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LOCAL NEWS, A8

# PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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## Holiday tradition

Charming readers since it was first published in 1823, *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement C. Moore is a part of many family traditions and has been illustrated in countless variations.

Retired elementary teacher Becky Hurst has collected more than 125 versions of the poem over the last 25 years, and shares a portion of her special collection with the Plymouth District Library this holiday season.

Through Jan. 3, library users can enjoy displays on both the lower and main levels of the library. Becky's favorite is the one illustrated by Jan Brett, with detailed drawings that utilize the entire page throughout the book. The oldest book in her collection was published in 1911.

## Santa letters

Time is running out for youngsters to get their letters to Santa printed in the Observer.

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 Friday.

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# Bosch plans facility expansion

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A rebounding automotive industry has helped create crowded conditions at the Plymouth Township facility of a major parts supplier, which is moving ahead with a multi-year expansion.

Robert Bosch LLC, south of Five Mile between Haggerty and I-275, plans to put up a modular building for temporary office space by April of next year as well as develop plans for a large-

er, permanent facility that company officials hope to complete by 2014.

The goal, said John Mirski, vice president of technical and engineering services, is to relieve overcrowding at the current township building — actually five interconnected buildings — as well as create space for about 100 workers, mostly engineers, now at its Farmington Hills campus, plus create more space for possible future expansion.

"What we saw in 2010 and also

this year is a relatively rapid recovery from the economic downturn," Mirski said Wednesday. While there were job cuts during the recession, he added, those jobs have come back and more people have been hired, and Bosch's workforce in the township, at about 700, is at its peak. The campus opened in 2007.

### Township go-ahead

Bosch's plans got the green light Tuesday from the township Board of Trustees, which vot-

ed 5-1 in favor of an amendment to the development agreement under which the campus was built. Treasurer Ron Edwards voted no, and Clerk Joe Bridgman was absent.

Some trustees, at a Dec. 6 meeting at which the project was detailed, had expressed concern about the modular building, which some said they feared would hurt the township's image. Bosh officials responded the building will look like a per-

Please see BOSCH, A5



Alyssa Odor hands out candles to people arriving in Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the Compassionate Friends worldwide candle lighting.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Vigil shines light on children lost too soon

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer



More than 700 names are read during the vigil.

When Shelby Gunn's name was read during the Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park, it shot through Ralph Hodges' heart like an arrow.

Hodges winced, and his gaze dropped to the ground as he wiped the tears from them, the name-reading a sharp reminder of the niece he lost when she was killed by a drunken driver on I-275 in Canton 16 months ago.

Hodges was at the annual candlelight vigil, sponsored by the Livonia chapter of the Compassionate Friends, along with his wife and Shelby's aunt, Debbie Hodges.

"She left us far, far too early ... This is a way we can express our feelings," Debbie Hodges said. "I think (Gunn) would be proud to know we've kept her in our hearts and in our thoughts. If it was one of us, Shelby would be out here doing the same thing."

The vigil drew hundreds of people to Kellogg Park, all mourning a friend, family member or loved one in one way or another. Hundreds of candles were lit in honor of children lost too soon.

Please see VIGIL, A2

# Schools chief receives high marks in review

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

It wasn't unanimous on all counts, but the midyear review for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes came as close as it could to being a love-fest Tuesday.

The district's Board of Education rated Hughes on eight different goals, and the superintendent, hired earlier this year on an interim basis, met or exceeded the goals in seven of the eight categories.

"Overall, the board is pleased with the work of Dr. Hughes and the professionalism he brought to the position," said board Vice President Dianne Gonzalez, who chaired the superintendent evaluation committee.

In addition to the board review, a survey concerning Hughes' leadership performance was sent to staff, who responded to the survey anonymously. More than 60 staffers responded, and an overwhelming majority of them gave Hughes high marks for his leadership skills.

The results of the staff survey were just as pleasant for Hughes to hear as the results of his official evaluation.

"I think it's an affirmation of what we're trying to accomplish," Hughes said of the staff survey. "I was very pleased by that."

Not unexpectedly, the board gave Hughes equally high marks in most areas. Some of the highlights:

- Complete the budget — All board members felt he met or exceeded expect-

Please see REVIEW, A3

# Creature comfort



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Virginia Faigle kisses student Nicole DeCapite after receiving her blanket. Honor students from Central Middle School paid a holiday visit to Independence Village on Monday with their hearts full of warm wishes and their arms full of warm blankets. For more on the story, please turn to page A4.

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# VIGIL

Continued from page A1

Gunn's name was one of more than 700 read by Compassionate Friends Gail Lafferty and Pat O'Donnell. Lafferty, a Livonia resident who lost her 18-year-old son, Max, in a 1995 car accident, said the 700-plus names read were the most in the event's 15-year history.

"Christmas is hard on parents who've lost their children," Lafferty said. "It helps me get through the holidays. It's a very special night."

Kassi Gilbert of Canton attended Sunday's vigil nursing perhaps the freshest pain. Her 14-year-old daughter, Abigail Giamporcaro, died suddenly Sept. 29. Gilbert said her counselor referred her to the Compassionate Friends organization, and she read

about the vigil on the group's website.

Gilbert said Abigail was "very energetic, full of bounce and spirit," with "some attitude" not uncommon in teenagers.

"It was really hard to hear her name," said Gilbert, choking back tears. "This is something you have to do to acknowledge she was here, and she was important. It helps us remember her and affirm how much we love her, and that that will continue, even though she's not here."

It was the second year attending the vigil for Teri Gunn, Shelby's mother, a Westland resident who attended her first Compassionate Friends vigil last year just months after her daughter's tragic death.

She said this year's event was a bit tougher to take.

"I think last year I was pretty numb," Gunn said. "The numbness has worn off."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With candles lit, the recitation of the names begins.

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Kellogg Park glows in Compassionate Friends candle light, with hundreds turning out.



Gail Lafferty of Livonia, who lost her son, Max, in a 1995 car accident, reads names of the deceased. Pat O'Donnell also read.

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**REVIEW**

Continued from page A1

tations, saying the superintendent "exhibited great leadership" through the budget process.

- Fill executive-level vacancies — Hughes had several key positions to fill on his administrative team, and he got them all filled before the school year started.

- Develop new central office administrators into a unified leadership team — The board felt Hughes "met" expectations in this area and said his team "appears to be working together well and meshing into a team." Some board members expressed disappointment in the lack of restructuring in the finance department.

- Develop the process to examine and, if necessary, recommend realign-

ment of school boundaries — Board members felt he exceeded or met expectations, calling the hiring of Plante Moran CRESA to do a facilities study "an excellent choice."

- Strengthen the administrative structure of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, which houses the district's three high schools — One of two areas where some board members (actual voting tallies weren't available) felt Hughes failed to meet expectations. Some board members would like "more of a sense of urgency" in dealing with recent behavioral issues, such as the "grinding" issue at a recent homecoming dance.

