weir at (734) 453-1459 or Karen Stuard at (734) 844-0166. Information by e-mail may be sought at laohelizabethfagan@hotmail.com.

dclm@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238

Jingle Bell Run/Walk this Saturday

By Lonnie Huhman
Correspondent

The Arthritis Foundation's signature event, the Jingle Bell Run/Walk, is taking place this Saturday morning in downtown Northville as a part of a larger effort to bring awareness and raise funding to help with finding a cure.

Organizers are looking to the community to help with their cause.

Local honoree Taylor Gray, 13, of Farmington Hills, will be participating for the third time.

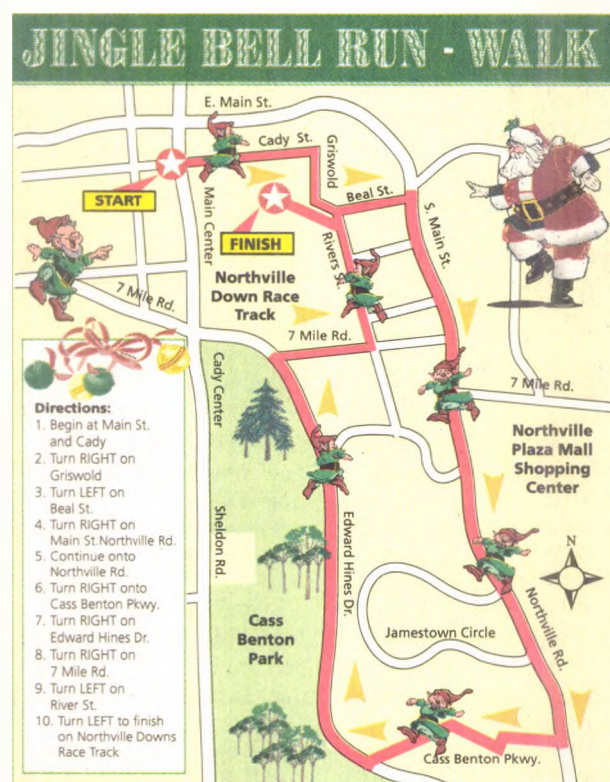
The goal of the 24th annual Jingle Bell event is to fight the No.

1 disease in America. At just 16 months old, Taylor was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, which has affected her wrists, ankles, knees, toes and fingers.

She and her family believe it is important for people to realize that children get arthritis, too.

"I would like people to understand that it's not just your grandparents who have this," Taylor said. "Many young people like me are living with this and the difficulties it brings."

She said she has not only endured joint pain, but injections and infusions as well. It also doesn't help that a general unawareness has caused some confusion amongst her classmates



Taylor Gray

when they wonder why she can't fully participate in some gym class activities.

However, she has not let this disease slow her down. Walking the 5k as a part of Team Determination this weekend is an example of her resolve.

This event is one of four similar competitive fundraisers in Michigan, the next being in Grand Rapids. It offers competitive timing, awards in 14 age categories and a post-race party sponsored by Qdoba, Busch's, Biggby, Powerade and others.

For kids there is a "Snowman Shuffle," which is a one-quarter mile fun-run for kids under 12.

There will also be prizes, including signed Red Wings memorabilia, giv-

en to the biggest team and fundraiser and for the most inventive costume. Participants are encouraged to wear a holiday-themed costume.

Tying jingle bells to one's shoelaces is a popular look.

The walk/run is a chance to help with funding critical research at Michigan universities, heightening arthritis awareness, and growing the portfolio of services and life-improvement programs the Arthritis Foundation offers to aid in the prevention, control and cure of Arthritis. The event will also support Camp Dakota, the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter's one-week, residential camp for kids with Arthritis, which Taylor participates in.

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Beware of bogus charities, be careful buying online

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Recently, I was doing some reading and came across some figures that dealt with identity theft and how it increases at this time of year. When you take a step back and think about it, I guess that's not so surprising. After all, this is the time of year that people are using their charge cards more than ever. That being said, I thought it would be important to remind you about how important it is to protect your sensitive information.

Identity theft is a crime that's probably been with us since the beginning of time. However, over the last decade or so with the advent of technology, identi-

ty theft has been one of the fastest growing crimes. What makes identity theft so dangerous is that the crooks can be anywhere. Today, with the Internet and technology, people can be anywhere around the world and steal your identity. Although, there is no 100 percent way of assuring yourself that no one steals your identity, there are things that you can do to reduce the risk. In addition, being aware that there are crooks that specialize in stealing your identity will hopefully add another line of defense. After all, that's what this is all about — reducing the chance of your identity being stolen and also, if it is stolen, to reduce the consequences.

During the holiday season, one of the major sources of identity theft is bogus charities. This time of year we're inundated by phone solicitations and e-mail blasts appealing to our good nature to give to this cause or another. There are a fair number of these solicitations that have no charitable goal whatsoever, but rather

are attempts to get your personal information, such as charge card numbers. Therefore, be extremely careful as to what charity you choose to support. My general rule is I never give through a phone solicitation. It's not like the old days where kids from the local high school called you, hoping that you would donate to the school. Today with the solicitation calls coming from all over the world, I have no idea what will happen to my charge card information. Therefore, if I am not familiar with a charity and have not given to them in the past, I will never give through a phone solicitation and that includes my local fire and police departments.

This time of year there are all sorts of deals that will give you discounts to sign up for a charge card. Most of these deals are legitimate and there are good ways to save a few dollars on your purchase. However, once again you have to be careful as to who you give this information to. A reputa-

ble store is one thing, but solicitations you see on the internet to get discounts are another thing. I'm very cautious as to whom I give information to and that includes solicitations for charge cards. The discount you receive is certainly not worth the aggravation if your identity is stolen.

People are buying more and more on the Internet. The Internet has some great advantages, but one of the disadvantages is that it's easy for crooks to operate. Therefore, during this holiday season, be extremely careful of the sites that you use for your purchases. Particularly, be very careful about linking to a site directly from an e-mail. Some of these crooks are so good that you can't tell the difference between a legitimate e-mail and a phony one. Therefore, my advice if you are going to go shopping on the Internet, type the web address in yourself as opposed to linking from an e-mail. This will protect you from being sent to a bogus site.

We must be careful at all times

regarding who we give our sensitive information to. In addition, it is also important that when we get statements and invoices that we review them for accuracy. It is always important to remember that when it comes to identity theft, you are the last line of defense for yourself. Being diligent and aware of the possibility of identity theft will not only reduce your risk of having your identity stolen, but also limit the damages that may occur.

It used to be when they said shop responsibly they meant staying within your budget. In today's world, shopping responsibly means more than staying within your budget; it also means making sure that you protect your sensitive financial information at all times. Good luck!

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



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Robert Cuffe enjoys helping people buy and sell homes

If you are looking to buy or sell a house in the Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne & Oakland county area, Robert Cuffe wants to talk to you. With 23 years of experience in the Real Estate business, Cuffe offers the same high quality service to all his clients regardless of the price of their home. Robert is the Broker/Owner of the Remerica Integrity II Realty office on 7 Mile in Northville and has just surpassed over \$124,000,000 in sales. "I enjoy working with people and have made a lot of friends through the real estate business", Robert said. "I love what I do. I enjoy seeing people's excitement upon closing on their first home, investment home or dream house".

Cuffe works with his clients until he finds the right home for them. On occasion, Cuffe has had to suggest that clients not purchase a particular house because he thought the home wasn't right for them. It is this kind of honesty that has helped him to create a loyal and steadfast client base. "I have clients that have come back to me to sell their second or third house and now their children are coming to me to buy their first house," Robert said. "Repeat business is extremely important to my real estate business."

Cuffe began his career in 1989 by ranking first in sales & listings for several years in a row, he then managed a Real Estate office in Livonia and ultimately became an owner of 3 offices, all while maintaining a high level of service to his customers and his agents.

Robert has his own website that provides information about his listings and listings that are available throughout the entire

MLS system. Anyone with a computer can go to his website and create a profile that will enable them to receive by email any new listings that come available within their search parameters. Give it a try at: www.robertcuffe.com

Cuffe constantly stays in touch with his clients to keep them informed about every aspect of their real estate transaction. He provides his clients with detailed reports by mail or email, with information on showings, feedback, advertising & marketing efforts. He also does a market analysis of all homes his clients are buying to make sure they are getting the best value for their money.

Cuffe grew up in Livonia and now resides in Northville with his wife, their three children, and two Puggle dogs Sammi & Bailey.

If you or anyone you know need the assistance of a professional full-time Realtor, or if you have ever considered getting into the Real Estate business, I encourage you to call Robert Cuffe today.



Robert Cuffe

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A bite out of the Big Apple

They came, they saw and they conquered.

And while they were doing all that, the 180 members of the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band who took the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade by storm were having fun.

Accompanied by nearly as many chaperones, coaches and staff, the band spent last week in the Big Apple, seeing the sights and performing in the biggest parade of them all.

And the performance didn't really surprise their leader.

"It took the kids a little bit to get their bearings, because they weren't used to it, but by the end, they were having a blast," said director of bands David Armbruster. "The kids nailed it on national television. They had a fantastic performance ... I couldn't be happier."

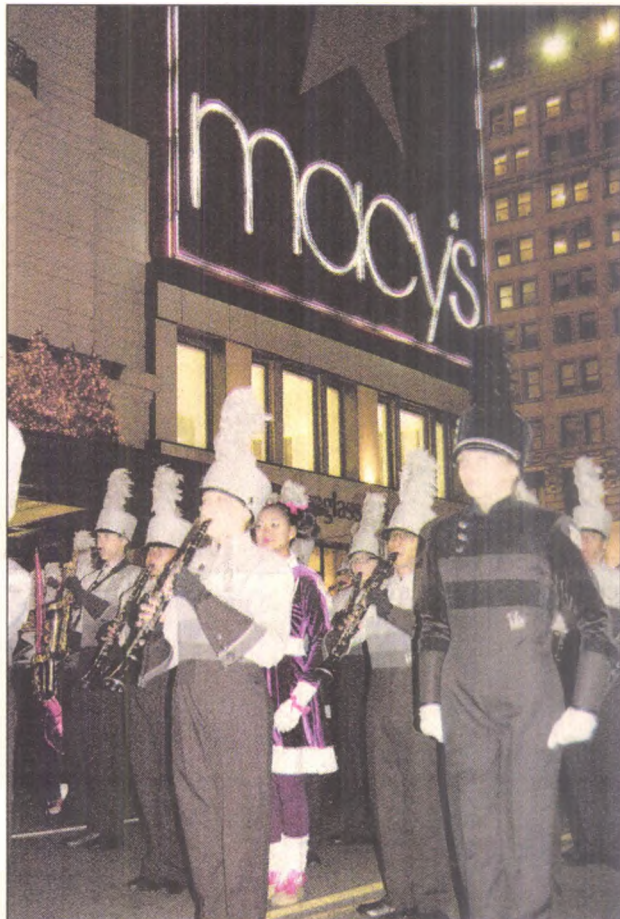


PHOTOS BY TERRY WOHL

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band steps off in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, with band members (from left) Alex Harden, Rafael Bernal, Brian Karafiasz, Kate Fessler, Daniel Kempfer and Tony Duda stepping lively.



Nick Potter and Audra Gamble ride the ferry to Ellis Island.



Queued up for dress rehearsal in Herald Square are (from left) Jeremy Welsch, Lucy Kwak, Katie Wolf, Julia Triebwasser, Veronica DeVirgilio, Brian Quintos and drum major Grace Wine.



Band members Amanda Houghton, Sarah Wohl and Emily Hanson strike a Charlie's Angels pose on the streets of New York during their Thanksgiving trip.



Drum majors Shelbie Torok, Grace Wine and Alison Johnson at the parade staging area on East 81st Street.



Band director David Armbruster (right) has encouragement for band members (from left) Kathryn Flucht, Melissa Standing, Meghn Gruenberg and James Sasinowski at the staging area.



Band directors Dave Armbruster and Jon Thomann boogie with the rest of the Plymouth-Canton Marching band on the dinner/dance cruise Friday.

Jason Jakary (from left), Sarah Wohl, Amanda Houghton, Mike Engelman, Matt McCoy, Andrew LaDuke and Alexis Shaft get a bird's eye view of the city from the Top of the Rock Observation Center.



Jessica Longe, Justine Williams, Jessica Hodge, Amanda Grimm, chaperon Julie Hodge, Bella Comsa, Liz Cody, Sara Pascalo and Gena Adler in Battery Park.



Fitness celebration



The new Planet Fitness for the Plymouth-Canton area recently celebrated its grand opening. The club is spacious and already has more than 200 members. Their monthly membership fee is \$19.99 per month and there is an annual fee of \$39. Pictured is Planet Fitness Manager Josh Lemons cutting the ribbon, along with his staff and representatives from the Canton and Plymouth Community Chambers. Planet Fitness is located at 6463 N. Canton Center Road.

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Store dashing

Ladies, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce has a night just for you.

The chamber sponsors the first "Dashing Through the Stores" on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 5-9 p.m. This event is a night for ladies to fill out wish lists from their favorite stores.

Visit the participating stores and fill out wish lists to give to your significant others plus enjoy shopping, prizes and refreshments. Several restaurants will also have special drinks, appetizers and more.

Participating this year are Agio Spa; Bed & Boutique/Little Black Heart; Bella Mia; Bohemian Home; Candy Trail; Creatopia; Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth; Delta Diamond Setters and Jewelers; Espresso Elevado; Genuine Toy Co.; Gigi's Mode; Hands on Leather; Haven; Home Sweet Home; Isabella's Copper Pot; Magnolia Fresh Flower Market; Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio; Old World Olive Press; Penniman Gallery; Razzamatazz; side-ways' Sun & Snow; Sunny J's; Sweet Afton Tea Room; Sweets 21; That's Awesome, TranquiliTea and Wilcox Consignment.

Please donate a new hat, scarf, mittens or gloves for the Plymouth Community United Way Hats for the Homeless drive. Donations can be left at any of the participating stores.

Diabetes fundraiser

Throughout December, Cellular & More, a Verizon Wireless premium retailer, will be donating a portion of their sales to the Detroit Moose charity game benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International.

"We're hoping to raise thousands of dollars throughout December," Cellular & More Owner Robert Emery said. "It's important to give back to our communities, especially during the season on giving."

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club, a division of Hockey North America, will be playing the Detroit Red Wings Alumni team Jan. 7 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. All proceeds raised will be directly donated

to the JDRFI. At last year's game, the Detroit Moose raised \$16,250 in donations for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

"We're very happy to have Cellular & More's support to help benefit this great cause," Detroit Moose Captain Derek Fowler said. "This year we're hoping to raise even more money."

Tickets and additional information about the Detroit Moose vs. Detroit Red Wings Alumni are available at www.detroitmoose.org.

12 days of Christmas

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

Metro Detroiters donating a toy at any Metro Detroit Caribou Coffee location will receive coffee discounts and bring happiness to children of parents in Goodwill job training programs.

Donations will be accepted at all 18 Metro Detroit Caribou Coffee and at eight local BD's Mongolian Grill locations from through Dec. 6.

The drive is on at the Plymouth Caribou Coffee, located at 44601 Five Mile in Plymouth, and at the Canton BD's location at 42089 Ford Road.

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

Anyone donating a new, unwrapped toy to Goodwill Industries at any of Metro Detroit's 18 Caribou Coffee locations throughout the campaign will receive one dollar off a Caribou beverage redeemable upon a future visit at any area Caribou Coffee location. Visit www.cariboucoffee.com to find the nearest Caribou Coffee location.



Employees from the Plumbing Professors call center in Canton pose with folks from the company's local service center in Farmington Hills.

Local firm saves landscape, money

When a sewer problem arises, homeowners could be spending much more money than necessary.

Plumbing Professors, based in Canton, looks at not only saving residents money, but also preserving landscape and trees in an eco-friendly green way. Company officials say their Sewer Epoxy Pipe Lining saves money and time and eliminates messes and "may be just what your home needs to repair a problem that normally requires digging up and removing smelly, bulky pieces of crud encrusted pipes."

Lining simply requires accessing the problem pipes through small holes or clean out valves. A 10-20 year warranty applies, along with a 100-percent guarantee of "No Dig" sewer and pipe repairs which amounts to no costs spent on restoration of landscaping.

"Epoxy Pipe Lining is very environmentally friendly and you're able to save structures including patios, pools, besides

ing," officials pointed out.

As a case in point, Plumbing Professors has been on The University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor for two months now. The notable East Quad Dormitory has plans to undergo renovation next year but before the university begins construction, Plumbing Professors has been hired to eliminate storm water from entering the lower level of the building during heavy rains.

The contract, officials said, was awarded to them because of their ability to preserve a number of historic 100-year-old trees that's roots have grown over the dorms storm system. Plumbing Professors will be using their "No Dig" Epoxy Pipe Lining Process which will repair the existing Storm Piping System to prevent future root infiltration without needing to damage or remove trees which are an icon at The University of Michigan.

In addition, they've been working on the

grounds of the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit for over two years after being awarded the contract to install their Cured in Place Pipe System, to repair deteriorated cast iron rain water conductors that were imbedded in concrete and limestone. During rains these 106-year-old conductors would leak into the church and stain the limestone block.

Plumbing Professors installed over 700 feet of cured-in-place pipe inside the old weathered pipe to eliminate the problem, saving tens of thousands of dollars. This modern process reduces expenses, is fast and keeps the sewage contaminants in the drainage system.

Plumbing Professors is the third-largest small diameter pipe lining company in the United States and Canada serving residential and commercial properties. Plumbing Professors can be reached by calling (800) 654-1300.

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OUR VIEWS



TERRY WOHL

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band nailed their performance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Nailed it Band earns respect with Macy's march

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band got a lot of attention last week for its appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

And they deserved every bit of it. The PCEP band was chosen, using a stiff set of qualifying criteria, to be the first Michigan high school marching band to march in the New York City tradition.

Since being notified of their selection last year, band members put in countless hours getting ready, choosing the music they'd play, setting the steps, honing the performance. They did all that while also preparing for, and marching successfully through, its usual competition season. They passed on the band's annual sojourn to nationals in Indianapolis this year in order to be ready for, and take part in, the Macy's parade.

Think they didn't have their work cut out for them? Band director David Armbruster was trying to figure out how to shave off the last tenths of a second off the performance of two "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" songs to fit it into the parade's strict guidelines.

They rode buses — OK, they were private coaches, not school buses, but still they rode buses — to get to New York. They were up at 3:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day to make final preparations, then were back at the site just hours later to step off.

They fought off all the distractions of the Big Apple and the nerves of three million people along the parade route and a national television audience. They embraced the challenge and, as they have done in local, state and national competitions, shined brightly.

It wasn't all business. The kids saw celebrities and sights, visited the Empire State Building and Times Square.

For at least part of their five-day trip, they were tourists like millions of other visitors to the city.

But when it was time to get down to business, the band was all business. They shook off the nerves, ramped up the effort and stepped off with pride. For the length of the parade route, and particularly for their 75 seconds on the mark, Plymouth-Canton marchers showed a nation what the folks back home have known for a long time.

They did what they always do, whether it's on a small scale or a national platform.

They nailed it.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your favorite holiday movie?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"'The Bishop's Wife.' ... The original, of course. ... Played it while I was putting up the Christmas tree."

Mary Cunningham
Plymouth Township



"'White Christmas.' I just like the music and the people in it from years ago."

Sharon Paule
Canton Township



"Oh, I have several. I love 'The Santa Clause,' 'The Holiday' and 'It's a Wonderful Life.'"

Sandra Spiteri
Livonia



"The best one, I would say, is the (story of) the birth of Christ. I can't think of the name. That's what it's all about. ... 'Christmas Story' is a good one."

Ed Healey
Ann Arbor

LETTERS

Put packets online

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, under the direction of the Board of Education, is embarking on a very dramatic restructuring of all of the schools in the district, effective September 2012.

If they want the public to have any confidence in their ability to carry out this restructuring and lead our children into a high-tech global and information based world, they would do well to make very dramatic changes of their own.