"It was pretty positive," Hughes said. "There are some things I obviously have to work on, but I was expecting that. I was especially pleased with the response from the staff."

**Township man faces sex charges**

A 24-year-old Plymouth Township man faces a Monday preliminary hearing on a dozen felony charges, including six alleging criminal sexual conduct.

Tavis Day was arraigned Saturday on six counts of using a computer to communicate with another to commit a crime, three counts of distribution of child sexually abusive material and three counts of possession of child sexually abusive material.

The investigation was conducted by a task force made up of Wayne County Sheriff's Department deputies and members of the Michigan State Police Internet crimes unit, said Maria Miller of the county prosecutor's office.

Greene was being held on a \$100,000 cash or surety bond, and his preliminary hearing was scheduled for Monday morning in Plymouth's 35th District Court.

**CRIME WATCH**

**Garage burglary**

Power tools, including two chain saws, a sander and a trim nailer, were reported stolen from the garage of a house on Gilbert Street, in the area of Haggerty and Ann Arbor Trail, after a recent burglary.

The incident was reported Dec. 3 and had happened some time since Nov. 17, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

The complainant told police he saw no signs of forced entry at the garage. The garage's vehicle door had been locked, he said, but the smaller side door may not have been locked.

**Injury, arrest**

A 26-year-old Redford Township man was taken to a local hospital Sunday after falling from a second-floor balcony in Plymouth into the bed of a pickup truck.

Plymouth Police Lt. Jamie Grabowski said police responded to a condominium on Ann Arbor Road at about 4:30 p.m. Sunday on a

report of a possible fight and found the man passed out in the back of the pickup.

The man was suffering from head injuries and appeared to be intoxicated, Grabowski said, and was uncooperative with officers. He was arrested on an assault charge after spitting on an officer, Grabowski said.

Witnesses told police the man had jumped from the condominium balcony and landed on his back, Grabowski said. The man was turned over to an ambulance crew and taken to a hospital for evaluation, he said.

**Car break-in**

A Chevrolet Aveo parked outside a house on Northern Avenue, in the area of Joy Road and Sheldon, was broken into recently, but nothing was reported stolen from it.

The victim told police Friday that the lock on the driver's door appeared to have been damaged.

— By Matt Jachman

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# Students' service project blankets senior home

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Honor students from Central Middle School paid a holiday visit to Independence Village on Monday with their hearts full of warm wishes and their arms full of warm blankets.

The five board members from Central's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, accompanied by teachers, were delivering over 100 blankets made with the help of a grant from Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780. More than 60 Central NJHS members, all eighth-graders, took part Friday in putting together the fringed, no-sew fleece blankets for residents of the Plymouth Township senior citizens complex.

"We certainly appreciate it," said resident Annabell Gotts, who had picked out a green and white blanket. Gotts noted that she herself graduated from Plymouth High School, which later became Central, in 1939. "I'm glad to know that young people will think about others," she said.

"I was in the right place at the right time," said resident George Adonian, who had encountered the students while looking to start a card game on the second floor at Independence Village. "It was a complete surprise."

Mrs. Gotts said she would throw the blanket over her shoulders when she gets chilly, while Mr. Adonian said he would use his as a lap blanket.

"If I'm watching TV, it's nice to have a blanket," he said.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Violet Herbert admires her blanket from students Nicole DeCapite, David Choy, Emily Osika, Alicyn Mabry and McKenzie Martin.

### Students take lead

NJHS adviser Tracy Stop, an eighth-grade science teacher, said the project was student-driven. Central's NJHS chapter, in its third year, had undertaken more in-school service projects — reading to elementary students, organizing a blood drive — but the blanket project was the first that put students out in the community, she said.

"NJHS is really about getting out into the community. It's not just academics," Stop said. "The kids really wanted to get involved."

The NJHS board members seemed to be having a good time visiting Independence Village residents and handing out blankets.

"It's nice to give back to our community, and it gives them something nice for Christmas," said student Emily Osika, the NJHS chapter president. The project started



Emily Osika and David Choy walk the halls of Independence Village, loaded with blankets for residents.

taking shape when student McKenzie Martin, another NJHS board member, spoke with her grandfather, John Truskowski, about getting a grant through the Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780. Truskowski is a 29-year member of the Elks, a service club that usually focuses its efforts on military veterans and handicapped children.

"When McKenzie approached to see if we could help, I said, 'Heck yes,'" said Truskowski, a past president at Lodge 1780 (lodge presidents were called exalted rulers at the time).



Virginia Bartig hugs teacher Tracy Stop.

Truskowski quickly obtained a \$1,000 grant for the project from the Elks' Grand Lodge in Chicago. For the most part, the NJHS took it from there — contacting Independence Village and making arrangements to buy materials from Jo-Ann Fabrics & Crafts.

"They did a lot of footwork for this," said Debbie Stephens, another NJHS adviser and also an eighth-grade science teacher.

### Assembly line

The NJHS chapter bought 18 bolts of fleece, in a variety of colors, from the Jo-Ann Fabrics



Leora Norgrove heads back to her floor with blankets for her neighbors.

store in Canton Township, and Truskowski, McKenzie and other family members spent one night last week cutting the cloth into lap-blanket-sized pieces. NJHS members gathered at Lodge 1780 on Friday to cut fringes on each piece and tie them together for the finished blankets.

"Once they got the system going they were pumping them out," said Stephens.

Lee Mabry, the father of NHS board member Alicyn Mabry, was serving as driver, chaperone and blanket-carrier on Monday. He said he was impressed by the proj-

ect. "It's absolutely perfect," Mabry said. "Residents are enjoying their visit. Kids are learning civic responsibility by giving. ... They're good kids, all of them."

Handing out blankets Monday with Emily, McKenzie and Alicyn were NJHS board members David Choy and Nicole DeCapite.

The Elks and Central's NJHS chapter are planning to use the balance of the Elks grant for a spring service project, such as an outdoor cleanup at the school.

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## BOSCH

Continued from page A1

manent structure, with the major difference being that large pieces of it will be built off-site and trucked in. That, said Mirski, will allow the building to be put up quickly and efficiently; the budget for the project, including removal of the modular building, is about \$3.5 million.

A condition of the board's approval is Bosch's pledge to remove the modular building by June 30, 2015; another is a letter of credit from Bosch, in the amount of \$175,000, the township can collect upon in the event the modular building is not taken down by that deadline. Bosch is also to pay for a traffic study of the area.

At Bosch, said Mirski, plans for the permanent building hinge upon the removal of the temporary building. "It's not our intention to keep it," he said.

The size of the permanent expansion hasn't

been decided, but Mirski said it would accommodate 400 workers. The cost of the project is estimated at around \$20 million.

Employees at Bosch's facility in the township work in several automotive-related areas, including electronics, "mechatronics" (electrical-mechanical combinations), and computer software.

### Some uncertainty

With continued economic uncertainty, Bosch's permanent expansion isn't a given, Mirski said, but is expected to get final internal approvals in about a year, around the same time that planning and permitting processes are completed.

"We're putting a lot of resources into this. It's our expectation that we're going ahead with the permanent expansion," Mirski said.

Edwards said he voted against amending the development agreement because, in his view, Bosch hasn't lived up to promises made

when the campus was initially approved, including assisting the township with building a soccer field on its site. That wasn't put in writing, Edwards acknowledged, but statements to that effect were made.

"They made promises in the past they never lived up to," Edwards said after Tuesday's meeting. "They're not sincere."

Edwards added he was also upset that Bosch, after being given a tax abatement for its original campus, then mounted a legal challenge that again lowered its property tax obligation. Bosch officials, addressing that issue at the Dec. 6 meeting, said that challenge was a corporate decision that involved many Bosch properties and was a response to falling property values during the recession.

The once-planned soccer field, said Mirski, is an issue that Bosch might revisit.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2405

## Kiwanis Club goes 'nuts' with fundraiser

What if you couldn't feed your family — or yourself? What if a child in your life needed medical care and the expenses could not be afforded? What if you were elderly and needed a "helping hand," or just a hand to hold? Where would you turn?

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

There are gourmet nuts for purchase by the can, case and pallet. Kiwanis officials point out they make "great gifts for family, employees and clients."

"Please consider the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts as your gift of choice this year and assist in allowing Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth to continue serving those in need in our community and around the world," said Pam Kosteva, Kiwanis Club nut fundraising chair.

The gourmet nuts can be purchased by the can or case or pallet at Fitness Things, 1160 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (734-455-8790). Many other Plymouth businesses will also have the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts available for purchase at their location. Businesses who would like to participate can contact Gary Walley at (734) 455-8790.

Club officials point out the 100 members of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, founded in 1967, take great pride in assisting the commu-

nity in a number of programs, anything from building a wheelchair ramp for a resident's home, to helping with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, to assisting in the purchase and packaging of over 1 million meals for food banks, disaster relief and malnourished areas throughout the world, to supporting U of M's Children's Mott Hospital, to replacing a roof for a family in need, to assisting at Tonquish Manor.

"The members of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth are committed to serving and building a stronger community," club president Scott Kappler said. "It is only with the support of generous community friends that we can continue to build strong programs for young people, safe homes for residents in need and a strong community for all."

## 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

### DAR TEA

**Date/Time:** Monday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.

**Location:** Greenmead, Alexander Blue House, Livonia

**Details:** The Daughters of the American Revolution hold a Christmas tea, featuring the "Five Faves of Christmas" activity, "Teddy Roosevelt Christmas" and a singing group, with guest speaker Sue Daniel.

**Contact:** (248)-477-7375

### GUEST SPEAKER

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1:30-3 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth District Library

**Details:** The PCCA Writing Club will host guest speaker Jeff Jahn, owner of Keepsake Family Tree Video, who will present a documentary that he produced and other mixed media. He describes his business as "Telling the Stories of the Not So Rich and

Not So Famous on Modern Media." He will demonstrate what can be done with old photos, 8mm film and videotapes to build a family history to put on DVD for preservation, restoration and narration of memorable events that families want to share.

**Contact:** RSVP by calling 453-1234 x236

### PCAC EXHIBIT

**Date/Time:** Through Dec. 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.

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# Canton church hopes to inspire with live nativity program

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

In what is becoming a tradition for some local families, a Canton Township church is inviting the community to experience the true story of Christmas in the form of a real live nativity, complete with living portrayals of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus and much more.

Friendship Church, a local congregation of the United Methodist Church, will recreate the story of the birth of Jesus when it presents its annual Living Nativity from 4:30-8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 1240 N. Beck, Canton. "We are taking people on a journey back 2,000 years, trying to bring the focus back to what Christmas is really

about," said Scott Petersen, pastor of spiritual formation at the church.

"There is so much commercialization in today's world; we sometimes lose the meaning in all of it. We want to help people connect back to what it really is all about," he said.

This is the 10th year the church has held the living nativity in some form, and the event grew even larger with last year's move to its new Beck Road location with almost 400 people attending, Petersen said.

### Larger crowd

Church members said they are expecting an even larger crowd this year.

"We are preparing for at least 700 people this year," said church member Michelle Ramey of

Canton. "We are hearing a lot about people's friends, neighbors and co-workers both locally and distantly saying they are planning to return again. We've had a lot of great feedback about it."

The free activity features a 10-minute guided walking tour through woods on the church grounds to stations where actors and animals reenact the miracle of Christ's birth in an effort to give meaning to something people usually just read about and "bring back the awe and wonder of Christmas," Petersen said.

Petersen said cows, sheep and goats from Real Life Farm in Canton will stand alongside as actors from within the congregation deliver first-

son accounts from four different scenes depicting Jesus's birth. The scenes include "Shepherds and Angels in the Fields," "King Herod's Palace," "The Wise Men," "The Nativity" and a reflection of Jesus's death and resurrection.

At the close of each narrative, contemplative questions are posed to the audience in an effort to give visitors something to reflect upon, Petersen said, adding that the living nativity offers something for everyone, he added. "For adults, it's a great opportunity to refocus and realize that not be everything that culture is telling us it is and for children it's important to see and hear the real Christmas story and see it come alive in front of them," he said.

### Labor of love

The event is a labor of love for church members with more than 100 people volunteering their time in some form, he said.

"We have people constructing sets, writing scripts, making costumes and working as parking lot attendants," he said. A refreshment team will also provide snacks inside the church for attendees following the event.



Animals from Real Life Farm in Canton join actors and members of Friendship Church, a local congregation of the United Methodist Church, to recreate the story of the birth of Jesus at the annual Living Nativity 4:30-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at 1240 N. Beck Road in Canton.

Experiencing the Living Nativity underscores the true meaning of the holiday for Kathy Haar of Howell.

"It's very moving ... it brings it back to where it all started and you feel like you are right there," Haar said. "It's so beautiful. It is what Christmas is really supposed to be about: a new beginning," she said.

The event is free; however, the church will have the Salvation Army's signature Red Kettle available for anyone wishing to make a donation.

## NEWS BRIEF

### Folk concert

The BaseLine Folk Society returns to the Plymouth Community Arts Council at 7 p.m. Saturday for its December show.

BaseLine, founded in 2005, is a group of musicians and fans dedicated to performing and preserving traditional acoustic folk music. Its monthly concerts include a featured performer or group, an open-micro-

phone session for up to eight performers or groups, and music from the show's host.

Saturday's featured performer is the group Rise Again; the host will be singer-songwriter and former radio personality John Delle-Monache.

The show takes place at the PCAC's Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 North Sheldon, at Junction, Plymouth. The cover charge is \$5; refresh-

ments will be served.

Those interested in performing during the open-mic session should show up between 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. If more than eight performers and groups show up, a lottery will be held for the spots. Open-mic participants can perform two songs each.

For more information, contact BaseLine founder Mike Mullen at (248) 719-3464 or via e-mail at mjm-mullen@yahoo.com.