They can start by embracing technology and transparency. Currently, the Board of Education publishes something it refers to as a "board brief," instead of official board minutes. These briefs are one page and contain, at most, one sentence about each agenda item. The official minutes, on the other hand, capture everything that happens at the board meetings and all committee meetings, including how each board member votes on a particular matter.

Surrounding communities and other branches of government have been making official minutes available to their constituents for years.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

It is time our Board of Education did this for us.

In addition to publishing the minutes on its website, the board can also direct the administration to upload the "board packets" to the website. Board packets contain all of the information distributed to board members for use at each board and committee meeting, including copies of PowerPoints and other documents presented or refer-

enced during the meetings. Currently, a handful of these packets are made available in hard copy form on a table outside the meeting (yes, I said "hard copy").

The majority of people who attend the board meetings do so by watching them on cable or viewing them online. There is no technological reason those board packets cannot be uploaded to the website. All of the documents are electronic to begin with. It takes just seconds to upload a pdf file. I'm guessing that "disc space" is not a problem anymore.

In fact, the district's communications director, Frank Ruggirello, has said that he personally has no problem putting these documents on the website but hasn't done so because the board won't direct him to do it.

If the Board of Education and superintendent expect us to trust that they have the leadership and vision to move our district forward and away from a 1990s mentality, they need to show that they can embrace technology and provide access to this information.

Nancy Conzelman
Plymouth Township

GUEST COLUMN

Tax credit elimination won't deter generosity

By **Joan Noricks**
Guest Columnist

When Gov. Rick Snyder first proposed eliminating state tax credits for contributions to community foundations and other charitable organizations, the nonprofit world gasped.

When the state Legislature later adopted Snyder's budget reform package, the nonprofit world took pause.

Following the initial shock, nonprofit leaders snapped themselves back to the reality facing Michigan and realized that any support always has, and always will be, valued — regardless of tax incentives.

As the end of 2011 draws near, individuals, families and businesses may hear from favorite nonprofit agencies. These organizations will remind you that should you want to take advantage of the state tax credit for charitable contributions, now is the time. The venerable tax credit will be eliminated as of Jan. 1, 2012.

The elimination was included in Gov. Snyder's tax reform package to reduce Michigan's budget deficit. Snyder has claimed that the tax credit elimination will save the state

government some \$50 million and eventually spur job growth.

The Canton Community Foundation understands that all sectors must do their part to make Michigan stronger. The foundation has encouraged all area nonprofits to inform their donors of this impending change. From all accounts, our area nonprofits are forging ahead and fulfilling their missions and goals.

Under the current tax credit, donors who contribute \$200 or more receive a tax credit of \$100. If filing jointly, a gift of \$400 or more will provide a tax credit of \$200. Businesses fare even better.

A gift of \$10,000 or more will receive a tax credit of \$5,000 or 5 percent of the total tax liability for that business, or whichever is less.

And more good news for donors is that the federal income tax deduction donors earn with contributions will remain in effect, despite Michigan's changes.

The Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit was signed into law in late 1988 to encourage individuals, families and businesses to help build permanent endowments for community foundations. Before the birth of the state tax credit, community foundations served only about one-third of Michigan. Today, community foundations serve 64 of Michigan's 83 counties.

Endowment growth is paramount to charitable organizations as the larger the endowment, the

more grants that can be given to worthy causes. In 1989, grants awarded by foundations hovered at about \$1.7 million. By 2008, the value of awarded grants grew to more than \$130 million.

That's just a quick indication of how well the state tax credit worked for community foundations and other charitable organizations that were included under the 1988 state law. Organizations such as libraries, universities, museums, public radio, food banks and homeless shelters will be among those organizations that will lose this advantage beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

Unfortunately, there is irony to the elimination of the Michigan tax credit. As public coffers continue to shrink, public budgets are cut, and public services are reduced, the burden of providing eliminated services to individuals and families in need will fall to nonprofit agencies.

The state credit was a much-needed incentive to help build the state's charitable organizations during the past two decades. Of course, the incentive will be missed. But at the Canton Community Foundation we believe that those who want to help others in the community will continue their generosity with, or without an incentive.

Joan Noricks is the president of the Canton Community Foundation. She may be reached at (734) 495-1200 or at jnoricks@cantonfoundation.org.



Cast members (back, from left) Jonathon Wennstrom and Christine Steves and (front, from left) Linda Stanko, Michael Corliss, David Alexander, Elizabeth Whitcomb and Nathan Corliss help Barefoot Productions bring "A Christmas Carol - A Narrative" to the stage Dec. 10.



The Spotlight on Youth cast features youth actors from Plymouth, Canton, Belleville, Westland, South Lyon and Dearborn Heights.

Barefoot's 'A Christmas Carol' keeps tradition

Plymouth's own Barefoot Productions will keep a holiday tradition going with its third annual production of "A Christmas Carol - A Narrative," Saturday, Dec. 10. This unique and intimate reading of A Christmas Carol is a tribute to the original performance given by Charles Dickens.

Craig Hane, artistic director and founder of Barefoot Productions, edited and adapted his own version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" for the annual, reading presented by Barefoot Productions. Hane's adaptation is 'voiced' for seven actors to perform over 42 character voices.

Performers include Linda Stanko (Grosse Ile), Jonathon Wennstrom (Livonia), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), David Alexander (Dearborn), Elizabeth Whitcomb (Livonia) and Nathan Corliss (Canton), all of whom return for their third year to perform the reading. New to the cast this year is Michael Corliss of Livonia.

nia. The suggested \$30 donation for admission includes tasty offerings from local and area merchants, and supports Barefoot Productions' activities throughout the year. Returning for the third year will be hot-mulled and cold wines from the Vintner's Canton Winery, a selection of teas from Plymouth's own TranquiliTea, and an assortment of pastries from Sweets21. Also helping are Gerard Tuxedo Rental and Your Event Party Rental.

All proceeds of the night will aid in the production budget for the remainder of Barefoot Productions 2011-2012 season. All donations are tax-deductible. Barefoot Productions is a 501(c)3 non-profit community theater, Plymouth's only live, adult, 'Theater for the Community.'

Barefoot Production is located at 240 N. Main Street, Plymouth, in the old, Walker/Buzenberg Building, by the train tracks, next to Bode's restaurant.

Spotlight Players bring 'Virginia' to stage

Audiences at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill will be on hand when Virginia gets her question answered as Spotlight on Youth presents, "Santa Lives! Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," Dec. 8-11.

Inspired by the famous editorial by Francis R. Church of the "New York Sun Times" an 8-year old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, asked if there really was a Santa Claus. In this play, Virginia loses Christmas spirit when her classmates bah-humbug the holiday play she writes for the school. Will Virginia get her holiday spirit back? Maybe a surprise visit from Santa Claus is all she needs.

This show is 90 minutes long and, organizers say, perfect for little ones who can't sit still long. Santa Claus will be available after the show to take photos with kids.

"This show will appeal to all of those who believe and may not believe in Santa Claus," director Barbara Bloom

said. "You will not only enjoy your time spent watching this charming production but also leave the theater knowing that Santa lives!"

The Spotlight on Youth cast features more than 20 youth actors from Plymouth, Canton, Belleville, Westland, South Lyon and Dearborn Heights.

The play shows 7 p.m. Dec. 8-9, 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 10 and 2 p.m. Dec. 11, in the Biltmore Studio of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Tickets are available by phone at the Village Theater box office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or www.spotlightplayersmi.org or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door. Tickets are \$9-\$10 each.

Spotlight Players is the resident adult theater group for the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Formerly the Plymouth Theater Guild, Spotlight

Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

and has been part of the community for 65 years.

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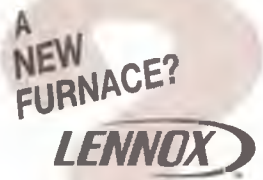
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New comment system requires real names of users

By Larry Ruehlen
Observer Staff Writer

It's the end of the anonymous era. Hometownlife.com, the website for the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown Weekly Newspapers*, now requires posters to sign on by using their real names. Company officials believe the move will result in a "higher-quality discussion" on story chats.

"We ask those submitting letters to the editor to sign their name to printed material and this is no different. I believe this new policy is a start in raising the level of quality discussion and engagement on our website," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor and publisher of the *O&E* and *Hometown Weeklies* and hometownlife.com.

Readers are required to log into a registered Facebook account to comment on *Plymouth Observer* stories at Hometownlife.com. Gannett Co. Inc. announced in October it will make that change for all of its U.S. community publishing and broadcast sites.

Other Gannett-owned sites affected in Michigan are the *Lansing State Journal*, *Detroit Free Press*, *The Livingston Daily Press & Argus*, *Battle Creek Enquirer* and *WZZM-TV*. The official Gannett-wide Facebook comments deployment began last week and is scheduled to finish in January.

News organizations that implement Facebook commenting abilities on their sites say they are seeing "higher-quality" discussion and a "significant increase in referral traffic," according to a report by Jeff Sonderman, a digital media fellow at The Poynter Institute. Poynter is a school in St. Petersburg, Fla., that advocates for

journalistic excellence. The Gannett changes to the new commenting system weren't reckless, said Luz Long, Gannett Digital project coordinator.

"We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment," the Gannett e-mail announcement sent by Long reads. "However, our aim is not to shut out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages high-quality and relevant contributions."

"By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us."

Pilot study

Gannett selected five sites of varying audience sizes to pilot the changes over the course of a few months, Long said. The pilot sites were ksdk.com, 13wmaz.com, travel.usatoday.com, newspress.com and desmoinesregister.com.

The changes were prompted in an effort to keep up with digital media trends, Long said.

Gannett will continue using Pluck, the company's current application programming interface for commenting, to power other website components, such as reader blogs. Alternatives to the Pluck API system, however, will be "explored in the coming months," according to Gannett's announcement.

The new system prohibits pornography, hate speech, threatening language, graphic violence, bullying, and spam, aligning with current Gannett moderation guidelines. Current Gannett moderation policies ban abuse, harassment, threats, vulgarity and spam.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Why the switch?
A: The decision to change our commenting tool was not made lightly. We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment. However, our aim is not to shut out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages high-quality and relevant contributions. By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us.

Q: What are the benefits of using my Facebook account on www.hometownlife.com?

A: Once you log into your Facebook account and start commenting, there will be no need to maintain a separate login on the site. Plus, you will be able to use the Facebook grammar filter; 'Like' and follow other readers' posts; include your friends in the conversation; get instant notifications when someone responds to your comment; view the most relevant comments from friends, friends of friends and the most active threads; and hide spam.

Q: I'm logged into my Facebook account, but unable to comment.

A: If you are signing up for Facebook just to post a comment keep in mind that new accounts will have to make a few friends and upload an avatar before becoming "active" and participating on the site. This helps to establish your identity as well as the identities of others using Facebook. For issues concerning Facebook we encourage you to check with their Help Center, <http://www.facebook.com/help/>

issues/.
Q: Can I leave a comment if I don't have a Facebook account?
A: After the switch is made to the entire site, anyone wishing to post a comment will need an active Facebook account. If you don't have one, don't worry. It's easy to sign up at Facebook.com <http://www.facebook.com>.

Q: Why does my Facebook photo and user name appear on the page when I haven't posted a comment?

A: If you're signed into Facebook, you will be able to see your information, but it will not be visible to anyone else until the comment publishes.

Q: If I post a comment will other people be able to see my information or photos?

A: What others see when they click on your information is determined by your Facebook privacy settings. For assistance in updating your settings please visit the Facebook Help Center <http://www.facebook.com/help/privacy>.

Q: Do the site's Conversation Guidelines still apply?

A: Yes, you make a difference in the community when you add civil and respectful contributions to the conversation and report abusive comments and identities. If you suspect someone is using a fake or abusive account, report them directly to Facebook by clicking on the user's profile, then clicking "Report/block this person" at the bottom left of the page. For abusive or inappropriate comments, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment and report it as spam or abuse.

Q: Why can't I see the comments?

A: Comments on www.hometownlife.com are public, which means anyone logged in or out of Facebook should be able to view them. If you cannot see the comments, check with your IT department.

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Choral concert

Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, presents a holiday choral concert 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The concert of about 90 minutes will be followed by a reception in the church's social hall. Proceeds from ticket sales will support a mission project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, by a team of 10 Newburg Church members who will travel there in April. Tickets are \$12 and can be obtained by calling (734) 459-5631.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW PT. 2

Chiefs will stick to the script

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Off to colleges are the five stellar seniors who propelled Canton's varsity girls basketball team to consecutive appearances in the Final Four.

But with one key starter back for the 2011-12 season, the beat goes on for the Chiefs — featuring a new look but the same old blueprint for success.

"We got different players and they got different roles," said Brian Samulski, entering his seventh season as the team's head coach. "But we still have the same expectations we've always had. "We're going to come out, we're going to defend, we're going to rebound, take care of the ball and compete. And we go from there."

Mack is back

The lone returning starter from the team that went 24-3 last season is senior point guard Robyn Mack.

She will be instrumental to how the Chiefs fare in the KLAA South Division, with additional responsibilities on the offensive end.

"It's completely different

because now the attention is on me more," Mack said. "I don't mind it, but it's kind of nerve-racking because Brian expects a lot and it's a little bit different role from last year."

According to Samulski, a lot is expected of the fourth-year player. But he has no reason to believe she won't be able to deliver.

"Robyn started all three years, she's gone 68-8 in her three years as a varsity point guard," Samulski said. "So I have very high expectations for her (and) she understands that."

"She's going to be expected to score a lot more this year than she has in the past. And I think she's ready and willing to take on the challenge."

For example, Mack will need to score in the double digits following last year's average of 6.0 points per game.

Yet Mack welcomes the challenge and noted that it will benefit her being part of recent Canton teams along with the Schmitt twins (Kari and Sara), Melanie Pickert, Kayla Bridges and CarolAnn Sexauer.

"I think it will help me, but I

Please see CHIEFS, B3



During last season's Division 1 semifinal, Canton's Robyn Mack (No. 4) looks to score against Inkster.

Cellular & More joins charity effort

Throughout December, Verizon Wireless premium retailer Cellular & More will be donating a portion of their sales to the upcoming charity hockey game by the Detroit Moose, which will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International.

"We're hoping to raise thousands of dollars throughout December," said Robert Emery, owner of Cellular & More. "It's important to give back to our communities, especially during the season of giving."

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club will be playing the Detroit Red Wings Alumni team on Saturday, Jan. 7, at Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. The puck drops at 5 p.m. All proceeds raised will be directly donated to the JDRFI.

At last year's game, the Moose (a community-minded amateur team made up of older players) raised \$16,250 in donations for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

"We're very happy to have Cellular & More's support to help benefit this great cause," said Derek Fowler, captain of the Moose and a Canton resident. "This year we're hoping to raise even more money."

Tickets and more information about the Detroit Moose vs. Detroit Red Wings Alumni are available at detroitmoose.org.

Salem looks to parlay defense into wins

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It almost hurt veteran Salem varsity girls basketball coach Fred Thomann to smile when talking about his team as the 2011-12 season draws near.

Last summer, Kayla Kavulich tore her ACL and won't play all season. Junior starting forward Breanne Beaver is awaiting medical clearance to return to the court after tweaking her knee during the volleyball season.

Add to that the players who have either been sick or nicked up as Thomann tries to map out his starting five in advance of the Dec. 6 opener against vis-

iting Ann Arbor Huron. "We just got to get them on the floor," said Thomann, starting his 29th season at the Salem helm. "We got to see who's here."

Thomann is cautiously optimistic that Beaver (8.5 rebounds per game in 2010-11) will be back sooner rather than later.

He knows that senior point guard Katelynn Krause will be ready to go, taking over the job handled by recent graduate Heidi Schmidt.

Figuring it out

"We're still in the process of putting our starting group together," Thomann added. "We know right now that Kate-

lynn Krause is a full-time starter, Breanne Beaver, if she gets release from the doctor she'll start. Then it's a matter of fitting the other pieces together."

Because he employs a motion offense, the other players will be wing guards who can handle action down low or around the three-point arc.

At the top of that list is senior Brianna Berberet, last year's top scorer with 10 points per contest.

Another senior, Katie Heitmeyer, will be an important all-around player while the team's other senior is Jenny

Please see SALEM, B3



JOHN KEMSKI

Salem senior point guard Katelynn Krause will be a catalyst for the Rocks in the 2011-12 season, which opens Tuesday.

MU's Brda All-Academic

Madonna University senior women's soccer player Diana Brda (Livonia Franklin) was named to the 2011 Capital One College Division Academic All-America second team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) on Monday.

The College Division Academic All-America soccer teams are comprised of student-athletes from NAIA, Canadian and two-year institutions.

A psychology major with a 3.83 grade point average, Brda becomes the fourth Academic All-America selection in Madonna history, joining softball's Erin Brockert along with volleyball's Karie Altman and Natalija Tinnina.

The Westland native, a three-time Academic All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference selection, was named to the All-WHAC honorable mention team this fall and led the WHAC in assists with 13.

She currently ranks fifth nationally in assists per match and 14th in total assists.

To be eligible for Capital One Academic All-America consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher, have reached sophomore academic and athletic standings at its current institution and be nominated by the school's sports information director.

Winning start for Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Maybe it was opening night jitters, but both Plymouth and Farmington Hills Harrison had trouble finding the bottom of the bucket in Tuesday's season opener.

Fortunately for the host Wildcats, the second half of the non-conference varsity girls basketball tilt went much smoother — connecting on 10 of 15 tries from the field en route to a 36-25 victory.

"I think in the first half their press, we weren't solving it the way we normally would solve it," said Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear, whose squad made just five of 21 field goal attempts in the opening half. "I thought we got some good shots in the first half against it, but we just didn't make them."

"But in the second half we got to their press a little bit, and I think that was big."

Scoring 11 points for Plymouth was sophomore point guard Kylie Robb, with senior forward Chyna Williams chipping in with eight points and seven rebounds.

Other key Wildcats included senior guard Kate Watson (six points, five boards), sophomore forward Shelby Cheston



JOHN KEMSKI

Plymouth's Shelby Cheston (No. 34) gets ready to rebound a missed free throw during Tuesday's game.

(six points, five boards) and sophomore guard Alyssa Dillon (five points, five assists).

Plymouth's top rebounder was sophomore forward Jada Woody, with eight.

Handing out kudos

"Kylie Robb controlled the game, she had a great game," de Bear said. "Watson, Dillon, those

guys were solid out there. Jada was rebounding, scoring and handling the ball."

Top scorers for the Hawks were senior guards Tiera Parker and Joslyn Wilcox, with eight and seven points, respectively. Adding five points was senior guard RaeAnna Sollostre.

Please see WILDCATS, B3

Tear rips Rocks with OT goal

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

An ugly goal ended a beauty of a high school hockey game Saturday night between Canton and Salem.

Canton senior forward Duggan Tear jammed the puck past Salem junior goalie Anthony Veresan with just 1.3 seconds left

BOYS HOCKEY

in overtime to give the Chiefs a 2-1 victory at Plymouth Cultural Center.

The deciding play started with a routine slap shot that hit the glass behind the Rocks' net. Canton senior forward Brandon Grillo got to the puck and sent a feed in front to Tear, who was stationed at the left post.

"Grillo went around and just threw it in front and it just happened to hit Tear in front and he shot it in the net," Canton head coach Jeremy Majsak said. "There was a big scrum in front of the net, the goalie was down and he just happened to be in the right place at the right time."

The victory for the

Chiefs followed a 2-1 win over Plymouth.

"We don't give up, we keep going the whole game," said Tear, who also scored a big goal against the Wildcats. "Plymouth and now Salem, it's been a good year so far."

Campus competition

The frantic conclusion to the KLAA South Division matchup of campus rivals was similar to one of last year's meetings when the Chiefs nipped host Salem 3-2.

"Any time you play Plymouth, you play Canton, with all three teams being so close it's always going to be a good game," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "That's what we had last year and that's what we had tonight. That was a great high school hockey game."