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# Happy Holidays from these Canton Area Businesses!

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**Canton Asthma & Allergy**  
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734.394-2661  
[www.cantonallergy.com](http://www.cantonallergy.com)

Happy New Year

**Alsager Animal Care Center**  
44262 Warren Road  
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Merry Christmas

**IHA Canton Family Medicine**  
49650 Cherry Hill Rd.  
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Happy Holidays

**The Dance Connection**  
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Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukkah

Happy Holidays

**Crystal Creek Assisted Living**  
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Contact: Placement Specialist  
Louise Roney

Merry Christmas





# Pets are the cat's meow at the holidays

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Correspondent

Imagine your pet dog or cat scribbling a holiday wish list. Surely, squeaky toys and delicious treats would top the list. But some area pet businesses are taking holiday wishes a step further with luxurious and upscale gifts for the furry members of your family.

There's no wonder that pet products put retailers on the map, especially during the holidays. Today, more than 85 million households own 164.6 million dogs and cats. And that's not including reptiles, birds, horses and fish, according to the American Pet Products Association.

"People take care of their pets regularly," said Terri Bennett, long-time owner of Specialty Pets on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. "At Christmas, friends and relatives jump in. I think pets have become more important to people as economic times have gotten tougher."

National sales attest to that. In 2010, pet owners spent \$48.3 billion. This year, the American Pet Products Association estimates that at least \$50.8 billion will be spent on all types of products that ensure the health, safety, comfort and enjoyment of pets. Pet retailers aren't much different than any other type of retailer. They count on the winter holidays to boost sales.

## All about comfort

There's no doubt that pet owners make like Santa at the holidays and spend somewhat unabashedly for their furry family members. It's all about comfort. For example, Bennett sees families spending as much as \$500 on quality cat furniture, including multi-tiered scratching posts, some with tree houses nestled at the top, while others are tall enough to be skyscrapers in the cat world.

And for families who keep track of feral cats, the Backdoor Friends Cat Shoppe in Farmington Hills has outdoor heated beds and homes. "There is hope for the outdoor kitties," said owner Anne Klein, adding that the number of abandoned cats has increased as families have lost their jobs and in some cases, their homes.

Dogs don't fare too badly themselves when it comes to gifts of furniture. Families are buying quality beds including chaise lounges, sofas, loveseats, self-warming loungers, beds with feather tops, air beds and travel beds, special orthopedic beds for their senior dogs.

## Pet attire

Sweaters, coats, leashes and collars — all that can be customized with the pet's name — are big at Celebrity Pets, an upscale pet attire shop in Northville. "We have them in all types of materials including wool and fleece. Some coats have legs while others cover the chest of your pet, which is very important in cold weather," said Ann Sakuta, manager of the Northville store. Celebrity Pets is also at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Don't forget the Mutt-luks boots for a cold and snowy day or sunglasses and ski glasses for the winter sun. "People are becoming more discriminating with quality. Quality comes first. Customers ask first about the safe-



Anne Klein shows a feather cat toy in The Cat Shoppe. Backdoor Friends is a no-kill rescue and is part of the shop and luxury boarding facility.



Have a fine photographic portrait made of your pet in time for Christmas. Jill Andra Young can book your sitting as late as Dec. 23 for delivery on Dec. 24.

ty of the product," Bennett said.

## Treats, toys and memories

The owners of Specialty Pets, Celebrity Pets and Backyard Friends see an increase in the demand for quality treats preferably made in Michigan, or at least in America. Popular Three Dog Bakery in Plymouth is known for its fresh-baked dog treats made of natural wheat products, frosted with yogurt, and without refined sugar.

"We use honey and molasses to sweeten," said bakery owner Gary Atkinson. At Three Dog Bakery, dogs are welcome to join their owners who on average spend \$15 to \$20 on individual treats, as well as holiday tins filled with delicious pet goodies.

Like kids, pets are surely waiting for the toys that Santa will bring. How about a tiger mobile that you can hang from a door for your cats? The mobile rotates round and round. "It mimics exercise," Klein said. "It is designed to catch their interest." Neko Flies is another new toy for cats that includes a wand with various attachments, including realistic looking bugs of all kinds. "It is a great wand toy," Klein added. "And it is really sturdy."

Klein also specializes in out-of-the-ordinary catnip toys; some look like bananas and cigars. You can also buy pillows with eau-de-catnip. In addition to all sorts of extraordinary catnip toys for the feline group and squeaky and pull toys for the canines, retailers, such as Specialty Pets, also feature interactive toys, known as "home alone" toys that allow the pet prolonged play to reach a hidden treat.

"Overall, customers are looking for treats with a purpose. There are new ones coming on the market every day," Bennett said.

Pet owners and friends



Ana Sakuta, manager of downtown Northville's Celebrity Pets, says that one of the hottest gift items this holiday season are these "Roxy and Rose's" all-natural baked dog treats.

and families of pet owners use the holidays as good time to immortalize their furry friends. Well-known pet photographer Jill Andra Young, in Plymouth, can attest to that. More than two months ago, Young began photographing families and their pets for holiday cards, portraits, even key chains, holiday ornaments, jewelry and magnets. Young's pet photographs are of archival quality that can endure the strain of time for at least 100 years.

Pet photographs are great gifts from friends and relatives. "Their loved ones understand how much they love their pet," Young said. "People are ecstatic when they receive these gifts."

## Loving care

December is also the time when pet owners want their pets clean and groomed ready for the holidays. Doggy Do's Pet Grooming in New Hudson and Aussie Pet Mobile specialize in sprucing up your pet in time for holiday guests.

The schedule at Doggy Do's is fast filling up, but owners Joyce and Kenneth Somero will be open on Christmas Eve to accommodate all of the requests. If your pet is a large pooch or a breed, such as one of the doodles,

Doggy Do's is the right place. The Someros specialize in hand scissor cuts that allow a good trim and style for longer hair. When all is done, you pup will be topped off with a fancy bow or a colorful bandana, and freshened with a cologne sold in New York, Paris and London.

The Aussie Pet Mobile, which travels from Farmington Hills south through western Wayne County, comes to you to pamper, bathe and groom your pet. "We can meet them wherever they need us to be," said owner Arlene Dalida.

Pampering includes a "pawdicure," as well as de-shedding for cats, and a 15-step spa bath that includes a massage followed by hand drying with a brush. "It's a different experience. It's a luxury experience. Everyone wants their pets to look their best for the holidays," said Dalida, adding that gift certificates are available for humans, as well as coupons online at [www.petgroommetroetroit.com](http://www.petgroommetroetroit.com) for special pet facial treatments.

Do that panic of what to do with your pet as your schedule gets busier, or if you leave town is a constant worry for pet owners during the holidays. That's when Cheryl Hixson of Check on the Dog LLC and Backdoor Friends Cat



BILL BRESLER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Henri, and Henri's jewelry. Jill Andra Young's Penniman Avenue photo studio offers a wide choice of pet-related gifts. This custom photo jewelry features your pet's portrait. Jill can make your pet's portrait or you can bring your own photo. Photo jewelry can be ordered up to Dec. 17 for Christmas delivery.