"Unfortunately, it was a second too long for us." Majsak said the game was "just like last year (against Salem), it was a battle and their goalie kept them in it. We must have had a ton of shots today."

Please see ICERS, B2

DIVISION 1 FOOTBALL FINAL

Cass Tech's frosh QB carves up CC defense

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's normally airtight defense was dissected by a 14-year-old surgeon Saturday afternoon in the Division 1 football final at Ford Field.

Detroit Cass Tech freshman quarterback Jayru Campbell, who was handed the keys to the Technicians' high-powered offense in August even though he's too young to drive, threw for 240 yards and five touchdown passes to lead his team to a 49-13 victory over the Shamrocks.

The game marked the first time in Tom Mach's tenure as head coach that a Catholic Central team had been on the wrong side of a running clock.

With his Ben Wallace-esque Afro escaping out of the fringes of his green helmet, Campbell souped up the Technicians' offense with a variety of darts and bombs to his arsenal of speedy receivers.

Helping Campbell's cause was an athletic offensive line that made sure their quarterback was only touched on touchdown-celebrating body bumps.

"We wanted to get a little more pressure on him than we did, but they did a good job of keeping us out," said Mach. "He could stand back there and wait for people to come open. They spread their receivers across the field and did a very nice

job of using their talent."

It didn't take long for Cass Tech head coach Thomas Wilcher to realize he had a special player in Campbell.

"After our first day of practice (in August), I told Jayru's dad, 'Watch out, your son's going to shock the world,'" Wilcher said.

Leading up to Saturday's game, Wilcher said he was confident his offense could exploit the Shamrocks' defense.

"I told the guys all week that there was no way they were going to shut us down," Wilcher said. "I told them that if we don't throw for over 300 yards, it's our fault. There are too many ways you can pass the ball against that team, and we took advantage of it."

Cass Tech offensive lineman Daryl Goldsmith praised his team's determination in the trenches.

"The desire to win beats technique every time," Goldsmith said. "They used a lot of technique, but we were stronger up front and we wanted it more."

If Campbell was nervous, he didn't show it. Poised in the pocket, he delivered tight, accurate spiral after tight, accurate spiral.

"I wasn't nervous at all," he said. "I knew my teammates had my back and I knew my coaches had my back. I knew we were going to get a 'W'."

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Cass Tech's Lewis Jordan is tackled by David Racey of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central during Saturday's Division 1 final at Ford Field.

Shamrocks drive for title stalls at Ford Field

By Jeff Theisen
Sports writer

Cass Tech walked as a team from its campus Saturday at Ford Field.

Once there, the Technician offense picked up the pace and ran by Novi-Detroit Catholic Central for a 49-13 victory and the Division 1 state championship.

"We got outplayed today," said Catholic Central head coach Tom Mach. "I was very proud of our team throughout the whole year, we met our match today. They did a great job."

Cass Tech freshman quarterback Jayru Campbell passed for 240 yards and five touchdowns to lead the explosive offense.

"We wanted to get a little more pressure on him, but we didn't," said Mach. "They did a very good job of keeping us out and not putting pressure on him so he could stand back there and

wait until people came open and hit them. They had us spread across the field. They used the talent they had very well.

"Every time we would blitz or go to a sixth man in the middle, they would throw. When we went to a fifth man in the middle, they ran. They put us in a bind."

Early start

The Technicians scored the lone points of the first quarter when Royce Jenkins-Stone broke free for a 32-yard run. The extra point was no good.

The lead grew to 14-0 when Campbell connected with Ruben Lile for a 46-yard strike and threw added a two-point conversion via the pass.

Catholic Central answered right back on the ensuing drive when quarterback Kyle Cooper delivered a screen pass to Anthony Darkangelo who got a block and was gone for a 47-yard touch-

down with 7:25 remaining in the half.

Cass Tech regained a 14-point edge right before the half when Campbell hit Terry Richardson with a 36-yard TD.

The Technicians (11-3) added two more scores in the third quarter for a 35-7 lead entering the fourth quarter and they didn't let up as Campbell found Jordan Lewis for a 46-yard score in the opening minute of the fourth.

The Shamrocks aren't built for big comebacks, and the next play proved it. Jenkins-Stone picked off a CC pass and returned it for a score and a 49-7 lead.

The final score came with a little more than two minutes to play when CC's David Houle crashed in from a yard out, but the point after was no good.

Catholic Central was held to 83 yards rushing on 30 attempts. Co-

per did hit on seven of 14 passes for 143 yards, but a third of that came on the screen to Darkangelo.

"We're a pound-it-out type of team and that's what we like to do," said Mach. "We weren't able to do that today."

Houle led the ground game with 57 yards on 11 attempts. Zach Bock was next with 18 yards on eight carries.

Darkangelo was lone Shamrock with multiple catches. He hauled in four for 97 yards.

Despite the way the season ended, Mach was impressed with what his group accomplished along the way to the State Finals.

"I'm very proud of our team," said Mach. "Until this game, we were fighting and clawing through a pretty tough league. Very few teams in our league have lost at all. We've been great up this point. Today, it just came unraveled."

ICERS

Continued from page B1

They kept sending rubber (38 shots) toward Veresan, who showed quickness and excellent positioning at the top of the crease.

"Anthony, his first regular season high school game stepped up, played phenomenally well," Ossenmacher said. "Espe-

cially early in the game I thought he kept us in it.

"So to come out in a situation like this, and a stage like this, and perform like he did is a very good indication for things to come."

Craig was just as good for the Chiefs, stopping all but one of 32 Salem shots.

First things first

Yet Canton (2-1-0) needed to score a power-play

goal at 9:18 of the third period to even send the game to OT.

A wrist shot from the left circle by Grillo was stopped, but the persistent Chiefs stayed on the rebound until senior forward Taylor Baker chipped it inside the right post to make it 1-1. Also assisting was sophomore defenseman Collin Smith.

After two scoreless periods, the Rocks got on the board first.

Salem junior forward Alek Zultowski poked in the rebound of a point shot by senior forward Mark McGee with 13:46 left in the third.

Drawing the second assist for the Rocks (0-2-0) was senior forward Austin Sartorius.

Despite the tough ending, Ossenmacher said the game was an improvement from a 7-2 loss to Novi in the season opener (McGee scored both Salem goals in that tilt).

With only three seniors in the lineup and a fourth not yet back from an injury (defenseman Michael Manser), the coach expects there to be a learning curve early during the season.

"I think any team the goal is to be better at the end of the year than it is to be at the beginning of the year," Ossenmacher said. "But with a team as young as ours is I think it's a lot steeper hill to climb."

"... We've got a lot of learning to do. But just from Wednesday to today, we worked on some things in practice and we did them today in the game. So that's a positive sign."

Salem's next game will be 8:30 p.m. Friday against Livonia Stevenson, at PCC. Meanwhile, the Chiefs visit Farmington at 7 p.m. Saturday.

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Young Eagles eager to excel

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer



Unselfish play and a desire to get after it on the hardwood are a couple reasons Plymouth Christian Academy's girls basketball team could make some noise this winter.

Those characteristics might make up for a roster featuring three starting sophomores.

Those 10th graders include Jenny Malcolm (center), Emily Gerulis (guard-forward) and Rachel Smith (forwards). They will line up along with junior guards Karen Windle and Jenna Abraham.

"We are a very young team grade wise but not young on experience," said Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis. "We are returning four starters. The two juniors have

started since they were freshmen. We have two sophomores that started as freshmen."

They'll chip in

Meanwhile, sophomores Martha Mullett and Rachel Fuller "will play a big role" throughout the 2011-12 season, the coach added.

Others making up the supporting cast are mostly new to the varsity level.

Senior returnee Kristin Lindberg brings some experience, but the team also has first-year varsity players in Kati Buam and junior Allison Smith.

Another promising sophomore is Rachel Kral, but she is out indefinitely

after suffering a dislocated kneecap.

With co-captains Windle, Abraham and Emily Gerulis setting the tone, the PCA coach is looking forward to how the team meshes during the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference schedule.

"They are very unselfish kids they don't care who scores," Carol Gerulis said. "They just want to win. This is a very tough group of players and they love to compete."

"I am very excited to see how they progress throughout the season."

That season began Tuesday at Ida, with the Eagles' home opener scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday against Dexter.

(Results of the Ida contest were not available as of press time.)

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shown from a 2010-11 game, Rachel Winters (No. 10) is one of the key returnees for Canton's varsity girls basketball team.

CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

have to develop a little bit more in the team leadership," Mack said. "I was more of the quiet person last year. There were five seniors that killed it and now I'm supposed to be the top leader that people look up to."

Increasing role

Another key returnee is sophomore guard Rachel Winters, who chalked up plenty of minutes as a freshman.

But instead of coming off the bench to help the cause, she'll be a starter and instrumental to Canton's chances.

"Rachel's in the same boat as Robyn, her role is changed drastically and we're going to expect a lot of things out of her," Samulski explained. "Last year, she was a role player who subbed in. This year she's going to have to bring a lot more to the table both offensively and defensively."

Winters will bring a sharp shooting eye for long jumpers, but she can "also get to the rim and score at the rim."

With Tuesday's season

opener at Saline on the horizon, Samulski is still deciding who his third starting guard will be.

Senior Gabby Malec could get the nod. But other players hopeful of a shot include sophomore Kelsey McDougall, junior Megan Smith, senior Jesse Larner and junior Kayla Lagola.

So far, Samulski is certain of one of his starting post players with the second job still being decided.

In the lineup will be sophomore forward Paige Aresco, who is 5-11 and strong enough to get her share of rebounds and putbacks.

Aresco saw some varsity minutes last year, but the Chiefs are "going to look for her to have a significant step up in her role," the coach stressed.

"We're going to look for her to score from the perimeter more, be a great rebounder and go from there," Samulski said.

Paint job

Two 6-1 players are competing to start at center, namely junior Kiara Schneider (a varsity returnee) and sophomore Taylor Hunley.

It's pretty safe to

assume that both players are going to see plenty of action, regardless of who starts.

"Right now they're battling with each other and competing with each other to see who's going to be the starter," Samulski said. "We're really looking to those two to rebound, defend and then score when they have the opportunity."

Those job responsibilities also apply to 5-11 sophomore forward Shannon Perry, who will back up Aresco.

Meanwhile, Samulski added that a big plus for the new-look team is the fact "all 11 players have improved individually and gotten better through our spring workouts, our summer stuff and our fall workouts. It's a hard-working group."

Because of that work ethic, Samulski is confident the Chiefs will be able to hold its own in the tough KLAAs South.

"I think from top-to-bottom it's a good division," he noted. "Where we're going to land, I don't know. But our goal is to come out each night and compete."

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WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

The first half was a struggle for both teams, with plenty of missed opportunities and turnovers.

Back-to-back buckets by freshman forward Kyla Roland and Wilcox within a 20-second span in the second quarter put Harrison up 10-7 with three minutes left in the half.

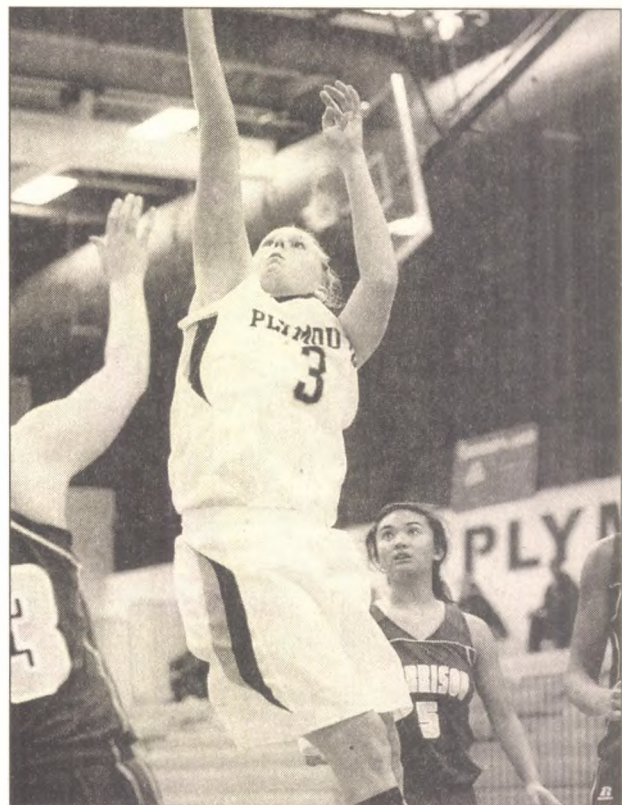
Plymouth answered with a bucket featuring two varsity newcomers, junior guard Lexie McGhee and sophomore center Shelby Cheston.

On the play, McGhee "dribbled right into their press and dropped it off to Shelby and she got that layup," de Bear said.

It was a 13-11 edge for the Hawks at half-time, but Plymouth finally broke through for a 7-0 run in the span of a minute midway into the third.

Layups by Watson and Williams bookended a trey from beyond the top of the arc by Dillon as Plymouth took a 20-14 lead.

The Hawks chipped away to close the gap to 21-19 after three. Junior guard Marissa Cotton stole a pass in the Plym-



JOHN KEMSKI

Going strong to the rim Tuesday night against Farmington Hills Harrison is Plymouth's Kate Watson (No. 3).

outh paint and converted the layup and Parker followed up in the final seconds with a basket.

In control

But Plymouth got things rolling again early in the fourth, scoring four consecutive baskets to go up 29-20 — with Robb connecting on two of the field goals.

From there, the Wildcats finished off the win with some tenacious defense.

"It's a good feeling" to start the season with a victory, de Bear noted.

Plymouth will next visit Farmington Hills Mercy on Friday night.

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SALEM

Continued from page B1

First — expected to get some minutes in the paint (along with sophomore Hannah Nowaske) if Beaver isn't quite ready to roll.

Thomann likes the potential he's seeing out of his four sophomores, Nowaske, Kelly Whalen, Ashley Baker and Arielle Echols (a transfer from Detroit Cass Tech).

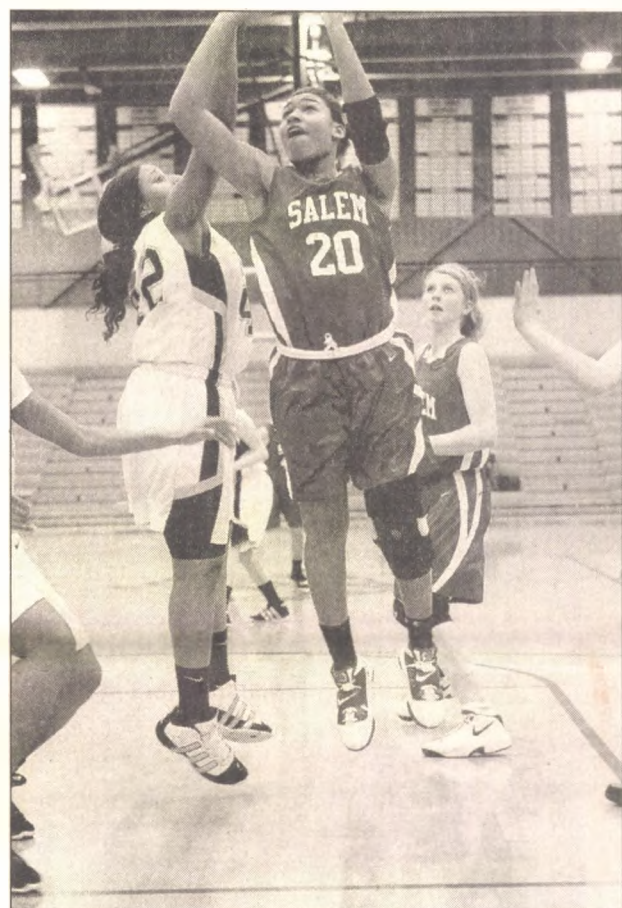
The Rocks, looking to improve on a 9-12 season in the KLAAs Central Division, will have to play sound defense as a unit in order to have success, he stressed.

"We have a little bit of size, we have a little bit of quickness, we have a little bit of toughness," Thomann noted. "What we have to do as a group is really pull together and our defense has to become really, really solid."

"Offensively we'll score a little bit because we have some kids who can. But for us to compete we're going to have to be able to stop people."

Early tests

According to Thomann, he'll find out in short order how competitive the 2011-12 squad is going to be.



JOHN KEMSKI

One of Salem's low-post threats is junior forward Breanne Beaver (No. 20), shown from a game last season.

After playing Huron, the Rocks square off against Farmington Hills Mercy, defending Class B champion Dearborn Divine Child, Plymouth and Canton heading into the holiday break.

"Our five games before Christmas, I think, is as good a schedule as there

is in the area," he said. "And maybe in the state... Our first five games are very, very competitive."

"We'll know where we're at in the pecking order real quick."

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Ladywood wins early litmus test

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood second-year coach Anthony Coratti wanted to test his team early for the start of the 2011-12 girls basketball season.

And the Blazers got off on the right foot Tuesday night with a hard-fought 52-49 home court victory over a formidable Saginaw Nouvel squad.

Two free throws by Andie Anastos with only 12.7 seconds remaining helped seal the victory for Ladywood. The 5-foot-8 junior point-guard finished the night with a game-high 18 points to go along with six rebounds and five steals.

Senior guard Briana Combs chipped in with 12 points, including three of the Blazers' six three-pointers.

Nouvel, under 11th-year coach Kris Hengesbach, finished 18-7 a year ago reaching the Class C regional finals. The Panthers captured the 2006 and 2008 Class C state titles.

"They (Nouvel) were a very good team," said Coratti, who guided Ladywood to an 18-6 record and a berth in the regionals in his inaugural varsity season as coach. "They have some big kids, which we kind of lack in size. But we made up for it in other areas with our grit and our kids really did a good job of battling and fighting through. They (Nouvel) did a good job of executing."

Ladywood led 12-10 after one quarter and took a 24-20 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, the Blazers connected on three triples and led by as many as nine with 1:11 remaining on a basket by junior Sara Even.

Hanging on

Leading 40-34 going into the final period, Ladywood found itself in a dogfight after the Panthers crept to within one, 43-43 on a banker by junior Taylor Hengesbach with 4:32 left.

A big rebound basket by Haley Walter with 2:34

to play gave the Blazers some breathing room at 50-45, but Nouvel refused to fold despite having to give three fouls as Ladywood milked the clock.

Rachel McInerney scored on a rebound with 1:42 to go pulling Nouvel within three, 50-47.

A steal and two free throws by Lindsay Stroebel cut the deficit to 50-49 with 50.1 seconds remaining.

Nouvel then fouled Anastos, who missed the front-end of a one-and-one giving the Panthers an opportunity to take the lead, but couldn't convert with less than 20 seconds left.

Anastos then nailed a pair of free throws to seal the victory. The Panthers tried one last-ditch three-point attempt, but it missed the mark.

Taylor Hengesbach and McInerney scored 15 and 14 points, respectively, for the Panthers.

Ladywood senior center Morgan Chops, who fouled out in the fourth quarter, added six points and 11 rebounds.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wolfpack tryouts

The Western Wayne Wolfpack will hold girls basketball tryouts for girls ages 11-13 (grades six-eight) from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10 and 17.

Tryouts will take place at the Canton High School gym and cost \$25. For more information, contact coaches Fred Thomann, (313) 929-0291, Bob de Bear, (734) 218-4478, or Brian Samulski, (734) 673-2555.

Canton High School is located off of Joy Road, west of Canton Center Road.

Winter hoops

The Plymouth Family YMCA announced that

winter basketball leagues are forming for ages 4-11.

Programs are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The annual registration fee is \$91 or \$123 for community participants. Registration continues until Jan. 2, 2012.

After teams are formed, they will practice once a week and play on Friday evenings from Jan. 16 through March 23.

For more information, visit www.ymcadetroit.org or call (734) 453-2904.

Softball camps

Coach Al White of Madonna University will stage a series of winter

softball camps for ages 7-18 including:

Hitting — 9-11:30 a.m. (session 1) and noon-2:30 p.m. (session 2) on Sunday, Dec. 18 (cost \$30);

Fundamentals (session 1) — 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 after Dec. 1); Fundamentals (session 2) — noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 after Dec. 1).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com; or e-mail White at awhite@madonna.edu.

You can also call the MU softball office at (734) 432-5783 or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716.

Livonia church offers two Christmas concerts



Members of Newburg United Methodist Church, in Livonia rehearse. They'll sing the story of Christmas during worship services Sunday, Dec. 4.

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Head to Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia over the next two weekends for a lively dose of Christmas music.

The church's choirs will sing the story of Christmas at two worship services, 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. The following Sunday, Dec. 11, Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, will perform a Christmas concert at 4 p.m. to help raise money for a mission trip to Haiti planned by 10 Newburg members.

It's the second year the Newburg choirs will present a cantata during worship services. They'll sing *The Mystery and the Majesty* by Joseph Martin.

"It's a new work that follows the story from the Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah's coming through the whole story of Christmas through the birth. It sets the tone for the whole season," said Richard Lenz, choir director. "It takes practically the whole service. It's about 45 minutes. There is no sermon."

The services are open to the public and Lenz said last year's cantata drew

The Haiti mission team, which includes two teens and eight adults, hopes to raise \$3,500 through the Measure for Measure concert. The Global Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church will match what the group raises to help cover project costs.

individuals from outside the church.

At least one Newburg member, Gary Fry of Plymouth, also sings in the men's choir that will perform at a fundraising concert on Dec. 11. The group, Measure for Measure, was formed in 1988 and draws its more than 80 members from throughout southeastern Michigan. Its repertoire incorporates songs from a variety of musical styles and periods.

The concert will run approximately 90 minutes, followed by a reception in the church's social hall, at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail. Tickets are \$12, available by calling (734) 459-5631.

The Haiti mission team, which includes two teens and eight adults, hopes to raise \$3,500 through the Measure for Measure concert. The Global Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church will match what the

group raises to help cover project costs.

"The team will be working in Port au Prince in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Haiti, building either a school, community center, children's center or church," said Sarah Nadeau Alexander, youth and young adult ministry coordinator. "Partnering with the UMC in Haiti allows the team to use their resources to the fullest of their ability."

Alexander said each team member pays a fee to participate in the trip. Fundraising will raise money for project costs, such as building supplies.

"Hopefully they'll just have to do this concert and will be all set."

For more about Measure for Measure visit www.measure4measure.org. For more about Newburg United Methodist church visit www.newburgumc.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BOSKER (PAGEL) CATHERINE C.

84, of Lake City, MI, formerly of Plymouth, MI. November 27, 2011. See online obituary at www.youngfuneral.com

DALE, ROSALIE E.

Age 83, passed away November 25, 2011. She was born on August 21, 1928, in South Lyon, daughter of the late Harold and Evelyn Darling. Rosalie was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother. She could often be found working on her favorite crossword puzzles, watching golf, curling or football. She is survived by her beloved daughters: Sandy McDaniels and Audra (Mike) Renner; her grandchildren: George, Leigh, Tim, Melissa, Michael, Gracie; her great grandchildren, Jonathan, David, Jackie, Jasmine, Jesse, Siena, Jimmy, Zach and Melissa. She is also survived by one great-great grandchild Preston and her sister Bonnie and her brother Don. She was preceded in death by her husband Lewis and four children. Visitation was held on Tuesday, November 29 with funeral services Wednesday, November 30, at 1:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to Cystic Fibrosis. Online Guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

LOGIE, JR. ROBERT G.

85 yrs. old, died November 27, 2011. A devoted husband to Marjorie (deceased) and loving father to Cherie (Gary) Van Vliet, he is also survived by his sisters Jessie Clemens and Helen (Jerry) McMillan, and many nephews and nieces. An outdoor memorial ceremony and interment will be held on Monday December 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., Parkview Memorial Cemetery, 34205 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Donations to charities serving our local communities requested in lieu of flowers.

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Dec. 1-7

CAROLFEST

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. church service, 11:45 a.m. brunch, 12:45 p.m., CarolFest, Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: St. Paul's Singers, children, instrumentalists and congregation, will present a plethora of carols — traditional, folk and contemporary — in the church sanctuary; RSVP for the brunch

Contact: (734) 422-1470

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: Silver Strings Dulcimer Society presents a free Christmas concert

Contact: (734) 427-3660

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3; seating begins at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Old St. Mary's Church, 646 Monroe, at St. Antoine, in Greektown, Detroit

Details: The Madrigal Chorus of Southfield presents its 2011 Holiday Concert. Advance tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students. Cost at the door is \$20

Contact: (248) 804-1377, e-mail yourmcs@yahoo.com or order online at mcs-notes.org

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Fort and Third in downtown Detroit

Details: The Fort Street Chorus and Chamber Orchestra present Handel's Messiah. Tickets are \$20

Contact: www.fortstreet.org or by calling (313) 961-4533

SOUP & SCRIPTURE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper, followed by service at 7 p.m. Dec. 7, 14 and 21

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Hearty soup and bread supper followed by Advent service

Contact: (734) 427-2290

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thurs-

day, Dec. 1

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Junior High Commons, 1062 Church, Plymouth

Details: New Beginnings is a support group for divorced Catholics. This will be the first of regular monthly meetings featuring guest speakers who will address topics central to the experience of divorced Catholics. The evening will begin with a talk by the Rev. John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, followed by a Q&A session. Participants can discuss issues related to divorce and faith in a safe, confidential, and prayerful environment. Pre-registration recommended

Contact: newbeginning-solc@gmail.com

Dec. 8-14

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers Christmas concert; \$10 general admission; \$7 for senior citizens and students, 12 and older

Contact: detroitlutheransingers.com



Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org Sunday Worship 8:30 & 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, & Creeden 734-522-6830</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45811 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 8:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>	<p>WARD CHURCH 4000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48166 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 8:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>
<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>	<p>OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen & Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282</p>	<p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom - Fellowship Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister</p>

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



Kathy Sandberg of Plymouth will sell works, like this plate, at the annual Potter's Market.

Potter's Market

Artists show 40,000 clay items at annual sale



Akiko Kawano of Novi will show clay art with a Japanese flair at the upcoming Potter's Market.

By Sharon Gray
 O&E Staff Writer

David Albrecht has been up to his elbows in more than a few times the past nine years.

During his second semester in Oakland Community College's (OCC) ceramics program, he served as the ceramic studio's clay maker and made 500 pounds of clay three times a day.

"It was quite an experience," he said. "Clay used in pottery isn't just one kind of clay that you'd dig up in the backyard. It's three kinds of clay, six different ingredients — all earthen materials — and a little silica."

"It wasn't a fun job, but someone had to do it."

These days, the Farmington Hills artist is finishing requirements for a certificate in the program, producing his own ceramic pieces and selling them at both the summer farmer's market in his hometown and at the annual Potter's Market in Madison Heights.

When he and 134 other artists show 40,000 ceramic works at the 36th annual Potters Market, Dec. 2-4, they'll have more on their hands than just clay.

Formerly sponsored by Oakland Community College, the largest pottery sale of its kind in the country is now an independent potters' event, with a collective of artists — calling themselves Ceramics Community Network — presenting and running the show.

Shoppers aren't likely to notice the difference between previous college-sponsored shows and this year's event because the artists have always taken a hands-on approach to the sale. Since its beginning, they've assisted customers, restocked the selling floor, worked the checkout, wrapped items and served coffee and sweets to shoppers. This year will be no different.

"We had our last board member meeting yesterday and it's coming together even better than I expected," said Albrecht, who serves as "personnel chief" at the show. "We have all the bases covered. I think it's going to be a great show. We have plenty of merchandise and potters signed up."

Albrecht said Alan Paulson, OCC's ceramics program director, along with several advanced ceramics students



David Albrecht of Farmington Hills, shapes a clay piece on the wheel at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak campus.

jury the show, which includes room for 100 advanced students and 35 guest professional potters.

"Sometimes you're on a waiting list. But every year there's turnover. I had to

earn my way in. It took me three years."

Arts after retirement

Albrecht was an art major at Ohio State University, where he focused

on sculpture in a variety of materials. After graduation he began working in pharmaceutical sales, a job that took him from Illinois to western Michigan and in 1989, to Farmington Hills.

"I missed it all those years but was never able to participate, being married and having two kids and little time."

He discovered the OCC ceramic program after retiring, and took the plunge into clay art, signing up for both wheel throwing and hand building classes. He's been hooked on ceramics ever since.

He also organized a clay sculpture group that met every Friday for six years in the ceramics studio at OCC. Participants spent three hours each time sculpting pieces based on a live model.

Garden art

Albrecht will sell bowls and pagoda lanterns — which are wheel thrown and assembled — at the upcoming Potter's Market. The pagodas are glazed in different colors, including midnight blue and pale green and stand approximately 20 inches. Most customers set them outdoors in the summer and use them as garden art.

Other local artists who will participate in the Potter's Market include Joe Conti of Livonia, Donna Williams of Plymouth, Kathy Sandberg of Plymouth, Jack Adelman, Gaylin Bates, Robert Crisp and Julie Gaynett, all of Farmington Hills.

Albrecht said the artist collective also will sell reusable shopping bags and 2012 calendars featuring the works of 12 advanced students.

Potters Market hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4. Admission is free. A special preview sale is 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1. Admission is \$10 for the preview sale. Strollers are not permitted at the show. The UF & CW Union Hall is located at 876 Horace Brown Drive, one block south of 13 Mile, between I-75 and John R in Madison Heights. From northbound I-75, exit at 12 Mile, go west one block to Stephenson Highway, then north to 13 Mile and east to Horace Brown Drive. Call (248) 246-2686 or visit www.thepottersmarket.com.

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December 31, 2011 • \$100 per couple

Cocktail hour will start at 6pm
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Entertainment by CCKing Productions
 Party favors, Pizza at 1:00am

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Art

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

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12, 2012 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8, 2012; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18, 2012

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

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" in December hours are 1-9 p.m.

Contact: (248) 344-0497

Comedy

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomey.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

GET OUT!



Detroit Chamber Winds will perform Dec. 13 at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre.



PHOTO BY KEN HOWARD OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA
 Renée Fleming as the title character and Andreas Scholl as Bertarido in Handel's "Rodelinda."

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: Alex Ortiz through 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: 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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: Cedric the Entertainer; tickets are \$52-147, available at ticketmaster.com

Contact: www.thecrofoot.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

Film

METROPOLITAN OPERA

Time/Date: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3

Location: Canton Cinema, 43555 Ford Road, Canton and AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: "Rodelinda" features Renée Fleming in the role of a queen who must fight treacherous enemies to keep her son safe and the memory of her exiled husband alive. Running time is four hours and 15 minutes. Tickets at Canton Cinema are \$21 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$13.50 for children and students, along with a \$1 service fee if purchased online. Tickets at Livonia 20 are \$22 for adults, \$18 for children and \$20 for seniors

Contact: (734) 844-3456 for Canton Cinema and (888) AMC-4FUN for Livonia

20 PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 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

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "It's a Wonderful Life," \$3

Coming up: "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. Dec. 2 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 3

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: "Miracle on 34th Street," tickets \$4

Coming up: "Christmas Here We Come," featuring Laurel & Hardy in "Big Business" and guest artist Walt Strony on the Barton pipe organ, 8 p.m. Dec. 10, 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: 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

Please see GET OUT!, B7

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 www.CirqueProductions.com

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Santa meets with special needs children

Children with autism and other special needs can meet with Santa Claus in a relaxed environment, 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at 12 Oaks Mall in Novi.

Because the mall is open only to walkers and employees during that time, special needs children won't have to endure the crowds, noise, chaos and lines that can occur during busy shopping hours.

Professional photographers will be on hand at the free event to take

photos, but parents are not required to purchase the pictures. Siblings of special needs children also may meet Santa.

My Great Kid, LLC, founded by Staci and Steve Bockmann of Farmington Hills, sponsors the annual event. They are the parents of child with autism and know how difficult it can be to see Santa with all the hustle and bustle of a busy mall.

For more information, call Staci at (734) 612-3934.

GET OUT!

Continued from page B6

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 vil-

lage community, located 80 kilometers southwest of Cairo in the Egyptian countryside, during Egypt's Greco-Roman period

Contact: (734) 764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Dec. 31

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: "A Red Ryder Christmas Story" features vignettes of scenes from the film, "A Christmas Story," information about the history of Red Ryder BB guns, which were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth, and artifacts of the 1940s. Santa visits the museum every Saturday in December.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK

Time/Date: 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 in-

cludes 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

Contact: (248) 347-6881

BECKRIDGE CHORALE

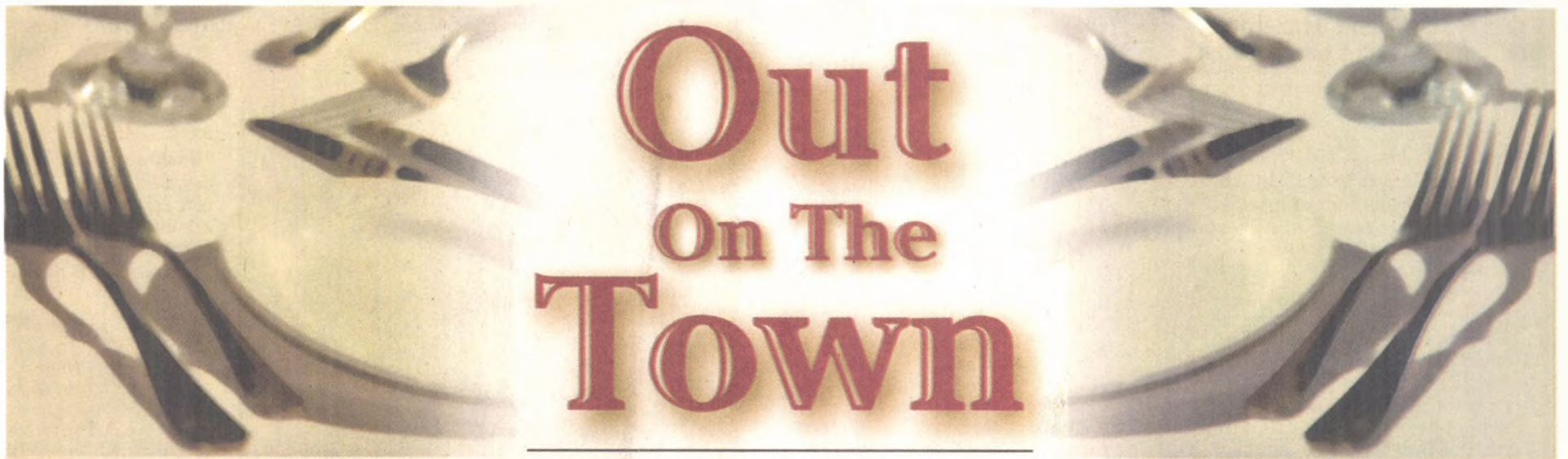
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 9
Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Christmas concert; tickets are \$10
Contact: Call (888) 459-4887 or e-mail to sing@beckridgechorale.org; www.BeckRidgeChorale.org

DETROIT CHAMBER WIND AND STRINGS
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Tues-

day, Dec. 13
Location: The Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Holiday Brass concert; tickets are \$19 for adults; \$17 for students and seniors. Advance tickets available at <https://rec-reg.fhgov.com>, by calling (248) 473-1848 or 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile
Contact: Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC
Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15

Location: Penn Theater, 760 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: Home for the Holidays Concert



Check out these local businesses.

Many are offering great values and are ready to serve you...ENJOY!



Rocky's

ROTISSERIE

37337 Six Mile
Newburgh Plaza
Livonia

**Chicken • Ribs
Fish & Chips
BBQ • Meatloaf**

We use locally grown produce and our soups are made from scratch!

FAMILY DINNER <small>Includes 2 homemade sides & Rocky's House Bread. Feeds 4!</small> \$16.99	ROCKY'S HOUSE SALAD & BREAD <small>blue cheese, red onion, walnuts, cranberries, raspberry & maple dressing</small> \$4.99 Large \$2.99 Small	PULLED PORK SLIDERS \$6.99
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PORK TENDERLOIN DINNER
\$10.99 Includes choice of 2 side dishes
With coupon. Can't be combined with other offers. Exp. 12-31-11.

HOLIDAY CATERING! Any Size Party
Call or Order Online: www.rockysrotisserie.com
734.462.6240

STRIKE! Gutter Ball Aces Spare Spat Headpin



DJ Dancing Bowling

Fridays & Saturdays
9 pm to 1am

DRINK SPECIALS

PLAZA LANES

42001 Ann Arbor Rd.
Plymouth
734-453-4880

Bowling subject to lane availability

Cinnamon Nuts and More
Cinnamon Roasted Almonds, Pecans and Cashews

\$3 OFF

ANY \$25 PURCHASE
With this coupon • Expires 12-31-11

• Nostalgic Holiday Treats • Unique Gift Items • Decorative Gift Tins
313-303-2497

China House

運 Inn

33018 W. 7 Mile Road
Livonia
Just E. of Farmington Road
Next to Joe's Produce
248-888-9540

<p>Dinner for 2 \$4 off Dine-in Only China House Inn</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With this coupon. Not valid on holidays. One coupon per customer, per party, per table. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. Expires 12-30-11.</p>	<p>Buy 1 Entree Get 2nd Entree 50% off Dine-in or Carry-out. All Day China House Inn</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With this coupon. Not valid on holidays. One coupon per customer, per party, per table. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. Expires 12-30-11.</p>
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Open All Year!



Bring Your Camera!

Lunch with Santa
Sun. Dec. 11 Noon-3 pm
Pizza • Pasta • Salad
Ice Cream Sundae Station
Adults \$10.95
Kids Under 12 \$5.95
Reservations Suggested

<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Ideal Setting for Holiday Parties Book your party by Dec. 18</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red;">Receive 10% OFF Total Food Bill</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Buy 1 \$25 Gift Certificate, Get a FREE \$5 Gift Certificate</p>
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Call 15 minutes ahead...ready to go when you arrive!

Family Feast

Extra Large 1 Topping Pizza
with House Salad & Side
of Pasta with choice of Marinara
or Bolognese.
Carry Out Only • Valid thru 12/18/11

\$21

George Murphy's
36000 Seven Mile • Livonia
Between Farmington & Newburgh Roads
248.473.1300

Overlooking Fox Creek Golf Course
HOURS:
Sun., Mon. 11am-9pm
Tues., Wed., Th. 11am-10pm
Fri., Sat. 11am-Midnight

GOACH'S

CORNER

BAR & GRILL • LIVONIA
Dine In Carryout

Livonia's Family Friendly Neighborhood Sports Bar

Appetizers • Homemade Soups & Chili • Burgers
Sandwiches • Full Lunch & Dinner Menus

<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">• Happy Hour M-F 3-6 pm</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">• 15 Draft Beers</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">• 23 42" Hi Def TVs with surround sound</p>
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<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Best Wings in Livonia! All Day-Every Day!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: green;">50¢ Wings</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: green;">75¢ Boneless Wings</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Day Monday</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">8 oz. Angus Beef Burger with Chips or Fries</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red;">\$4.95</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Dine In Only w/beverage order</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Day Friday</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All You Can Eat Fish & Chips</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red;">\$10.95</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Dine In Only w/beverage order</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Wednesday Night</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">12 oz. N.Y. Strip Steak with baked potato & corn on the cob</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red;">\$8.95</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Dine In Only w/beverage order</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Friday & Saturday Slow Roasted Prime Rib</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red;">\$12.95 10 oz. \$14.95 12 oz. \$16.95 16 oz.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All New Late Night HAPPY HOUR</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red;">up to 1/2 off</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">all menu items Su 9pm-12am; Mo-Th 11pm-2am</p>

19170 Farmington at 7 Mile
Livonia
248.615.1330

The Maple House

Simple Food, Done the Right Way!