## Dear Santa:

Hi. We are eagerly awaiting your arrival at our house this year. Me — the dog — and my feline friends are beyond excited and have tried really hard not to destroy any of the holiday decorations.

We were just talking the other day how you had a tight squeeze coming down our chimney last year. But that's why we ate your cookies and drank the milk that was left for you. We thought we would help you stay healthy! If it makes you feel any better, I did get blamed for all the cookie crumbs on the carpet.

Speaking for all of my canine and feline buddies, I have to say sometimes we feel a little left out when you visit. It's great that you think of our human family. The kids always have a really long list that is fun to yank on and tear up a bit. But, we would be very happy if you could consider us — the pets in our human families' lives this year.

For starters, us dogs and cats are really hoping for two very important gifts that you can share around the world. Here they are:

**Gift No. 1:** Please make sure that all the pets that need good homes get them. We know a whole lot of very lonely pets and other outdoor-kind-of-animals that don't have very good lives. I, for one, would give up a chewy bone every week if you could make this happen.

**Gift No. 2:** Please put a giant lump of coal in the stockings of all the people around the world who neglect, hurt or even do worse things to pets. It's just not fair. Us four-legged creatures have lots of feelings, just like humans. All we really want is to be safe, healthy, cared for and loved. Is that too much to ask?

Now, me and my furry friends wouldn't mind if you might throw in a few toys for us. The cats like that catnip stuff and I like a good squeaky toy and cookies. Oh, hold on ... the cats are hissing because I didn't include a new soft and stuffy bed for them. Well, while we are going on ... I could use a new winter jacket and a good sturdy leash because I walk faster than anyone in this family!

Well, I think that's it. Have a good holiday. And please don't forget us. Happy sleigh travels.

Signed,  
Leo and my feline friends — Sweet Pea,  
Benjamin and Princess

Hotel can come in handy.

Hixson is a professional pet sitter who visits your house according to your needs to let your pooch out, feed and walk him and her, and who leaves a daily sheet of the visit on your kitchen counter ready for you to come home. Cats are included. She will make sure they are doing fine, have water and food, and some hugs. "I take care of anything that has four legs, fur and a bladder."

Licensed, bonded and insured Hixson takes pet sitting a step further. If you want, she will photograph your pet and send the photo immediately to your cell phone or computer with a date and time stamp so you can see your pet.

The cat hotel at Backdoor Friends offers pet owners a number

of choices: the Victorian Parlor, providing cats with a birds-eye view of the retail area; the Presidential Suite, which offers two rooms to relax and dine; and the Senior Resort that boasts a ramp leading to sleeping quarters.

The importance of pets has grown over the decades, creating a perfect opening for pet product retailers, whether big box stores or small independent shops. The billions of dollars spent on pets doesn't surprise photographer Young in the least. She opened her studio in 1989 just as the role of family dogs and cats began to change.

"It's amazing how everyone understands the bond. They have everything for pets now. It's kind of fabulous!" Young added.



## PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

### Men's Panic Party

Downtown Plymouth retailers want men to take advantage of the first Men's Panic Party tonight (Thursday), from 5-9 p.m. Men can take the panic out of their Christmas shopping and let the local shops help with their gift needs.

Participating shops include Agio Spa; Basket Kreations; Bed & Boutique/Little Black Heart; Bohemian Home; Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth; Gigi's Mode; Hands on Leather; Kilwin's, Razzamatazz; sideways; Sun & Snow; and Sunny J's Lingerie.

### Home for the Holidays

The Michigan Philharmonic will present two performances tonight (Thursday) at the Penn Theatre.

At 6 p.m. is a family-friendly concert featuring traditional holiday pops favorites with a special performance by the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra string ensemble. At 8 p.m. is a traditional concert featuring Nermis Mieses, the orchestra's principal oboist. Rounding out the concerts will be a classic, old-time sing-along and a joyous rendition of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Tickets are \$22 (gener-



The Michigan Philharmonic plays a pair of concerts tonight (Thursday) at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

al), \$18 (senior) and \$10 (students). Call (734) 451-2112 for more 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. 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](http://www.plymouthhistory.org). The Museum is located at 155 South Main Street, just one block north of downtown Plymouth.

### Snowman photo contest

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department is holding a Snowman Photo

Contest. Gather up all the snow and creativity you can and start building a snowman, dress him up and take a picture. Drop off the photo to the Recreation Office or e-mail it to [lobsniuk@ci.plymouth.mi.us](mailto:lobsniuk@ci.plymouth.mi.us) along with the child's name, address and phone number by March 2. Judging will take place the week of March 5 and winners announced on March 12.

### Hockey night

Plymouth Newcomers and Neighbors will host Hockey Night on Dec. 30. There will be a pre-game rally in C.J.s Brewery at 5:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

RSVP to M. Derosier by Dec. 21 at [programming@plymouthnewcomers.com](mailto:programming@plymouthnewcomers.com).

## Design group takes over showroom

As of Dec. 31, local kitchen and bath remodeling company, Kitchen & Bath by DeGiulio, will transfer ownership of its Plymouth showroom to Sharer Design Group, LLC.

Sharer Design Group, LLC, will take over the showroom space at 975 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth and will open for business on Jan. 3.

Sharer Design Group, LLC, will offer remodeling design and installation services and will also add full interior design assistance to its offerings.

Designer Justin Sharer, who served as head designer and showroom manager for Kitchen & Bath by DeGiulio for the past two years, helms Sharer Design Group, LLC.

Sharer began his career in the remodeling industry as an apprentice cabinetmaker to John DeGiulio at DeGiulio Industries, headquartered in Dearborn. During his time with DeGiulio Industries, Sharer mastered the art of building custom cabinetry, along with learning installation and project management processes.



Sharer Design Group, LLC, takes over the showroom of Kitchen & Bath by DeGiulio as of Dec. 31. Sharer Design Group, LLC, will offer remodeling design and installation services and will also add full interior design assistance to its offerings.

Sharer has spent the last five years honing his design skills as DeGiulio's lead designer and has designed kitchens, bathrooms, home offices and more throughout the metro Detroit area.

For more information, visit [www.sharerdesigngroup.com](http://www.sharerdesigngroup.com).

## Internet purchases are subject to state sales tax

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

I was having a discussion recently with a group of friends and we started talking about the Internet and how much it has changed our society. One friend mentioned how much he buys on the Internet and how great it is that you don't have to pay sales tax. Another friend stated that he didn't think that was fair, particularly to retailers who have to compete with stores on the Internet. As the discussion went on, I chimed in because I thought it was about time that I set them both straight.

They both were under the misconception that when you buy items on the Internet you do not have to pay tax on those items. That is not the case in Michigan and, in fact, in most states around the country.

There's a myth that exists in our country that when you buy things on the Internet you don't have to pay taxes on those purchases. In fact, the law is that you are required to pay the taxes and surprisingly, that has been the law in Michigan for over 70 years. Where the confusion comes in is the way in which the taxes are collected. When you go to a retailer here in Michigan and you buy a pair of pants at the store, in addition to the price of the merchandise, the retailer automatically adds 6 percent as a sales tax. That sales tax is then

remitted by the retailer to the State of Michigan. On Internet purchases, unless the retailer has some sort of

physical presence here in Michigan, they are not required to collect the sales tax. That doesn't mean that you and I don't have to pay the tax; all it means is that the retailer is not required to collect it. In other words, it's up to us to voluntarily pay those taxes to the state.

When you purchase something through the Internet or through a catalog and they do not charge you sales tax, then you are obligated to pay the Michigan Use Tax. The Michigan Use Tax was enacted in 1937 and even though the Internet was not around back then, this law covers those purchases. As mentioned earlier, that law basically states that when you purchase something out-of-state and the retailer does not charge you a sales tax, then it is your obligation to pay the Michigan sales tax. In fact, since 1999 Michigan has put a line item on Michigan tax form 1040 for those taxes. You can either keep records of your actual purchases or you can use a tax table. Either way, you are liable for the tax.

Where most people

get confused is that they assume that since online retailers don't have to collect the tax that the tax is not due. The collection of the tax has nothing to do with whether we are liable to pay it. In fact, when you think about it, most of our tax laws are self-enforcing. After all, you don't have to prove you've made a charitable contribution unless you're audited and a great majority of people are never audited. The bottom line is that you and I, as Michigan residents, are required to pay the tax on our online and catalog purchases.

The question that most people have is if I don't pay the tax, what are my chances of getting caught? As far as I'm concerned, that is never the correct question. The correct question should always be what is my legal obligation as a citizen?

I know it is difficult to pay a tax that in reality most people don't pay. However, the standard shouldn't be what most people are doing; the standard should be what you are required to do. As good citizens, it is our obligation to follow the law and as painful as it is, when it comes to online or catalog purchases, taxes are owed. Good luck!

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

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## OUR VIEWS



## Priceless gift Generosity of spirit is holiday lesson to learn

Before heading out to the malls and downtown city main streets to get those last-minute items for Christmas, parents ought to pause a moment to think about a particular gift their children can really use.

It's so small, it often gets overlooked. But it's also so big, that it won't fit under the tree.

For your children, however, it's so important that they will keep it for life. The gift is the generosity of spirit, a life skill that needs to be learned as a child. It is taught through example and experience.

*For your children, however, it's so important that they will keep it for life. The gift is the generosity of spirit, a life skill that needs to be learned as a child. It is taught through example and experience.*

The visions of sugar plums children have these days are often expensive and numerous. But there is another side to giving, one that starts with caring and a clear-sighted understanding that, for some people, it takes more than sitting on Santa's lap to get basic necessities.

The impact of the generosity of spirit has more outcomes than the best-stocked toy store. With a sensitive nature, our children are gifted as quick learners, hugging tightly that lesson for a lifetime of use.

That truth is borne out by people who live and work in our communities. For instance, Salem High School junior Emma Barterian recently wrapped up her elementary school book drive, which collected more than 3,000 books for an elementary school in Redford. She's only one of countless teenagers helping out in the community.

That generous spirit can also be seen daily as volunteers ring the bell at Salvation Army red kettles at businesses around the community. It can be seen in the donations made to both the Plymouth and Canton Goodfellows, who between them are going to be able to help hundreds of needy families have a better Christmas this year. Rotarians, Lions and numerous other church and civic organizations are also doing their part.

For those gifted with a generous spirit, their gift of volunteering is priceless. They are ready, willing and able to step up and help. And the example they set is a gift that can last a lifetime when children are involved.

We urge people to take a moment out of their busy schedule to make a donation. But when you do, let your child do it. It's what Julie Baker of Plymouth did with her 3-year-old son, Max. This year, 3-year-old Max is ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

It is the questions that follow after a little one puts money in the red kettle that opens the door a lifelong lesson in giving.

It isn't shiny and bright, but the generosity of spirit is one gift continually found anew through compassion, but it must be acquired first.

Parents don't have to pay for it at the check-out, but our children are sure to treasure it always.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What's the best Christmas present you've ever received?

We asked this question around downtown Plymouth.



"A jewelry box I got from my husband. It was very thoughtful."

Peg Godi  
Plymouth



"A bicycle when I was 7. I rode that bike until I was out of high school."

Dave Corliss  
Plymouth



"My first bike nine years ago. I didn't even know how to ride a bike yet."

Stephanie Dillon  
Plymouth



"A family portrait. My four kids surprised me with it one year."

Cheryl Dillon  
Plymouth

## LETTERS

### Front page news?

Regarding the front page story in the Dec. 8 Observer "Home Sweet Home": I have subscribed to your paper for many years (and will continue to). Generally I think you do a good job of covering the local community.

However, of this story I have to ask, "This is front page news?" I don't believe reporting the spending habits of the obviously ultra-affluent is something we really need to know about. I don't fault the Waddells, it is their money and they can spend it as they choose.

But when our region is still recovering from the recession, people are out of work, some children don't have enough to eat, food banks are busier than ever, is this type of spending really what we need to read about? I don't think your reporters would have to look too hard to find more newsworthy subjects.

Please revisit your journalism training to better understand the difference between the news section and the lifestyle section (where this story belongs).

Nancy Levy  
Plymouth

### Dinner thank-you

Three weeks ago, with faith in

### 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.

God's provision, I teamed up with Susana and Elvis Mandelli from NorthRidge Church to provide, cook and serve a meal to 150 people on Dec. 10 in Detroit so that they could experience the love of God, and be fed both spiritually and physically with a good Christmas dinner.

We ended up serving 141 diners at the meal, 43 take-outs, and donated enough food for approximately 80 people to have dinner to a local shelter in Detroit.

Thank you to the following people for their encouragement or donation to make this dinner possible:

Alice Reyes; Amy Hammye, Plymouth Township deputy treasurer; Ana Laura; Beth Reich; Bill Lawton, Community Financial Credit Union; Bill Zolkowski, principal, PCEP; Cheryl Wilmer; Cludia Devato & family; Dan Herriman, Herriman and Associates; Dave & Carol Bunch; Erick, Corey Cruz & family; Heath & Lisa Hensley; Jamie Aguirre; Jeff & Kathy Pumphrey; Joni Van Dyke, teacher, Salem High School; Justin Maldonado; Leah, Jeff White & family; Lisa Maloney & family; Mack Ave. Community Church; Michelle Lozier & family; Milena & Melanie Mandelli; Mike Kelley; Nancy & Richard Jowsey; Nancy Laws, assistant principal, Salem High School; Pam Heaton, NorthRidge Church; Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor; Red Olive Restaurant; Roger & Marjorie Moore; Ron Edwards, Plymouth Township Treasurer; Sandy & Doug Patton; Steve Trosin; Ted & Diane Kloc; Teresa Somercik & family; Tiffani Moore & family; Toni Sheffield; Tony Bliss & family; Tony & Linda DeFelice; Tonya & Gary Harbison.