25938 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
248.579.6431

Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Dine-in or Carryout

Dining Room Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 7 am - 4 pm
Fri.-Sat. 7 am - 9 pm
Sun. 7 am - 3 pm

<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Your Way \$3.49 3 Eggs, Meat, Hash Browns, Toast & Jam</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With purchase of beverage Expires 12-10-11</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">First Time Guest Special Offer FREE Biscuit & Fresh Strawberry Jam</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Limit one per customer Expires 12-10-11</p>
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Visit our web site for complete menu:
www.MapleHouseRestaurant.com

Don't be left behind...call 734.582.8363 today to learn more about advertising in the OUT ON THE TOWN!

★TIS THE SEASON

easy recipes for the holidays

If time and money are in short supply, use creativity to turn small splurges into celebrations. Here are holiday ideas and recipes that won't break the bank nor leave you exhausted afterwards.

Each recipe features an affordable import — butter and cheeses from Ireland, where cows are grass-fed and milk from small farms is used to make prized dairy products.

The Family Holiday Dinner

Keep the main course simple with a no-fuss roast. Make a splash with a festive salad featuring creamy and elegant Cashel Blue Irish farmhouse cheese. Serve on your best china.

Pear, Roast Onion, Hazelnut and Cashel Blue Cheese Salad

1 red onion, peeled
Olive oil
Salt and pepper
3 pears (not too ripe)
2 tablespoons Kerrygold Unsalted Irish Butter
2 ounces hazelnuts, lightly toasted, halved
5 ounces baby greens (watercress, baby spinach and frisee)
10 ounces Cashel Blue cheese, crumbled

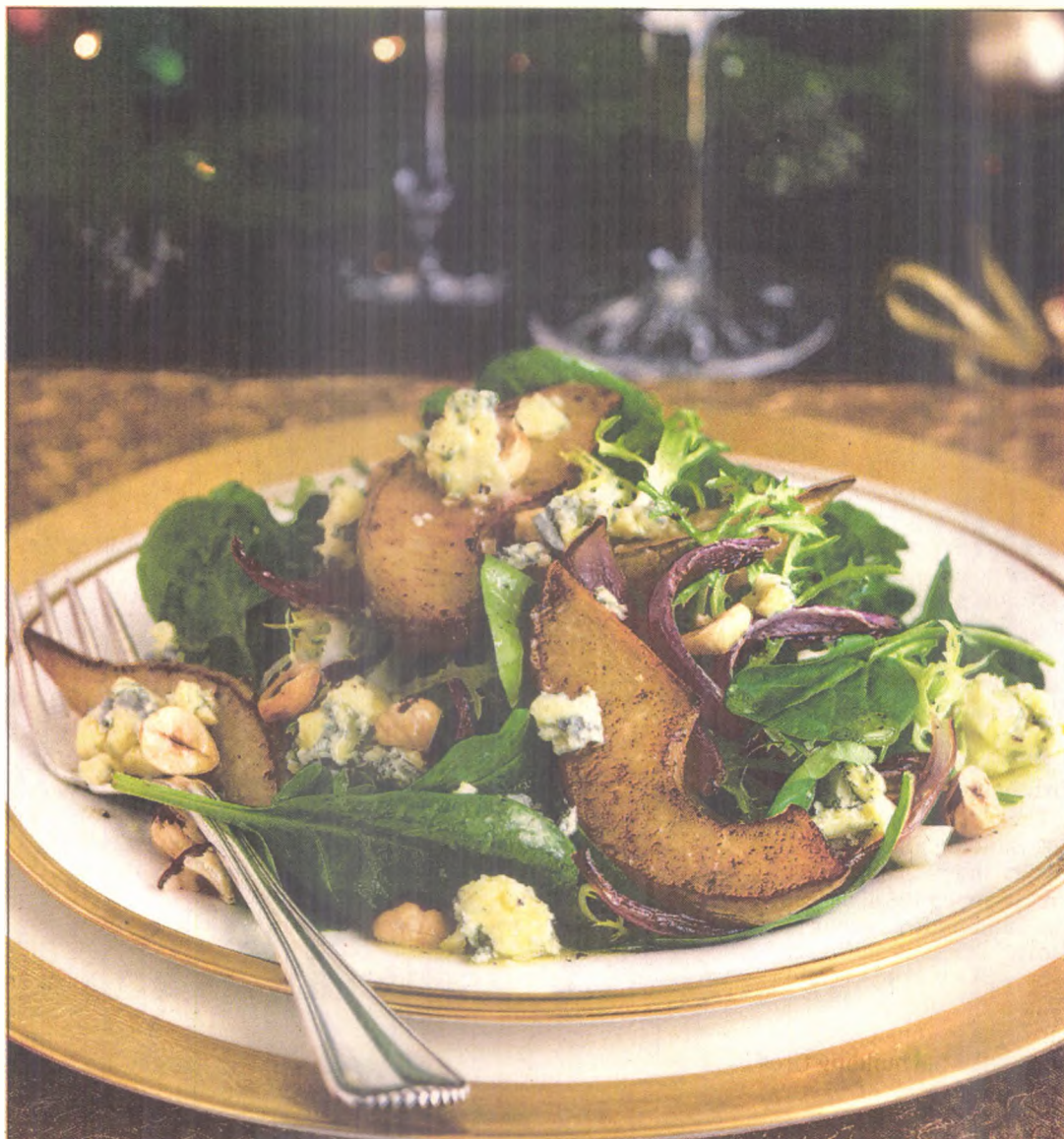
Dressing:

2½ teaspoons white wine vinegar
¼ teaspoon Dijon mustard
Salt and pepper
4 tablespoons hazelnut oil
2 tablespoons light olive oil
1½ teaspoons superfine sugar (or to taste)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Halve onion and cut it into crescent slices. Put into a small ovenproof dish, drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast about 20 minutes, or until soft with slightly caramelized tips. Keep warm.

Whisk dressing ingredients together. Halve and core pears, then cut lengthwise into slices slightly thicker than ¼ inches. Melt butter in a frying pan and quickly sauté on each side until golden. Don't overcook — they should still hold their shape.

Toss salad greens with nuts, using most of the dressing; divide among 6 plates. Add pear and onion slices to each plate and scatter with cheese. Drizzle each plate with the rest of the dressing. Serves 6.



A Tree Decorating Party

A holiday party doesn't have to be fancy; any simple excuse to gather informally, like trimming the tree or decorating the house, will do. It's a great way to include children in the festivities. Serve up mugs of chowder enriched with Irish Cheddar, plenty of bread and Irish butter, a salad and some Christmas cookies.

Potato Chowder with Pancetta and Aged Cheddar

6 ounces pancetta or bacon, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 pound Yukon Gold potatoes, unpeeled, cut into ½-inch chunks
1 cup chopped celery
1½ cups chicken broth
1 cup low-fat buttermilk
Salt and pepper
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Kerrygold Aged Cheddar

In large saucepan over medium-high heat, cook pancetta, stirring, until crisp, about 5 minutes. Remove pancetta and drain on paper towels. Discard all but ½ teaspoon fat from pan. Add onion and sauté over high heat until lightly browned, 4 to 5 minutes. Add potatoes, celery and broth. Cover, bring to a boil and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 12 minutes. Add buttermilk and pancetta and stir until hot, 1 to 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat, stir in cheese and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings; multiply recipe for a crowd.

Gifts from the Kitchen

Give a gift of love and save money, too, with home-baked goods wrapped in pretty packaging. Let the kids help with the decorating.

Slice and Bake Butter Cookies

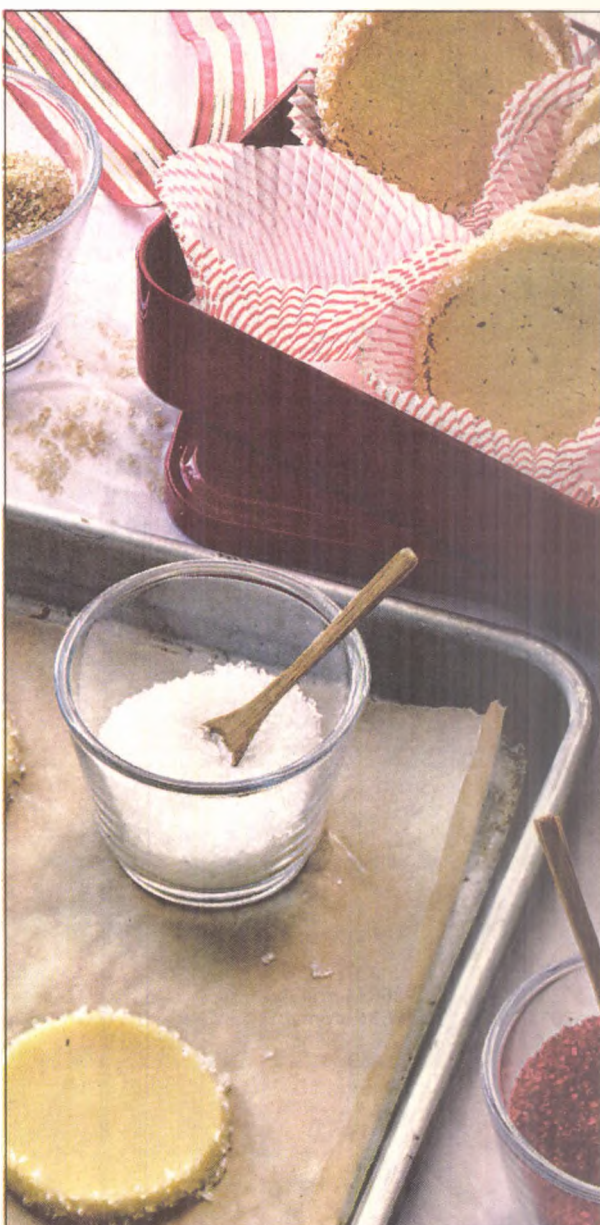
2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
1 package (8 ounces or 1 cup) Kerrygold Salted Irish Butter, at room temperature
¾ cup granulated sugar
2 large egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 large egg white
½ cup granulated sugar or coarse sugar crystals for rolling the cookie log

Sift flour, baking powder and salt into medium bowl and set aside. In large bowl beat butter and sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Mix in egg yolks and vanilla. Add flour mixture, mixing on low just until flour is incorporated and soft, smooth dough forms.

Divide dough into 2 pieces; form each into a log about 7½ inches long and 1½ inches in diameter. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate about 1 hour until cold and firm, or overnight. Or freeze, wrapped securely, for up to 1 month. (Defrost in the refrigerator before slicing and baking.)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. In small bowl, beat egg white with fork until foamy, about 30 seconds. Brush each log with egg white. Sprinkle the ½ cup sugar on strip of wax paper then roll each log back and forth in sugar to coat lightly. Use sharp knife to cut each log into ¼-inch-thick rounds. Place 1 inch apart on baking sheets.

Bake one sheet at a time on middle rack of the oven until cookie edges and bottoms are light brown, about 18 minutes. Cool 5 minutes, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Store tightly covered. Makes 60 cookies.



And for Every Holiday Get-Together, a Cheese Board

A universal favorite of guests and the easiest choice for the host is a cheese board. An assortment of Irish cheeses like Dubliner, Cashel Blue and Kerrygold Aged Cheddar with fresh fruit and chutney make a spectacular presentation.

For more holiday recipes, visit www.kerrygoldusa.com.

Safety practices reduce risk of wintertime home fire

N.Y., N.Y., place to be

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

As we move closer to winter and home fire deaths begin to increase, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) remind everyone that fire safety and prevention are especially important in the coming months. Because home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season, NFPA and USFA are once again jointly sponsoring a special initiative — Put a Freeze on Winter Fires — to help raise public awareness about winter fires.

“These fires are a painful reminder of what we see every year — the temperatures drop and fires increase,” said NFPA President Jim Shannon. According to NFPA statistics, space heaters account for about one-third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths.

The USFA’s Winter Residential Building Fires (PDF, 1 MB) report shows that each winter an estimated 108,400 residential building fires occur in the United States, resulting in 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires at 36 percent followed by heating at 23 percent. Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“The winter season brings the highest number of home fires, more than at any other time of year,” said USFA’s Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. “Home fires increase in part due to cooking and heating. Winter storms can also interrupt electrical service and cause people to turn to alternative heating sources that contribute to the increased risk of fire during the winter months.”

The NFPA and USFA recommend following these safety tips to prevent winter home fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period, turn off the stove.



- Space heaters need space; keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from each heater.

- Check electrical cords often and replace cracked or damaged electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.

- Never use your oven or stovetop to heat your home. They are not designed for this purpose and can be a fire hazard. In addition, carbon monoxide (CO) gas might kill people and pets.

- Do not put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with

- water at all times.

- Avoid using lighted candles. If you must use candles, place them in sturdy candleholders that won’t burn.

- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.

“Winter fires are preventable,” Gaines emphasized. “Everyone should find out what they need to know to prevent a tragedy and have a safe winter season.”

For more information about the causes of winter fires, winter storm fire safety, holiday fire safety, and tips that will help prevent the incidence of fire in the home, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and the NFPA website at

www.nfpa.org/winter.

As an entity of the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency, the mission of the USFA is to provide national leadership to foster a solid foundation for our fire and emergency services stakeholders in prevention, preparedness, and response.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.



Robert Meisner

merchants to sell merchandise in buildings where the High Line traverses. Generally it has become a tourist attraction which, of course, increases the residential and commercial value of the buildings surrounding the High Line.

Q: I am thinking about buying a condominium in New York and I am wondering what suggestion you may have with respect to getting a reasonable price on a place near Central Park.

A: Unfortunately for you, the real estate glut has not affected the condominium cooperative market in New York and, in particular, around the Central Park area. Indeed, prices continue to increase as well as the relative assessments that are being charged by the associations in order to meet the increasing costs of operation. My experience recently in observing the market there is that New York continues to be one of the most expensive places in the world for residential housing. You are best advised to get a knowledgeable real estate agent who can point out to you areas where a bargain may be possible.

Q: Our condominium association is considering posing a restriction on the installation or use of solar energy devices such as panels and associated devices by a homeowner. Is there any state prohibition on it in Michigan?

A: To the best of my knowledge, Michigan and 11 other states do not have provisions to address solar rights issues and usage within their state codes. Only three states currently prohibit covenants or restrictions placed upon homeowners which would prevent the installation of solar powered panels and associated devices. Fifteen states currently have laws that protect easements and their establishment on a legal contractual basis without having an express solar rights law. Therefore, if you are in Michigan, your association can enact whatever restrictions you wish to place on the installation of solar panels and/or solar devices to the extent that the documents are so amended.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 22-26, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
47462 Adriana Ct	\$312,000
44012 Ardmore St	\$110,000
41614 Bedford Dr	\$54,000
42618 Boulden Ct	\$178,000
445 Constitution St	\$250,000
1754 Dunston Rd	\$200,000
7188 E Spring Dr	\$178,000
44945 Fair Oaks Dr	\$110,000
7359 Green Meadow Ln	\$120,000
42067 Hartford Dr	\$150,000
48442 Inveraray Rd	\$295,000
44937 Lemont Rd	\$160,000
45093 Lemont Rd	\$157,000
50250 Mott Rd	\$375,000
7966 N Lilley Rd	\$53,000
47728 River Woods Dr	\$233,000
268 Robyn Ct	\$145,000
4746 Sherwood Cir	\$192,000
543 Stonehenge Dr	\$230,000
GARDEN CITY	
31010 Dawson St	\$84,000
1231 Gilman St	\$35,000

30616 Pierce St	\$60,000
836 Venoy Rd	\$40,000
LIVONIA	
36800 Seven Mile Rd	\$238,000
32200 Allen St	\$185,000
9619 Arcola St	\$110,000
9665 Arcola St	\$100,000
9824 Arden St	\$155,000
33101 Barkley St	\$235,000
28709 Bayberry Ct W	\$148,000
30489 Bonnydale St	\$142,000
33315 Broadmoor Ct	\$180,000
15081 Cavell St	\$95,000
14201 Deering St	\$74,000
36732 Grove St	\$149,000
30676 Hathaway St	\$105,000
9904 Ingram St	\$145,000
9623 Loveland St	\$93,000
14362 Melrose St	\$148,000
19490 Norwich Rd	\$160,000
32125 Oakley St	\$92,000
32202 Oakley St	\$94,000
32240 Oakley St	\$110,000
20135 Rensellor St	\$45,000
19030 Shay Ct	\$210,000
38823 Summers St	\$105,000
18149 University Park Dr	\$63,000
31811 W Chicago St	\$140,000
17494 Wayne Rd	\$202,000
14428 Yale St	\$126,000
NORTHVILLE	
41230 Aldea Dr	\$318,000

16256 Brook Trout Ln	\$130,000
19444 Cardene Ct	\$125,000
39577 Dun Rovin Dr	\$210,000
48682 Freestone Dr	\$98,000
48794 Freestone Dr	\$98,000
48878 Freestone Dr	\$98,000
15605 Johnson Creek Dr	\$145,000
15966 Johnson Creek Dr	\$125,000
16122 Johnson Creek Dr	\$458,000
16154 Johnson Creek Dr	\$125,000
47960 Manorwood Dr	\$757,000
510 Randolph St	\$275,000
15825 Spyglass Dr	\$620,000
41032 Stone Haven Rd	\$208,000
18043 Stonebrook Dr	\$430,000
39557 Village Run Dr	\$240,000
15711 Winchester Dr	\$235,000
40104 Woodside Dr S	\$325,000
PLYMOUTH	
40467 Brecken Ridge Ln	\$215,000
46351 Curituck Ct	\$368,000
42669 Five Mile Rd	\$80,000
11180 Gold Arbor Rd	\$85,000
11180 Gold Arbor Rd	\$119,000
165 Hamilton Ave	\$95,000
15036 Plymouth Xing	\$243,000
11729 Sycamore Dr	\$72,000
9382 Timberline Ct	\$315,000
390 W Ann Arbor Trl	\$169,000
770 York St	\$93,000
REDFORD	
19146 Delaware Ave	\$54,000

17461 Denby	\$27,000
12035 Farley	\$35,000
19339 Gaylord	\$31,000
19443 Glenmore	\$63,000
19972 Indian	\$10,000
9245 Jerome	\$33,000
20173 Kinloch	\$26,000
15095 Kipke	\$88,000
13101 Laverne	\$62,000
27065 Lyndon	\$81,000
24979 S Sylbert Dr	\$47,000
9307 Sarasota	\$84,000
25432 Southwick	\$35,000
23817 W Chicago	\$43,000
WESTLAND	
2251 Ackley Ave	\$23,000
32536 Anita Dr	\$81,000
32027 Avondale St	\$23,000
8572 Berwick Dr	\$82,000
36003 Booth St	\$62,000
36791 Canyon Dr	\$80,000
770 Easley Dr	\$65,000
38456 Meghan Ln	\$130,000
8325 Melvin Ave	\$93,000
8330 N Henry Ruff Rd	\$55,000
32053 Parkwood St	\$57,000
1536 S Parent St	\$28,000
2420 Stieber St	\$21,000
33718 Tawas Trj	\$87,000
7743 Terri Dr	\$87,000
1341 Windham St	\$68,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 15-19, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
15913 Amherst Ave	\$238,000
22210 Nottingham Dr	\$425,000
BIRMINGHAM	
111 Abbey St	\$370,000
643 Ann St # 645	\$719,000
1050 Davis Ave	\$440,000
2655 E Maple Rd	\$28,000
801 Hazel St	\$269,000
1832 Melbourne St	\$364,000
1075 Oxford St	\$240,000
630 Wallace St	\$573,000
282 Wimbleton Dr	\$372,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
3199 Pebble Ln	\$167,000
6963 Sandalwood Dr	\$240,000
1750 Tiverton Rd Unit 31	\$130,000
3542 W Bradford Dr	\$125,000
620 Willow Glen Ct	\$480,000
1251 Wincombe Dr	\$139,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1320 Forestglen Ct	\$142,000
1961 Golf Ridge Dr	\$278,000
6222 Indianwood Trl	\$243,000
242 N Glengarry Rd	\$355,000
7160 Parkhurst Dr	\$360,000
1199 Peveiril Rd	\$120,000
1972 Post Chaise Ct	\$175,000
7435 Saint Auburn Dr	\$235,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
9510 Garden Ter	\$116,000
3510 Newton Rd	\$58,000
850 Ridgemont St	\$75,000
FARMINGTON	
32030 Grand River Ave Unit 3	\$29,000
35167 Oakland St	\$170,000
32808 Slocum Dr	\$119,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
29768 Briarton St	\$170,000
24082 Creekside Dr	\$119,000
29610 Gilchrest St	\$140,000
22147 Harsdale Dr	\$325,000
38940 Holsworth Ct	\$205,000
33133 Hopecrest Ct	\$155,000
23054 Potomac Cir	\$147,000
36785 Quakertown Ln	\$180,000
28809 Ramblewood Dr	\$165,000
30227 S Stockton Dr	\$79,000
28464 Westerleigh Rd	\$120,000

MILFORD	
110 Bensfield	\$460,000
NOVI	
43000 12 Oaks Crescent Dr #	\$94,000
22340 Cascade Dr	\$240,000
24065 Cranbrooke Dr	\$100,000
43038 Oxford Ct	\$390,000
24500 Riverview Ln	\$185,000
24585 Sarah Flynn	\$170,000
39786 Village Wood Cir	\$21,000
1181 West Lake Dr	\$300,000
SOUTH LYON	
54210 Birchwood Dr	\$30,000
147 Easton Dr	\$200,000
61248 Greenwood Dr	\$34,000
24327 Heatherwood Dr	\$125,000
834 Norchester St	\$137,000
23731 Prescott Ln W	\$61,000
1116 Vassar	\$119,000
SOUTHFIELD	
29869 Brentwood St	\$42,000
23866 Merrill Ave	\$37,000
21669 Potomac St	\$65,000
22570 Shevington Dr	\$142,000
WHITE LAKE	
1307 Round Lake Rd	\$65,000

BRIEFS

Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. Free seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods. Next seminar is scheduled for Dec. 1.