Zak Pumphrey  
Salem High School

## GUEST COLUMN

### Race matters in Plymouth-Canton district

By George Belvitch  
Guest Columnist

**R**ace matters. Those who profess to "color blindness," regardless of political ideology, believe paying less attention to race and racial identity is the proper response to racial inequity. "Color blindness" is often the cause of deep, systemic racism, including institutional racism. Downplaying the role of race and racism in the lives of the public will only impede the ability to respond to those same people.

The major problem with "color blindness" is that it ignores the different ways in which we experience the society around us. Race definitely matters.



George Belvitch

Race matters to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district. Three years ago, district leaders began to look beyond diversity, and take a serious look at racial equity within the district. A series of experiences, including all-day workshops, seminars and small group discussions, challenged district leaders and teachers to expand their knowledge and capacity to focus on issues of educational equity.

As a result of this intensive work, there is now an established District Equity Leadership Team (DELT), and each educational site in the district now has an operational Building Equity Leadership Team

(BELT).

The district now finds itself in a new place as it relates to race and racial equity. Administrators, teachers and soon all building staff are learning to work together to examine the intersections of race, teaching, learning and achievement. It has been difficult work, often requiring people to do a close examination of their personal beliefs. District employees are working on authentic school level change toward sustainable transformation of belief, expectations and practices while raising achievement levels of all students.

The 2011-12 school year focus will be on Collaborative Action Research for Equity (CARE). Elementary and secondary teachers will be engaged in the process of professional learning and classroom action research to discover, develop, document, deliver and disseminate culturally relevant learning and teaching practices. Powerful stuff!

Student achievement data has clearly identified significant racial achievement disparities in the school district. The results of the 2010 Michigan Merit Exam (MME) clearly signaled an alarm. African-American males in the 11th grade scored 30 percentage points lower than the overall district score in reading. The score was almost identical for the MME math portion of the test. The graduation rate for African-American males in Plymouth-Canton must also become a priority for school district leaders. I strongly encourage district leaders and teachers to make these glaring disparities your

priority.

I also challenge our district to implement the Educational Equity and Excellence Transformation Framework that was presented to the board June 28. This body of work included four initiatives that are the cornerstones for achieving racial equity — Leadership for Educational Excellence and Equity, Cultural Competence, Student-Centered Learning and Teaching and Family and Community Engagement.

I applaud the district for its courage in studying, exploring and conversing about racial disparity. They have examined, individually and collectively, their unconscious, often deeply held assumptions about race and school. They have explored and acknowledged how race impacts personal lives and how it operates within every school and classroom. And, the school district has taken an initial step in recognizing and acknowledging the attitudes, behaviors, structures, and systems that benefit white students, but work against black and brown students.

Race does matter. Only by being aware of that, and resolving to view individuals and communities as they really are — which requires acknowledging their languages, cultures, traditions, and racialized experiences — can we actually hope to build the kind of community that treats all persons fairly and equally.

George Belvitch is the retired director of elementary education for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. He can be reached via e-mail at belvitchgeorge@hotmail.com



# Limited Christmas activities returning to Three Cedars

By Diane Gale Andreassi  
Staff Writer

Christmas has returned to Three Cedars Farm in Salem Township.

Children are invited to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus Dec. 15-18. The hours are 4-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Bring a camera if you want pictures. The Three Cedars Country Store will be closed along with the Santa Land area that was used for Santa to greet young believers in years past.

Three Cedars owners Gary and Sherry Whittaker will open their home for children to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and have complimentary hot chocolate and doughnuts. There is no fee, but donations will be accepted for Active Faith, an organization that helps the needy in the South Lyon Com-



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three Cedars Farm owners Gary and Sherry Whittaker (on the right) listen to their attorney, Mark Mandell, during a Monday press conference, at which they announced Santa will be making a limited visit to the business. They are still trying to work out an agreement with Salem officials to reopen their Country Christmas Store and Santa Land next year.

munity Schools district. The Country Christmas store was closed in the midst of zoning concerns and safety issues raised by Salem Township officials. In the past, Three Cedars sold Christmas trees, doughnuts, cider and holiday items in the

store. None of that will be offered this year.

Three Cedars visitors came out in full through supporting Christmas happenings at the business, located at Six Mile and Curtis roads, after news got out that the popular holiday stop would

be closed.

In a message on the township website, officials addressed their concerns.

"Three Cedars Farm has grown quickly and immensely," according to the website. What was just a "farm and a home with a u-pick pumpkin farm with hayrides and a small candy store in 2004, has now expanded into a massive commercial business visited by thousands of customers and hundreds of vehicles every day with a sit-down doughnut shop, a huge gift store-souvenir shop selling hundreds of non-farm related items, a children's play area, a petting farm and an ATM machine, etc."

What would have been permissible farm-related activity in 2004 has "grown into something much more, a large commercial business opera-

tion," the township website continues. "However, in spite of the business of Three Cedars Farm being well beyond what is permissible in an agricultural/residential zone, the township has once again been willing to work with Mr. Whittaker and Three

Cedars Farm and has not told him he must shut down for Halloween or Christmas. So any news reports or communications accusing Salem Township of closing down Three Cedars Farm for Christmas are not only unfair, they are completely untrue."

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# Chiefs hang on, nip Marlins in OT

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Big-time colleges are interested in Farmington Hills Mercy sophomore guard Candice Leatherwood and she gave a pretty good reason why Tuesday at Canton.

Leatherwood rallied the Marlins from a 16-point second-half deficit by scoring 19 of her team's 31 points — scoring on a nifty, driving layup with 45 seconds left in regulation to finally put Mercy in front at 37-36.

But lurking for Canton's girls basketball team was sophomore guard Rachel Winters, who drained a big-time triple with six seconds to go in the fourth to make it 39-39 and force overtime.

The Chiefs collectively exhaled, then went on a 9-0 run in the four-minute extra stanza to earn an up-and-down 48-39 victory. Canton improved to 3-0 while Mercy fell to 3-1.

"What kind of got us back into the game was playing at a frenetic pace and getting them to throw the ball around," Mercy head coach Gary Morris said. "Unfortunately, we

left a good shooter open and she knocked down a big three."

## Money ball

On that trey, Canton junior center Kiara Schneider passed the ball to Winters on the left flank and she made no mistake. Without that bucket, there wouldn't have been the chance for the Chiefs to win in OT.

"When you're an athlete and you're competing, people are going to make runs and you're going to get down," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "It's how you respond to those runs and people coming at you.

"To the kids' credit, I thought they responded really well. Rach hit a monster shot."

Canton senior point guard Robyn Mack (11 points, seven rebounds, four steals) was shaking her head about Leatherwood (19 points, six steals) following the non-conference game.