HOMES

apartments.com
HomeFinder

PLYMOUTH - For Sale By Owner

Lovely 3 bdrm, 3 blocks from downtown! 1750 sq. ft., new kitchen w/mipale cabinets, ceramic tile & oak flooring. New bathrooms. New windows & siding. Living room & master suite w/fireplace. Bsm. Screened porch \$265,000 248-444-0896

Manufactured Homes

Save up to 50% on new homes! Financing with approved lender. Call for details.

CANTON HOMES FOR SALE \$16,900

Payments as low as \$629/mo. Includes insurance, home payment and lot rent. Financing available. 3 bedroom/2 bath deck, shed & appliances.

SUN HOMES Academy/Westpoint

1-888-658-5659
Some restrictions apply. Expires 12/31/11. EHO Sun Homes Services, Inc. 2777 Franklin Rd., Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034 OE08769346

BUY NOW!

OWN YOUR HOME FOR AS LOW AS \$9,900
2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH NEARLY 1,000 SQ. FT. \$1,000 LOWE'S GIFT CARD UPON CLOSE!
SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE
COLLEGE PARK ESTATES CANTON, MI
(888) 265-9858

South Lyon:

In Northville Crossings. 3 bdrm, 2 bath. Family room with fireplace. 20x12 deck, kitchen appliances, nice landscaping. Take over payments or make offer. Call: (248) 573-7248

Mobile Homes

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

Commercial/Retail For Sale

CANTON: Busy Michigan Ave corridor. New 5100 SF building, completely occupied. 4.5 acre site has room for another 15,000 SF building \$1,400,000. #2615853. Bela Sipos. 734-669-5813. 734-669-4100 Reinhardt Commercial

Cemetery Lots

CEMETERY LOT Mt Hope Memorial Gardens. Garden of Valor. Double deck lot. \$2500. 989-821-5509

Apartments

FARMINGTON AREA
Adult community, quiet country setting, heat/water incl. \$580/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

GARDEN CITY: Large 1 bedroom. Appl. heat & water. Free \$560 + Security. 734-464-3847. 734-513-4065

LIVONIA: Mid 5/Middlebelt. 2 bdrm with laundry room in unit. \$666/mo. 50% OFF 1st Month's Rent! Call: (248) 521-1978

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

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.

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

Condos/Townhouses

PLYMOUTH: 55+ comm. 2nd flr w/balcony carport & view of creek front & rear. Inc heat & water. \$700. 734-455-2988

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

Mobile Home Rentals

3 bed/2 bath homes starting at \$629
College Park Estates Sun Homes
Apply at: 4collegepark.com
Hurry won't last! (888) 284-9760

Homes For Rent

Manufactured Homes for Rent
\$579, Free Rent Until 1/1/2012
Beautiful 3 Bed/2 Baths homes starting at \$629. Call us today! (888) 272-3099

Homes For Rent

CANTON: 720 SCOTTSDALE
\$1,495/mo with a sec dep of \$2,492.50 to move in. 5 bdrms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, family room w/ fireplace, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, patio, shed, stove & refrigerator. Prices and Pets are negotiable. Showings and tours are Wednesdays and Sundays at 4pm or by appointment. Please call 313-920-5866 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

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. \$850. 734-341-8713

GARDEN CITY-\$950
Section 8, 3 Bdrms, 2 baths, 2 garage, basement. No pets! Immediate Occupancy \$800/mo. 313-622-8214

LIVONIA
home 2 Bdrms, bath. Immediate Occupancy \$750 313-729-5219

LIVONIA: 3 bdrm ranch with family room, 2.5 car garage, lg yard, hot tub, neighborhood schools. Call: (734) 522-5428

REDFORD: Remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath, all appls incl. Detached garage. \$850/mo 248-767-1323

WAYNE: 3 bdrm, 2 baths, updated kitchen & bath. Fenced yard, 1 car gar. Non-smoking \$850. 734-878-9045

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

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, full bsmt, brick ranch, no garage, no pets, \$849/mo 248-360-7916, 248-669-9519

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch home. Completely redone & appliances, Livonia Schools, \$950. 734-604-1789

INKSTER: 1220 Helen

3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, finished bsmt, c/a, newer carpet, fenced, 1.5 garage. Immediate Occupancy \$800/mo. 313-622-8214

LIVONIA

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Living Quarters To Share

CANTON: Quiet executive home on 5 wooded acres. \$325 incl. cable & all utilities. Non-smoking. 734-658-8823

FARMINGTON HILLS: Professional to share immaculate, furnished house. Safe. \$395 incl. util., cable, W/D, Wi-Fi, maid. (813) 205-9928

Mobile Home Rentals

3 bed/2 bath homes starting at \$629
College Park Estates Sun Homes
Apply at: 4collegepark.com
Hurry won't last! (888) 284-9760

Homes For Rent

Manufactured Homes for Rent
\$579, Free Rent Until 1/1/2012
Beautiful 3 Bed/2 Baths homes starting at \$629. Call us today! (888) 272-3099

SERVICES

hometownlife.com

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CERAMIC TILE WORK
Water damage repairs From \$150 (Small Work) Ins. 31 years. 734-469-0565

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BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO. - New & repairs Sr. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins. 248-557-5595, 313-292-7722

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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

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

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A-1 HAULING
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PAINTING BY ROBERT
*Wallpaper Removal *Int *Ext *Plaster/Drywall Repair *Staining. 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499. 734-464-8147

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Livonia & Northern Suburbs Interior - Exterior. Free est. Since 1967. (248) 225-7165

Roofing

BEST CHIMNEY CO.
Free Est. Lic & Ins 248-557-5595, 313-292-7722

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

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www.hometownlife.com

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hometownlife.com

Cards Of Thanks

PRAYER: Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted. M

Absolutely Free

Christmas tree. Pre-lit, 7 feet tall. 248-887-9161 after 6pm.

Arts & Crafts

WESTLAND: Huron Valley Lutheran High School Craft Vendor Show. Dec 3, 10-3:30pm. 60+ Craft/Vendors. Bake Sale, kid's crafts. \$1 Admission. 33740 Cowan N. of Warren, E. of Wayne.

Auction Sales

Wing Lake Craft and Vendor Show
Wing Lake Center
6490 Wing Lake Rd
Bloomfield Hills, 48301
Maple, 1/2 mile W. of Telegraph
Sat. December 3, 9-4pm
45+ Vendors & Artisans
Shop local, support MI businesses

Auction Sales

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION: 12/07/2011. Family Towing, 30712 Industrial Rd., Livonia, MI. 1995 Lincoln 1LNLM97V9S706083

ESTATE AUCTION Sat. Dec. 3rd, 7pm
Cultural Center
525 Farmer
Plymouth MI
Extraordinary Collection of Pottery, Roseville, Weller, McCoy, Hall, Weller, Redwing; Furniture, Glassware, Old Toy Collection. Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm Joe Carl, Professional Auction Service 734.451.7444 jcauctionservices.com

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Estate Sales

DEARBORN ESTATE SALE
23214 Cleveland, Fr-Sun, 10-4pm. 50+ years! Pottery, depression glass, vintage railroad items, cameras, bikes, lawn/garden, living, dining & bdrm furniture. Kitchen & household items, garage packed with tools & more!

ESTATE SALE
Filming for HGTV's Cash & Cari
Season 3
GREAT FINDS Inc! Stunning Crystal, Furniture & Fine Cut Glass.
24105 Phillip Dr. Southfield MI
Dec 2nd-3rd, 10-5pm
http://repurposeestate.com
248.719.8332

Estate Sales

HISTORIC BOSTON BLVD MANSION ESTATE SALE
Collections since 1921. 2060 W. Boston Blvd., Detroit 48206, off Woodward Ave. 12/1-12/4, Thurs.-Sun., 9-5pm. Charles Clippert, Brick Manuf. Founder, Massive original collections of antiques (turn, tables lamps, light fixtures, oil paintings & prints, German dolls, pottery, Regina music box. Too much to list! View contents: www.hartstatesales.com 313-885-5600

Estate Sales

LIVONIA ESTATE SALE
60+ yrs accumulation! Lots of household, art work, pottery, seasonal, Pinetop piano, furniture, silk flowers, tools, records - something for everyone! Dec 1st-3rd, 9-4pm. 16072 Fairlane Ct, S of W. of Farmington

Estate Sales

LIVONIA: Moving/Estate Sale. All appli, pool table, fishing equip. 12/1-12/4, 10am-5pm. 8864 Nebraska. Joy/Merriman

PRIVATE ESTATE SALE
Furniture, antiques, collectibles, men's suits & shoes, Victorian costumes & much, much more! Sat & Sun, Dec 3 & 4th, 8-5pm. 1034 Bristol Ct. Northville, MI 48167; in Lexington Condos (8 Mile & Tatt)

REDFORD ESTATE SALE!
24046 Beech Daly Rd
Dec 2-4th 10-4pm
Over 60 yrs accumulation. Pics @ estatesales.net by Blue Ribbon Estates (586) 321-5377

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U-CUT-FIR, PINE & SPRUCE
Over 700,000
10AM 'til Dark
Closed Thanksgiving Day
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Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft tall)
Directions: South on US-23 to exit 25. Right on Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd., Turn left 3 miles to farm P. Holtz Est. 1947.

WALDOCK TREE FARM
We Grow:
Canaan, Concolor, Corkbark, Fraser & Korean Fir, Black Hills, Blue, Norway & Serbian Spruce. All trees staked, wrapped & drilled for free!
Large trees up to 19' Wreaths
Homemade Donuts, Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Cider and a Gift Shop in our warm barn. Open Fri. Sat. & Sun. 9am til Dark. 3090 Dutchler Rd., Howell. Take I-19 (at I-96, exit 137) South to Coon Lake Rd. West to Dutchler Rd. Follow the signs.
For more info & a map. (517) 546-3890
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GRAND PIANO
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Found dog Young male, in Normandy area of Royal Oak 248-416-6673

Lost - Pets

FOUND CAT - Black cat w/white feet found, declawed. South Lyon. 248-396-7702

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

	30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
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AFI Financial (877) 234-0600	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A/F
Ameripus Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group (800) 785-4755	3.75	0	3	0.875	J/A/N/F
Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	3.75	0.75	3.25	0	J/A/N/F
Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	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	4.125	0	3.5	0	J/A/N/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/N/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	4.25	0	3.75	0	J/A/N/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	3.625	1.75	3.25	0	J/A/N/F
Signature Mortgage Michigan (810) 588-4424	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A/F
Talmer Bank & Trust (800) 462-2786	4.125	0	3.5	0	J/A/N/F

Above information available as of 11/23/11 and subject to change at any time. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of

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Ideal for anyone who can get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart.
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Email resume to: hrplymouth@yahoo.com

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AVID, Michigan's premier source for AV and Alarm has immediate opportunities available at our Troy location for experienced audio-video technicians and alarm installers. Candidates should have exp. in alarm installation & service, specifically with Ademco, Napco, Moose and DSC panels and exp. in residential or commercial audio-video and/or control systems.
For consideration email resume to: position@aviolinc.com No phone calls please.

AUTO BODY MANAGER

For busy collision repair facility with several locations. Must be licensed & I-Car certified. Exc. pay & benefits.
Email resume to: employeeci@comcast.net

AUTO MECHANIC - LICENSED

Van Ess Auto in Livonia. Call for interview: 734-422-0320, email: stuartfms@gmail.com

AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS

Top Value Automotive is looking for EXPERIENCED Mechanics. The pay & benefits are excellent-over \$1,000 per week. BC/BS, Dental, Vision, LTD. (401k) match & more. You must be energetic & Master State or ASE certified to qualify for this position. For immediate interview in Southgate call: 734-281-2706 & ask for Kevin, Dearborn Hts. call: 313-561-4420 & ask for Roy or Livonia call: 734-591-0678 & ask for Alex.

It's all about results!



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Help Wanted-General

DISPATCHER

General Office Assistant for concrete products company. 40 hrs/wk. \$12/hr. No benefits. Fax resume: 248-474-5199

DRIVERS

Box Truck Contract Carrier

Available for residential deliveries of appliances and home goods for a local major retailer. The individual must have the ability to secure a 24'26" white box truck with lift gate 2006 or newer. Immediate opportunities for contractors in the Livonia area. Candidate must have a professional "can do" attitude and appearance. All contract opportunities are pending criminal background, MVR, and drug test results that satisfy our customer requirements. For more information in regards to this opportunity, call 678-232-3939

Glass Installer-Crystal Glass

Exp. d. only. Crystal Glass, Wixom. Email resume: jsolomon@crystalglassinc.net Fax: 248-685-8448 or Call: 248-685-9220

HAIR STYLIST/ASSISTANT

Part-time, cosmetology license required. Plymouth Call: (734) 451-0855

Higher Pressure/HVAC Service Tech

FT. Immediate opening in Southfield MI. 5 yrs. exp. with HP boilers and auxiliaries, MAUs, pumps etc. Must have strong mechanical/troubleshooting skills motivated & willing to learn. Competitive wage and compensation package send resume to: jobs11@bcienair.com

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\$14.25 base appt. Call 248-888-9246 or apply online at xmshelp.com

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If you are a detail oriented, reliable & team player with verifiable experience in cubicle set-up. FAX: 734-266-3270 or Email: amerbest@abcjobai.net

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Experienced, self motivated Dental Assistant needed full time for fast-paced office. Implant experience a plus. Fax resume 734-728-1656

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Help Wanted-General

Help Wanted-Medical

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

Experienced, full/part-time. Fax resume: 734-326-3234 healthyprsvet@gmail.com

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage

COOK

For assisted living facility. Apply in person: 8121 Lilley, Canton MI (btwn Joy & Warren)

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Challenging fun for ALL ages Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Collects maple sap
- 9 747 or DC-10
- 12 Water, to Juana
- 13 Newsman - Abel
- 14 "Honest" fellow
- 15 Element number 79
- 16 Bit of straw
- 17 Two-bagger (abbr.)
- 18 Spiky flowers
- 21 Vacation acquisition
- 22 And so forth
- 23 Nail, to Caesar
- 26 Bogus Bach
- 28 Expresses boredom
- 32 Count calories
- 34 Depot (abbr.)
- 36 Pajama coverer
- 37 Urban woos
- 39 "Westworld" name

41 Kilt-wearer's

- 42 Letterhead abbr.
- 44 Figured out
- 46 Suffering from bad luck
- 51 LP speed
- 52 German valley
- 53 Card combo
- 55 Had roast beef
- 56 Falco or Sedgwick
- 57 Pantyhose color
- 58 Glamorous woman, slangily
- 59 Rip apart
- 60 Cherry leftover

Answer to Previous Puzzle

I	C	H	G	A	S	H	J	O	L	T	
F	L	O	U	R	E	Y	A	R	I	A	
F	O	I	L	L	E	T	E	D	M	O	L
Y	O	I	Y	O	S	D	E	S	I		
	A	S	H	H	E	A	R	T			
R	U	F	F	U	T	A	H	B	A	H	
E	G	O	S	L	A	D	C	U	K	E	
A	L	I	O	L	I	O	A	T	E	N	
D	Y	L	A	N	S	U	N				
	D	O	T	E	S	O	G	G	Y		
O	B	O	E	A	N	T	E	N	N	A	
L	E	A	P	R	O	A	R	A	L	L	
D	E	F	T	T	W	O	S	T	E	L	

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DOWN

- 1 Playground game
- 2 All excited
- 3 Tug
- 4 Anwar of Egypt
- 5 Runs back-

ward

- 6 Hodgepodge
- 7 Supermarket area
- 8 Badge wearer
- 9 Green mineral

10 Waner

- 11 Util. bill
- 19 Skip stones
- 20 Lasting mark
- 23 Classifieds
- 24 Oomph
- 25 Help-wanted abbr.
- 27 Amt.
- 29 Prevalent
- 30 Cagers' org.
- 31 Get an eyeful
- 33 Happy-hour letters
- 35 Was an omen of
- 38 Barracks bane
- 40 "Whif Man"
- 43 Raw
- 45 Finish-line markers
- 46 Capable of (2 wds.)
- 47 Taos loc.
- 48 Like some pizza crusts
- 49 Social asset
- 50 Gael republic
- 51 U.K. fliers
- 54 Sugarcane product

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
				21				22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
32			33	34	35	36				
37			38	39	40	41				
			42	43	44	45				
46	47			48				49	50	
51				52				53		54
55				56				57		
58				59				60		

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

				1				5		
	8	3								
			7	2	4					8
2		6	9	3						
1								7		
				1						5
5					6					2
	3		4	7		9				1

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search

G	W	Q	C	S	R	F	R	E	L	P	I	L	E	P	L
M	R	J	M	B	C	R	A	J	L	I	Q	L	J	L	W
G	D	A	E	Y	A	P	C	S	S	L	P	V	Y	S	
J	O	T	C	F	W	O	R	A	J	P	I	L	A		
Z	Z	P	D	T	E	M	E	M	P	H	I	S	S	R	G
S	P	Y	E	N	L	A	H	A	T	H	W	Y	E	A	V
D	R	Y	E	N	R	A	Z	H	D	Q	L	E	V		
Z	I	S	M	I	U	S	N	R	U	B	E	D	I	S	
O	S	N	E	R	P	O	P	D	H	L	Q	G	G	A	
V	C	Z	G	L	A	H	H	C	S	E	X	V	X	L	
R	I	J	E	E	M	E	S	P	I	H	D	H			
D	L	Y	I	T	R	C	R	U	J	W	E	O	F	X	
I	L	K	B	M	Q	P	P	K	A	Q	D	O	P	U	
E	A	H	E	F	V	P	Q	V	B	Y	S	M	W	R	
E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	E	R	N	M	S	N	

- army
- draft
- elvis
- entertainer
- graceland
- hips
- hound dog
- las vegas
- lisa marie
- memphis
- presley
- priscilla
- RCA
- sideburns
- singer

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Sudoku



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Help to celebrate, cope with the holiday season

The holidays — a phrase that rings a different tone for women in various life stages.

Kids, families, blended families, holiday parties, decorating, shopping, baking — kind of wears a body out just thinking about it.

But fear not, today's *Hometown Life Woman* is here to help you get through this special time of year in fine form.

Looking your best this holiday season goes a long way in making us feel our best. So we're provid-

ing you with some seasonal fashion and makeup tips courtesy of internationally acclaimed makeup artist Barbara Deyo and contributing writer Victoria Mitchell.

Holidays can bring painful reminders for those who have lost a loved one. Cathy Clough, executive director of New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville, drops by to share some advice on how to help yourself or those around you cope. She urges readers to focus on what is important to ease the stress and burden of the holidays.

We know you will find her input especially helpful.

There's something for everyone inside today's *Woman* — food, fashion and coping techniques.

Too late to include in last month's edition, but always fun was, Florine Mark's ReMarkable Women Live! event. The 12th annual event featured author, actress and activist Jane Fonda on Oct. 30 at The Henry Ford. Mark launched the event to honor remarkable women and raise money for women's health issues.

Hometown Life Woman was there and so were many women from throughout our readership area. Read about the event and see who attended inside.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues.

Happy holidays!

Susan Rosiek

publisher

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Susan Rosiek

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Tips for coping with the holiday blues



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smart snacking tips

If you want to lose weight or maintain weight loss this winter, choose smart snacks that will satisfy your taste buds without sabotaging your goals. Low-fat dairy is one great option recommended by the USDA. It's a good source of protein that can help keep you fuller longer while providing calcium and important nutrients.

For tasty snack ideas, try these recipes:

Tomato Mozzarella Skewers

Serves: 4 (1 skewer plus 1 tablespoon pesto)

Weight Watchers PointsPlus value: 3 per serving

Prep time: 17 minutes

20 grape tomatoes
4 pieces Weight Watchers Light String Cheese (or Weight Watchers Natural Light Smoked Mozzarella String Cheese), cut into quarters

1 cup fresh basil plus 4 basil leaves, cut into quarters
½ clove garlic
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon low-sodium chicken broth
1 tablespoon pine nuts
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
4 8-inch skewers

Thread tomato onto skewer. Follow with 1 piece of mozzarella cheese, ¼ piece basil. Repeat pattern until

skewer is full, ending with a tomato. Once 4 skewers have been prepared, set aside.

Chop garlic in food processor until minced, about 15 seconds. Add basil, olive oil, chicken broth, pine nuts, Parmesan cheese, salt, pepper. Pulse until all ingredients are finely chopped, about 30 seconds.

Serve each skewer with 1 tablespoon pesto.

Spinach and Artichoke Dip with Pita Toasts

Serves: 6 (½ cup dip plus 6 pita chips per serving)

Weight Watchers PointsPlus value: 5 per serving

Prep time: 18 minutes Cook time: 33 minutes

Pita Toasts:

64-inch whole wheat pita pockets, cut into sixths
Non-stick olive oil cooking spray
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

Spinach and Artichoke Dip:

9 Weight Watchers Parmesan Peppercorn Wedges, cut into 1-inch pieces
½ cup non-fat sour cream
2 ounces Weight Watchers Reduced Fat Cream Cheese Spread, cut into 1-inch pieces

Please see **SNACKS, 8**

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ReMarkable Women:

Fonda, Mark inspire sell-out crowd at annual event



Jane Fonda and Florine Mark at ReMarkable Women Live! 2011. Fonda signed books before her presentation.



Annette Horn of Plymouth Township represented Dior at this year's ReMarkable Women event. With sample of j'adore — the Dior table was a popular stop for guests.



Getting ready to leave the event with a signed copy of 'Prime Time,' Fonda's book, are (from left) Mara Filo, of Bloomfield Hills, Julie Knevels of Birmingham and Christina Knevels Pescarino of Birmingham.

Jane Fonda, keynote speaker at the 12th annual "ReMarkable Women Live!" event Oct. 30, told a sold-out crowd of some 800 people at The Henry in Dearborn that she will celebrate her 74th birthday Dec. 21. The emphasis is on celebrate because Fonda, award-winning actress, activist, author and fitness advocate, said she has never been happier and is looking forward to her "third act."

Fonda emphasized: "I want my third act to make sense."

"I've become happier than I ever expected to be," Fonda told the crowd of mostly women, explaining that she comes from a long line of family members who suffered with depression.

"When you're older you have a long backward view. You know what you can let go of. You see commonalities more than differences," said Fonda.

Fonda recalled that at age 59 she spent her birthday rounding up bison on then-husband Ted Turner's ranch in Montana. She spent the year recording herself and writing. "By the time my 60th birthday came around I was a different person," explained Fonda.

Fonda said she's grown stronger from the obstacles in her life. She talked about the importance of a good diet ("eat healthy food of all colors"), daily exercise and positive relationships. Don't let the little things upset you, Fonda told the crowd at the 12th annual event produced by Florine Mark of the Weight Watchers Group.

Proceeds of this year's event will benefit Beaumont Ministrelli's Women's Heart Center, Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center and the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center.

Fonda talked about her childhood (her mother committed suicide when Jane was 12), family, her marriage to Ted Turner and offered up some advice from her book *Prime Time*, published in August 2011. Fonda called it a "blueprint for living and maturing."

Fonda and her beau, music producer Richard Perry, spent the weekend in Michigan attending the Oct. 29 University of Michigan football game (Perry is a U-M alum), dining with Mark and a small group of local celebrities on Saturday then addressing the sold-

Please see **WOMEN, 10**

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SNACKS

Continued from page 4

- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 package (10-ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained
- 1 can (14-ounces) artichoke hearts, drained, chopped into 1/2-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 400°F. Arrange pita slices on baking sheet 1/4 inch apart. Spray both sides with cooking spray. Sprinkle tops with kosher salt, pepper.

Bake 7-8 minutes until golden. Remove from oven; set aside.

Lower oven heat to 350°F. Spray 8-inch baking pan with cooking spray.

In large bowl, combine Parmesan peppercorn wedges, sour cream, cream cheese, garlic powder, salt and pepper with electric mixer on low until well-blended.

Stir in spinach, artichoke hearts with large spoon. Mix until thoroughly combined.

Pour into pan; bake 25 minutes, until bubbling, lightly browned. Remove from oven. Serve warm or at room temperature with pita toasts.



Cheesecake Lollipops

Once cool, cover pan tightly with foil. Refrigerate 3 hours or overnight.

Line baking sheet with wax paper.

Remove cheesecake from refrigerator. Scoop out 28 balls (roughly 2 tablespoons in size) with measuring spoon or small ice cream scoop. Place balls on baking sheet, approximately 1 inch apart. Insert stick firmly in middle of each ball. Freeze 2 hours or overnight.

Just before serving, make ganache. In double boiler or Pyrex bowl placed over pan of steaming, not yet simmering water, heat chocolate chips, half-and-half over low heat, whisking continuously until mixture is smooth. Remove from heat.

Dip lollipops into ganache until 3/4 of each lollipop is covered. Return to baking sheet. Allow to harden. Serve immediately or freeze until ready to serve.

For more tips and recipes, visit www.WeightWatchers.com.

The brand of ingredients used in the nutrition calculation software to calculate the PointsPlus value for these recipes may differ from what is available on the WeightWatchers.com Recipe Builder. This may impact the PointsPlus value.

Cheesecake Lollipops

Serves: 28 (1 lollipop or square, 1/28th of a 9-inch cake)

Weight Watchers PointsPlus value: 5 per serving

Prep time: 1 hour plus 3 hours refrigeration time and 2 hours freezing time

Cook time: 45 minutes

Cheesecake:

- 24 ounces Weight Watchers Reduced Fat Cream Cheese Spread, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest

Ganache:

- 12 ounces semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup half-and-half

Equipment:

- 28 lollipop or Popsicle sticks
- Preheat oven to 350°F.

In large mixing bowl, whip cream cheese and sugar until light, fluffy. Add flour, eggs, vanilla extract, lemon zest. Beat until completely smooth.

Pour mixture into 9-inch square baking pan; spread evenly. Bake 45 minutes or until a knife inserted into the center of the cheesecake comes out clean. Remove from oven; cool completely, approximately 1 hour.

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At right, Linda Solomon of Bloomfield Township was among the sold-out crowd at the Oct. 30 event. Solomon is an award-winning photojournalist and author.



Below, Marshelle Brokks of Southfield is a HAP representative. HAP (Health Alliance Plan) was one of the sponsors of the ReMarkable Women and had a vendor booth at the event.



Paulette Koffron of Farmington (left) and Sara Moore of West Bloomfield were first-time attendees of the ReMarkable Women event.



WOMEN

Continued from page 6

out crowd for Sunday's event. (See her blog at janefonda.com to read more about Weekend in Michigan Parts 1 and 2.)

Fonda said that while her exercise regimen is not that of her famous video — more than 20 years ago — she exercises daily and promotes walking and strength training for women as they mature. Fonda announced that she will releasing two new "Prime Time" workout videos next year.

Guests at the Oct. 30 event had a chance to meet Fonda, buy her new book, and get it signed. After her presentation, she took questions from the audience. Entertainment at the ReMarkable Women event included Makeeta Birdsong and Mahoggay. Also featured was an expo of products and services and a "celebrity chat" which featured WDIV's Carmen Harlan and Paula Tutman, WXYZ's Diana Lewis, Fox 2's Sherry Margolis, WWJ Radio's Roberta Jasina and Detroit Media Partnership President Joyce Jenereaux.

Mark founded the ReMarkable Women event to honor outstanding women and raise money for women's health centers. Mark is president and CEO of The WW Group, Inc., based in Farmington Hills. Mark is the leading U.S. franchise holder of Weight Watchers International. The WW Group, Inc., is an internationally recognized weight loss enterprise.

This year's event also attracted many first-time attendees who praised Fonda's presentation and the event in general.

"Fabulous," said Christine Knevels Pescarino, a first-time attendee from Birmingham who said the energy of the event "empowers other women."

Mara Filo of Bloomfield Hills, also a first-time attendee, described the event as "inspiring. I loved the whole afternoon — the mission and purpose is inspiring."

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Sheri Mark and her mom, Florine Mark, presenter of ReMarkable Women Live! Sheri was proudly celebrating her four-year anniversary as a breast cancer survivor at the Oct. 30 event at The Henry in Dearborn.

Below, Patty Donatto (left sitting), Miriam Masiarczyk, Elaine Grech (standing left) and Kaitlyn Gardner all of Novi attended the event for the first time. They were guests of Allegra, a supporter of the event.



Above, Karen Vandevver and (left) and Alice Freshour are neighbors in Farmington and first-time attendees of the ReMarkable Women event. They are shown here at the vendor expo which featured products and services for women.



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Fashion tips to help you look your best

By Victoria Mitchell
Contributing Writer

This monkey fur and lace ensemble from Lost & Found Vintage in downtown Royal Oak is a perfect example of a hot holiday trend. The resale shop on South Washington is a great place to find vintage-inspired holiday clothes and accessories.



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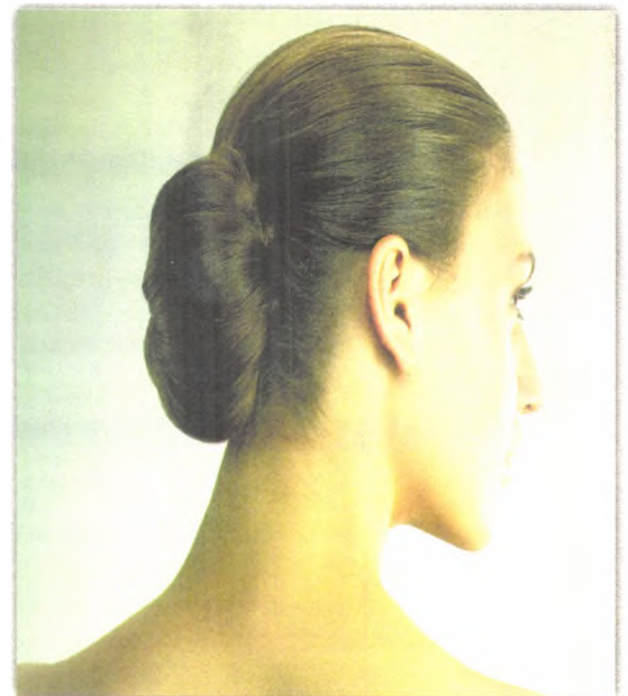
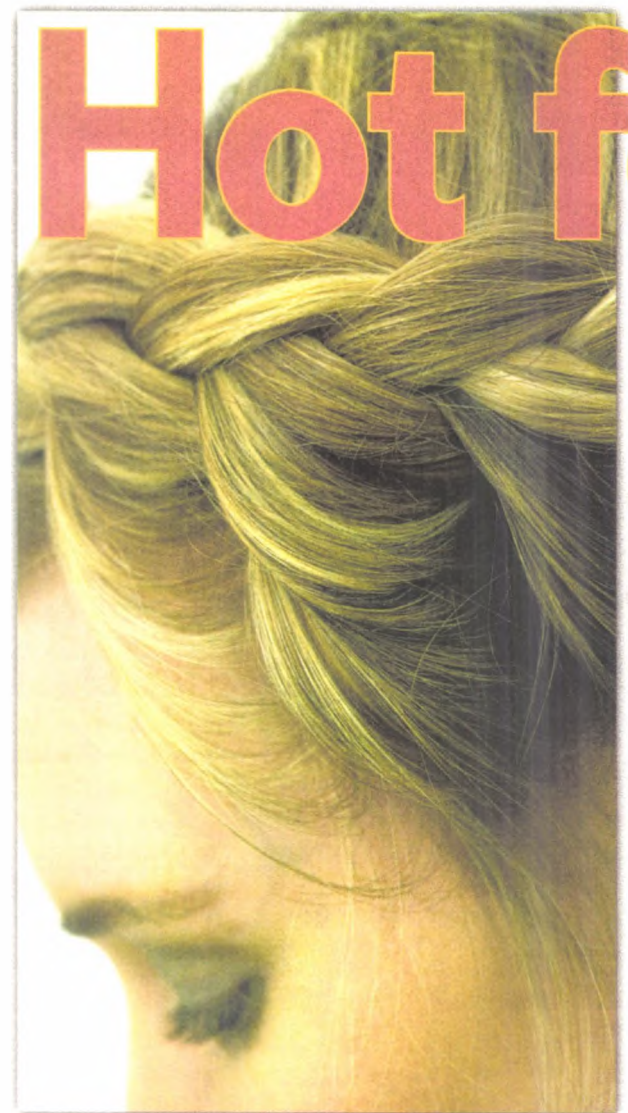
The glitz! The glamour! The holidays! There is no better time than December to let your inner pizzazz shine.

From hair, makeup and accessories we have you covered to make sure you are looking your best into the New Year with our must-have holiday style picks.

1. Let it shine — Ditch the matte finishes and earth tones hiding in your makeup bag for the rest of the month and pull out the shimmer. The look for the 2011 season is shine and the trend is all-natural cosmetics. Our favorite picks for adding sparkle to your cheeks, eyes and lips include the Shining Stars limited-edition best sellers makeup collection and smolderEYES™ limited edition Amazonian clay waterproof eyeliner collection both by tarte cosmetics. Tarte is available at Sephora inside Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and ULTA at Hunters Square on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. We also recommend the 2011 party BUXOM lip polishes collection by Bare Escentuals. This collection of lip polish shimmers, shines and also plumps your lips. BUXOM is also available at Sephora and Bare Escentuals Boutiques inside the Somerset Collection in Troy and Twelve Oaks Mall. The original mineral makeup products may also be found at Macy's in Novi and Troy.

2. Get wild — Wearing red, gold or silver is festive during the holidays, but if you want to be a trend-setter this month also pull out the fur. Whether you opt for faux fur or the real thing there is no denying getting a little hairy is this season's biggest trend. From scarves to Boleros to furry spirit hood hats there is something available at all price points and tastes. And if fur is not your style, another top trend for the 2011 holiday season is lace. Wearing lace may be combined with fur or without! To find

Please see TIPS, 14



or the holidays



From holi-day-to-night: How to holiday in a hurry!

By **Barbara Deyo**
Guest Columnist



Barbara Deyo

It's all about the details. A little sparkle here, a little shimmer there, add a pop of color and sprinkle in some bling. Done. You are ready for the party!

It's fun to get all jingled up and celebrate the holidays. And it's a festive, yet sentimental, time to catch up with those near and dear

that we don't see often enough. With extra shopping and the ever growing "to do" list (by the way, are you on it?), we are busy. So how do we turn it around and make it all happen? Not to worry. Here are some quick tips to turn your everyday look into holiday spectacular in a flash.

1. Red lipstick. Yes, every woman can wear red lipstick. I wouldn't lie to you. There are so many varieties that you can find something that will complement. Usually it's getting past yourself and the fact that it's "different," not "bad," on you.

So how do we try it out? Of course, come see me. Or another professional makeup artist at your favorite beauty apothecary, who can expertly pick out your perfect red. You can shop the aisles of beauty at the department stores. The sales associates are very well-trained on their product lines (I, myself, started my career behind the Clinique counter) and will take the time to try on different options with you. Or try the drug store — you can buy some inexpensive brands to play around. If you are nervous, go for something glossy and/or

sheer — it's more forgiving. Whatever you choose, once you buy it, wear it around a few times before you are actually going to the event, so you don't have that shock factor when you look in the mirror.

2. Shimmer, shimmer, shimmer. A soft glowy finish is not only flattering, but it's an easy way to "dress up" your skin. You can use a finishing powder to highlight under the eyes and brow bone, tops of the cheek bones and across the nose. Instant

Please see **DEYO, 14**

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DEYO

Continued from page 13

glam. You can also mix a shimmery liquid into your foundation for an all-over glow. It's like you are in constant candlelight! Gorgeous!

3. Black eyeliner. I know, I talk about black eyeliner *a lot*. That's because it's my favorite trick to intensify your look in two seconds. And mistake-proof. Rim the inner eye, top and bottom, and it's an instant changeover. Opt for a softer pencil, as this will glide on easier and give a more opaque look. And make sure it's black black — not "off" black or dark brown — as it whitens the whites of your eyes the best.

4. False lashes. Now this one I suggest go straight to the pro for help. I am a pro and still struggle with applying false eyelashes to myself. But there is nothing better for a gal to get you in the festive mood than a lush pair of sexy lashes. There are lots of options out there, from one-night-out to two-week-wear to lash extensions. Each option serves a very different purpose, and has a very different look and a very different price. So discuss it with your makeup artist and you can decide together what the best fit is for you.

5. Accessorize. Heading out right after work? Simply throw on a bedazzled scarf, blingy bangles or flashy rhinestone earrings to instantly spice up your everyday outfit into holiday appropriate.



Choose one, or choose all, but have a stress-free fabulous holiday season — and remember to take time for you.

Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio for face and body is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington and Shaun Robinson and more. She has been named Best of the Best by *Allure*, *Hour*, *Real Detroit* and WDIV. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Avenue, second floor, in Birmingham. Contact her at (248) 203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com for more information.

TIPS

Continued from page 12

one-of-a-kind fur and lace pieces, we suggest shopping high-end resale boutiques like Lost & Found Vintage or Paris in downtown Royal Oak.

3. Ups and downs — Sleek or tousled? Tight or loose? Holiday hair should be out of the ordinary.

"For up-dos we are seeing a lot of braids with a low chignon," said Nadwa Yono, owner and master stylist at Nadwa Hair Spa in West Bloomfield. "Chignon is a really popular thing right now." Think bun, but more tousled near the nape of your neck and you will be in holiday chignon glory.

And if sleek is more your style, Yono recommends a modern, sleek french twist. The stylist also recommends a very sleek, high-end ponytail worn either high on the head or at the nape of the neck. Yono also said don't forget the accessories. The holiday season is the best time to embellish your hair.

According to Yono, feathers are still a big trend, but with all of the upcoming holiday parties, don't forget the rhinestones. Hair accessories may be worn with sleek up-dos or long flowing romantic curls. Yono also recommends consulting a stylist for your big holiday parties for professional input. For example, if you are wearing a one-shoulder dress, don't wear a side-do with your hair pulled to the same side as the sleeve.

4. Cuff it — The hottest accessory right now is the cuff so channel your inner '70s spirit and rock a collar necklace or cuff bracelet in glittering gold, shimmering silver or go for the jewels for extra pizzazz. JC Penney stores in Canton and Novi have a large selection of this season's hot accessory in prices ranging from \$8-\$50. This newest version of the statement necklace looks great with myriad of looks. You can find a large selection from hammered to sparkling for going from your holiday work luncheon to the five-star New Year's eve gala.

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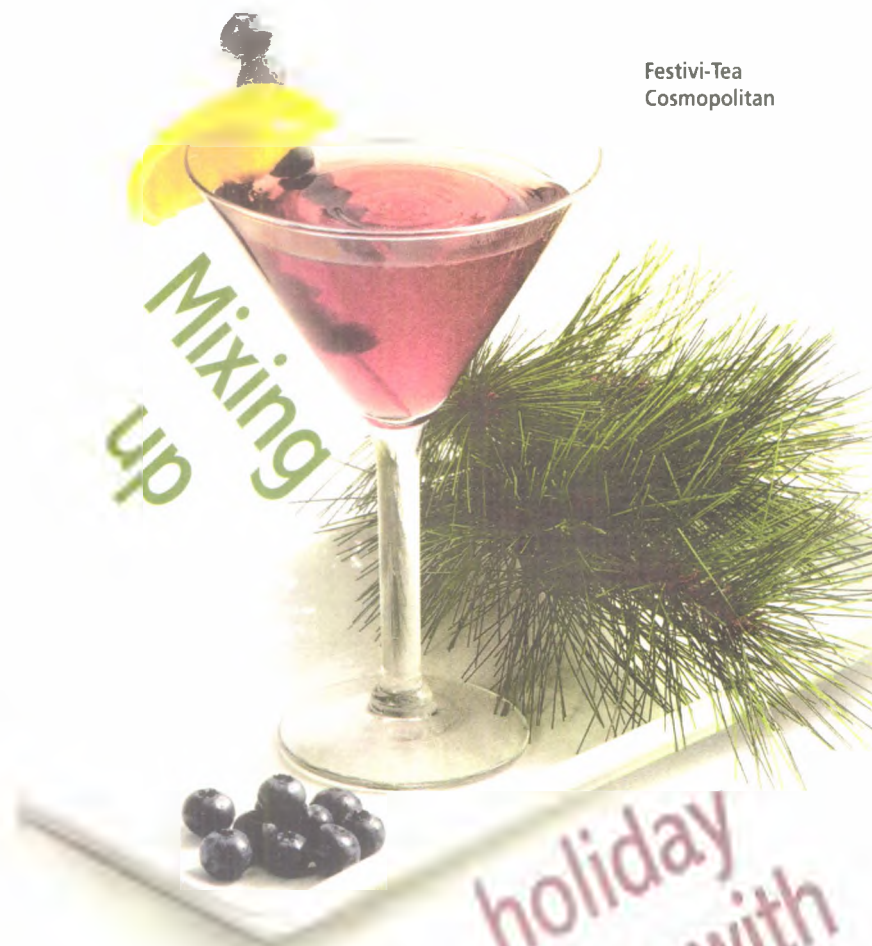
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Festivi-Tea
Cosmopolitan

(Family Features) — Calling all holiday party planners: You can hear those sleigh bells ringing, can't you? Like the most earnest of elves, you're likely doing your spirited best to balance tradition with the unexpected. This holiday, invite a surprising guest to stir up your seasonal soiree — iced tea.

Alongside the wintertime warmups like hot chocolate and eggnog, more hosts are adding a non-traditional, yet oh-so-celebration-worthy sip to their gatherings.

"Until now, this beverage's ability to liven up a festive fete has been a well-kept secret by iced tea-lovers," says Stacy Taffet, Lipton brand. "But this beloved summertime cooler is fast becoming a popular pour at holiday get-togethers, thanks to a dash of cinnamon, nutmeg or apple cider."

So, wow with what's now, by serving up a new recipe featuring 100% Natural Lipton® Iced Tea mixed with traditional taste-making spices. They're perfect for holiday partygoers of all ages.

Have a Berry Merry Cosmo
Blend the naughtiness of tart with the

Please see TEA, 17

holiday
cheer with
iced tea

Winter
Berry Hot
White
Chocolate
Tea



TEA

Continued from page 16

niceness of sweet for the ultimate pink drink — Cosmopolitans. With pomegranate, blueberry and cranberry juice, it's a sassy, classic way to cheer the holiday season.

Festivi-Tea Cosmopolitan

3 servings
Prep time: 5 minutes

- 1 bottle 100% Natural Lipton Iced Tea with Pomegranate Blueberry
- 3 tablespoons 100% cranberry juice
- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 tablespoon lime juice

Combine all ingredients in a shaker filled with ice. Shake well and pour into chilled martini glasses.

Tip: For an adult version, use 2 tablespoons vodka and 2 tablespoons orange liqueur instead of orange juice.

A fruity take on a holiday favorite

Move over, fruit cake! There's a new take on festive fruity flavors. This savory and sweet recipe mixes together simple ingredients (which you most likely have on hand) with the delicious taste of pomegranate and blueberry.

Winter Berry Hot White Chocolate Tea

4 servings
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 8 minutes

- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 cup light cream or half-and-half*
- 1 bottle 100% Natural Lipton Iced Tea with Pomegranate Blueberry
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Place all ingredients in a medium saucepan and warm over medium heat, stirring constantly, until chips are completely melted, about 8 minutes (do not boil).

Serve immediately. If desired, garnish with whipped cream and an additional sprinkle of nutmeg.

Tip: For an adult version, use 1/4 cup vodka or cherry brandy instead of 1/4 cup of light cream.

*Use fat-free half-and-half to make this dessert drink lower in saturated fat and calories.

Cinnamon, spice and iced tea

This recipe offers a tasty twist on a long-standing holiday drink tradition: grog. Spice up each cup by bringing together sweet-scented cinnamon and crisp apple cider.



Tea-Spiced Grog

Tea-Spiced Grog

6 servings
Prep time: 5 minutes
Stand time: 20 minutes

- 2 bottles 100% Natural Lipton Iced Tea with Lemon
- 1 cup apple cider or apple juice
- 5 whole cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick

Bring all ingredients to a boil over high heat in a 2-quart saucepan. Remove from heat and let stand 20 minutes. Strain out spices and serve warm. If desired, garnish with sliced apples.

Tip: For spiked grog, add 1/4 cup light rum or brandy.

A sangria recipe for all seasons

This sangria recipe is a great go-to for get-togethers because you can mix it hours in advance, leaving you more time to mix with what matters — your guests.

Black Tea Sangria

6 servings
Prep time: 5 minutes
Chill time: 2 hours

- 2 bottles 100% Natural Lipton Iced Tea with Lemon
- 1 cup unsweetened grape juice
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 small orange, sliced
- 1 Gala apple, cored and sliced
- 1 lime, sliced

Combine all ingredients in large pitcher. Chill at least 2 hours or until ready to serve.

Tip: For an adult version of this sangria, use dry red wine instead of grape juice.

For more holiday recipe ideas, visit www.facebook.com/LiptonIcedTea.

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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!

7				2		6		
	4							9
1	6					4	5	
4			1	3				
2						1	6	
			9					3
		7	1					
			8	4		7		
			5					

Level: Intermediate

4		3			7			6
		7		5	1			
	2	5	9					
8		1	2			6		
			7		4	3		
					3	8	9	7
			9					
	6				5			3

Level: Advanced

	4							5
5				9	3			
2	1		7					9
			3					7
			6				8	4
			9		4			
	5					3		2
		2						
9		3			7			6

Level: Intermediate

Answers found on page 22

Blended families:

How to cope with the holidays



By Valerie Olander
Contributing Writer

A blended family at the holiday season can be like taking the lid off the KitchenAid while the eggnog is still rotating at top speed. It's a mess.

Sharing good cheer at multiple homes calls for flexibility and a good sense of humor and, if you're lucky, the destinations will be less than 30 minutes apart. Just don't forget to exchange the children and the gifts.

"It does stink. It is very difficult for the children and the parents. It's a lot of stress," said Carrie Krawiec, a therapist at Birmingham Maple Clinic and executive director of Michigan Association of Family Therapy.

Here are some tips to get you through the holidays without any major foul-ups. (Expect a few minor ones.)

Since most custody agreements alternate holidays, scheduling may be already set. However, it's best to make sure the whole week is busy if you have young children and sugary treats.

If possible, talk to your ex-spouse to make sure everyone knows the plans ahead of time, including the child.

"Emphasize with the child that it may be stressful. If there's a new family in the mix, there will be new traditions. Don't wait for the kid to have a hard time," she said.

Children, especially younger ones, may be feeling the loss of one parent or worry that if one parent is remarried and the other isn't, the single parent will be lonely for the holiday. A phone call or text message to the other parent can alleviate concerns.

Talk to children about how the holiday celebration will change and how they feel about celebrating a different way and the pain of not having both parents there, Krawiec said.

"Let them know that certain things will change but new traditions can be made with a bit of brainstorming and that can become 'our' tradition," she said.

Having an open dialogue with the ex-spouse about gift giving may help, but many families cite concerns about buying a child's affection with large gifts or gift competition. If it can't be resolved, discuss with a child how gift giving will happen at your house, based on your values.

Also, remind extended family that you want all children, whether biological or stepchildren, treated the same. If this can't be adhered to, maybe a separate day of celebration and gift exchange can be planned on a different day before or after the holiday with one set of children.

Try to predict as many problems in advance, such as how gifts will be addressed to Mom and her new husband or stepgrandparents.

Expect the unexpected and be flexible, such as an ex-spouse sabotaging your holiday by filling your child up on cookies and caffeine right before dropping them off. Don't take it out on the child. Playing with a toy nearby might be better alternative than forcing him to sit still at a formal dinner table and eat a full meal.

"These discussions need to happen early and be open with the child," she said.

And, not to worry, it does get easier, Krawiec said.

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Taking the stress out of holiday cooking

A new national consumer survey by Ipsos reveals that the No. 1 holiday cooking headache is synchronizing the meal so that all dishes are ready at the same time.

Brothers Michael and Bryan Voltaggio, of Bravo's *Top Chef*, understand the delicate balance of preparing a holiday meal. "Holiday cooking is all about getting great food on the dinner table that can be savored and enjoyed. We prefer to keep the process as easy as possible," says Michael.

The brothers offer a recipe for Cinnamon Coffee Cake and Bay Leaf Ice Cream, as well as these tips to help you get the timing of your holiday meal right:

Prepare in advance. Think about the cook time of each recipe; if dinner is at 4 p.m., you

want your turkey out of the oven by 2 p.m., which means the turkey needs to be in a pre-heated oven by 8 a.m.

Make the most of your kitchen. Because convenience and flexibility are important in the kitchen, consider the Samsung Flex Duo Oven. It is the world's first freestanding electric range that can be divided into two cavities and then back into one larger oven. This gives cooks the option of preparing either two dishes at two different temperatures with no mixing of aromas or tastes, or one larger dish.

For tips, advice and recipes from the Voltaggio Brothers, as well as a chance to win a new oven, go to www.Facebook.com/SamsungHomeAppliances.



Cinnamon Coffee Cake and Bay Leaf Ice Cream

Serves: 6

Coffee Cake
2 ½ cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
6 ounces unsalted butter
1 ½ cups sugar
¼ cup buttermilk
3 eggs
1 cup creme fraiche
4 tablespoons cinnamon

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In mixer with paddle attachment, cream butter and sugar for 3 minutes. Add buttermilk and eggs to creamed butter and sugar. Slowly add dry ingredients, 1/3 at a time. Fold in creme fraiche and reserve.

Remove 1-¾ cups batter; stir in 4 tablespoons of cinnamon until smooth.

Gently fold cinnamon batter into remaining batter to create swirl effect.

Place 1-½ cups batter into four 5 x 2-½-inch greased cake pans; place ¼ cup of crumb topping (directions follow) on each cake, gently pressing into batter. Place in oven for 40-45 minutes, turning halfway through baking. Insert cake tester to make sure cake is cooked through. Let rest; cool for 1 hour.

Crumb topping
½ pound butter
⅔ cup flour
½ cup almond flour
¼ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon nutmeg
⅔ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cayenne

Soften butter to room temperature. Combine all ingredients together in mixing bowl with paddle attachment until texture of sand. Distribute over cake batter as in main recipe above.

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Holidays aren't always a happy time

By Valerie Olander
 Contributing Writer

The holidays can be a depressing time for a multitude of reasons from those who are lonely or grieving the loss of a loved one. Financial strain, family tension or even the overwhelming stress of shopping and/or planning a dinner that seems to be more work than merriment add to this.

Simplify, plan and prioritize. That's the most important advice experts say will help you beat the crush of feelings that arrive with the holidays.

Don't feel like you have to do everything. Delegate, experts say. Don't deck the halls. Use less trimming or a smaller tree to get you through the holidays. And, gifts don't have to be elaborate. Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Get rid of the "bah humbugs" by volunteering to help other people. By focusing on someone in need, the feeling of loneliness or loss can be mitigated by feelings of self-worth. Deliver Meals on Wheels or donate time with Toys for Tots. You can "give" for the holidays without spending a lot of money.

"I think the most important thing is don't let the holidays catch you without

a plan," said Cathy Clough, executive director of New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville.

The first holiday without a loved one can be the most difficult.

"People think they have to shop, they have to decorate. They don't have to do anything. A lot of times people are exhausted from grieving," she said.

Cut back. Gifts can be simple. Focus on the true meaning of Christmas and less on gift giving, she said.

Simple changes can take the burden off of the grieving person, such as changing the day or time of a family meal, simplifying the menu or where the holiday will be celebrated can ease the stress. Go out to dinner or out of town, experts say.

Talk to other family members about how the holiday will be celebrated this year and come up with new ideas to take the pressure off.

"Most try to avoid the name of a loved one, thinking it would be too painful for the grieving person. That's usually not the case. They want the person to be remembered. Light a candle and share a memory," she said.

Please see **DEPRESSION**, 22

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Loss of a Spouse/Significant Other: 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6

Enduring Spirit: A new spiritually-based grief support group meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Heartstrings: For parents who have lost a child under the age of 25. The group meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. Individual Support Services: For or anyone who has lost a loved one. Call (734) 464-7810 to speak with a social worker in the Bereavement Department and to schedule an appointment.

Children's Holiday Workshop: For children and teens, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. Register at (734) 464-2683.

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Hope for the Holidays:

The following seminars are for adults who are grieving and for those who want

to help them. Each include a "Time of Remembrance" candle lighting ceremony.

• 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Livonia Public Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia, sponsored by Harry J. Will Funeral Home.

• 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 W. Ann Arbor Street, Saline.

NEW HOPE SUPPORT GROUPS

Kidz & Teens: Groups for children ages 3-18 who have lost a loved one. 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at First Church of Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile.

Circles of Hope: Young widows and widowers with or without school-age children. The group divides into Early grief, Transition, and Moving On at 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 6, at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, Northville.

Starting Again: Widows and widowers facing the empty nest, 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8 and Dec. 22, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, Room C-307

Wayfarers: For semi-retired or retired widows and widowers from 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14. They meet in Room A101/A103 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile. Northville.

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 Punch cards available at Fenton Chamber Tent & Fenton Community Center 12-7pm. Collect 10 punches from participating businesses and enter to win \$500 Shopping Spree

JingleJog
 Registration: 3:45pm-4:45pm at The Fenton Community Center, Race Starts at 5:00pm in front of Fenton City Hall

Holiday Lighted Parade
 6pm Downtown Fenton

PRESENTED BY
 Fenton Regional, City of Fenton, Fenton Chamber

MAIN EVENT SPONSOR:  ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR:  MEDIA SPONSORS: Tri-County Times, Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce SHOPPING SPREE SPONSOR: Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce

For more information go to FentonChamber.org CityofFenton.org SLPR.net FentonBeCloser.com

Sudoku Answers

Intermediate

7	5	8	4	9	2	3	6	1
3	4	2	6	5	1	8	7	9
1	6	9	3	7	8	2	4	5
4	9	6	2	1	3	5	8	7
2	3	5	7	8	4	9	1	6
8	7	1	9	6	5	4	2	3
5	8	7	1	2	9	6	3	4
9	1	3	8	4	6	7	5	2
6	2	4	5	3	7	1	9	8

Advanced

4	9	3	8	2	7	1	6	5
6	8	7	3	5	1	9	4	2
1	2	5	9	4	6	7	3	8
8	7	1	2	3	9	6	5	4
3	4	9	6	8	5	2	7	1
2	5	6	7	1	4	3	8	9
5	1	2	4	6	3	8	9	7
7	3	8	5	9	2	4	1	6
9	6	4	1	7	8	5	2	3

Intermediate

3	4	9	8	2	6	7	5	1
5	7	8	1	9	3	2	4	6
2	1	6	7	4	5	8	3	9
8	9	4	5	3	1	6	2	7
1	3	5	6	7	2	9	8	4
6	2	7	9	8	4	5	1	3
7	5	1	4	6	8	3	9	2
4	6	2	3	5	9	1	7	8
9	8	3	2	1	7	4	6	5

DEPRESSION

Continued from page 20

Clough said when she lost her first husband about 28 years ago, she wrote her first Christmas letter, something she never did because she thought the form letter was impersonal. Instead, it saved the time and energy of writing individual personal notes, and it turned out to be a blessing. She was glad she did it. Writing about how her husband died and how the family was doing was therapeutic and informed those who may not have known he died.

"I received a lot of nice notes back. Thinking back, I wish I would have asked people to share a memory and send it back to me. It would have been a present opening each one," she said.

With two young children, 5 and 9, and a teenager, she decorated for the holidays and put up a tree, but she cut back in other areas to make it easier to get through. She decided the Christmas Day dinner typically held at her home was too much. It was held at another family member's home.

"The main thing is planning. I planned well for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but one thing I didn't think of was New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Look ahead to the week following the holiday, too," she said.

Schedule activities, but don't exhaust yourself. Getting rest, exercise and eating healthy are important ingredients.

Anticipation of a holiday is always worse than the actual day.



Save the date: Register now for Komen Detroit Race for the Cure

Early bird registration and pricing are now open for the 21st annual Komen Detroit Race for the Cure on May 26, 2012, at Comerica Park.

"Together, we've made a significant impact on the breast health of metro Detroit and helped fund research discoveries around the world," said Mo Keenan Meldrum, chair, Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure.

"The situation remains urgent. Every 74 seconds, somewhere around the world a woman dies from breast cancer — a disease that is highly curable when detected early.

"The race has turned out to be one of the best parties in our community, celebrating the memory of those we have lost, the survivorship of 2.5 million in America and the tremendous progress that has been made in the battle to end breast cancer forever," added Keenan Meldrum.

More ways to take action

• Yoplait@SaveLids to Save Lives continues through Dec. 31. Help fund breast cancer programs in the community. Look for pink lids on your favorite Yoplait products this fall and redeem your lids online or by mail.

For more information, visit karmanos.org/detroitraceforthecure or call (248) 304-2080.

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(Actual Testimonial from Kimmy K.,
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I told her that I had tried that. I went to Henry Ford Fairlane paid \$1000 for my chin area and had 8 treatments. I then sarcastically said "Clearly it doesn't work." She promised me that after one treatment I'd see a difference. I really wanted to believe that it could work. I had my first treatment and noticed a difference. After 3 treatments my friends and co-workers noticed it too. By the time I was done I finally felt like a girl. My self esteem was restored. It's been three years and I have thanked Beth, Renee, & Fatima every time I see them for taking such wonderful care of me. I referred every woman I know to see them. Laser hair removal is the way to go! I'm having my underarms done now. For less than the price of a Coach purse, I'm NEVER going to have to shave my underarms again. I'm investing in ME!

I've lived in Canton, Northville and now Dearborn. I don't care how far I am from them New Face New Body is my Laser Hair Removal Spot. The Brazilian wax is awesome too. I think I'll laser that next.

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