"I give Mercy credit, they're a really good team," Mack said. "Leatherwood, I can't believe she's a sophomore. I told her that on the court. I



Canton senior guard Robyn Mack (No. 4) tries to maintain a step on Farmington Hills Mercy sophomore guard Candice Leatherwood (No. 21) during Tuesday's contest.

JOHN KEMSKI

played her last year, she was good. She's even better this year."

The Chiefs started out strong, with Winters (10 points) starting regulation scoring just how she

ended it by scoring from behind the three-point arc.

It was 9-0 before Mercy finally scored, in the final minute of the first on a triple by sophomore

guard Allie Gorcyca.

Both teams struggled offensively in the second quarter, and the Chiefs were up 16-5 before

Please see HOOPS, B3

## Canton gymnasts prevail

Canton's girls gymnastics team started the season strong Saturday, with a tally of 136.21 points topping Huron Valley (130.28) and Vas-sar (122.14) in a tri-meet.

On vault, Erica Lucas tallied a 9.35 to lead in that category, followed by Jocelyn Moraw (9.0) and Marina Milad (8.4).

Canton's top performer on uneven bars was Melissa Green (8.675) with Moraw tallying an 8.5. Lucas was first for the Chiefs on balance beam, with her 9.0 score edging Moraw (8.8).

In floor exercise, Green (9.025), Moraw (8.93), Nicole Lasecki (8.825) and Milad (8.825) had excellent routines.

## Rocks roll past 'Cats

In the first matchup of PCEP bowling teams, Salem got the better of Plymouth Monday at Town & Country Lanes. The Salem boys won 17-13 while the girls earned a 23-7 victory.

For the boys, Kevin Williams led the Rocks with a 225-279-504 series while Jimmy Bowling (238-205-443), freshman Nolan Rudis (225-214-439), captain David Nikkila (225-183-408) and co-captain Steven Cadwell (211) all had strong showings.

Plymouth's boys squad also had some good performances, with Eric Thompson (206-210-416), Evan Grimme (240), Brandon Congdon (220), Matt Bracey (219) and Robbie Korstjens (214) among them.

In the girls matchup, the Rocks were led by captain Kristin Larkins (213), Bridget Maul (193) and co-captain Rachel Amodio (172).

Last week, Salem's boys lost 21-9 to Walled Lake Central (Nikkila: 202-255-457) on Dec. 6 at Super Bowl in Canton and defeated Brighton 27-9 while the Salem girls lost 16-14 to Brighton.

As for the Wildcats, the boys won 21-9 over Walled Lake Northern (Thompson: 244-245-489) on Dec. 6 at Super Bowl.

## Canton gets started

After a season-opening 29-1 romp over Walled Lake Western on Dec. 6 at Super Bowl, the Canton boys bowling team was defeated 20-10 by Howell on Saturday.

Leading the Chiefs were Alex Champagne (278-165-443) and Gary Barnett (182-243-426). On Dec. 9, Canton lost 20-10 to Howell.

Canton's girls bowlers, meanwhile, lost 24-6 on Dec. 9 against the Highlanders.

## 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.

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.

# PCA can't get up to speed

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

From opening tip to final buzzer, Plymouth Christian Academy chased state-ranked Southfield Christian all over the gymnasium Monday night at PCA.

"They were just a little bit better at getting up and down the floor today," lamented PCA first-year head coach Dominique Washington, following the Eagles-vs.-Eagles match-up.

The visitors were as deadly from long range as they were explosively quick, draining 12 treys en route to a 98-73 boys basketball victory.

In the process, Southfield Christian (2-0) showed why they are ranked No. 4 in Class

D as well as probably the favorite in the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference.

"They capitalized on all our defensive breakdowns," Washington said. "The game could have been a lot closer, but when they broke down defensively, we didn't capitalize.

"We missed a lot of short layups, a lot of bunnies. And they hit their threes every time we broke down defensively."

It sure seemed that way. Nailing four triples each for Southfield Christian were senior guards Chris Dewberry (23 points) and Gavin Toma (30 points, four rebounds, six assists).

"We got some good shooters, that helps a lot," Southfield Christian head coach Josh

Baker said. "But we rely on it too much and we got to get to the rim more."

## Hanging tough

One player who had no trouble in that regard was PCA senior center Eric Jipping, who helped keep the home team hanging around into the third quarter. He scored 23 points and pulled down 17 rebounds.

"Jipping did a good job holding down the paint offensively," Washington said. "(Junior forward) Mick Noel (18 points, five assists, three steals) did a good job penetrating (the paint), but at times he shied away from it."

Early on, the host Eagles

Please see PCA, B3



Working to get a low-post basket for Plymouth Christian Monday night is junior forward Drew Ibach (No. 10).

## BOWLING PREVIEW

# Park bowlers hit the lanes

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys and girls bowling teams are ready to roll — literally.

Coaches for the Canton, Plymouth and Salem programs are all enthusiastic about the 2011-12 season, which began last week.

A mixture of promising newcomers and solid returnees is why coaches are optimistic that their respective teams will be able to strike down opponents in the KLAA Central Division.

Following is a recap of what the season holds for the Chiefs, Wildcats and Rocks:

• **CANTON:** Last year, the Canton boys finished 8-7 overall and 5-7 in the Central while the girls finished 7-8 and 4-5.

Head coach Karl Brubaker welcomes Aaron Madsen and Brian Faust to the boys team, which lost Andrew Klein, Ross Terrasi, Casey Bindas and Ryan Washburn to graduation.

Back for another season are Kurt Kowalski, Alex Champagne and Gary



Sending the ball on its way during a 2010-11 match is Canton's Alex Champagne.

Barnett.

For the girls, the losses of Ashley Cade, Cheryl Cosby and Jackie Polaski will be offset by returnees Charlotte Zimmer and Brianna Bailey.

"This is going to be an interesting year for us with all new kids basically," Brubaker said. "The boys that are new are seasoned because they have bowled the youth travel league for the past few years.

"On the girls side we are looking to get better with a group of girls that all bowled JV last year."

Please see BOWLING, B3



The Canton Chiefs varsity boys hockey team, shown Saturday after the Toys for Tots game, is teaming up with Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth to make the holidays brighter for area children.

# Chiefs 'bring it' to brighten holidays

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Canton's varsity boys hockey team blanked the defending champs on Friday night, but won't let youngsters be shut out over the holidays.

After an impressive 2-0 victory over Division 1 defending champion Novi at Canton Arctic Ice, the Chiefs (5-1 overall, 4-0 in the KLAA)

helped cram unopened toys into a Dick Scott Dodge van that was parked outside the arena doors.

Those packages, also brought to the game by Canton hockey families and fans, will soon be distributed by the Plymouth car dealership to Toys for Tots. From there, they'll be sent to children.

The effort was part of

a partnership between the Chiefs and Dick Scott Dodge, which is located at Main Street and Ann Arbor Road.

"We wound up filling the whole back seat and throughout the whole van with toys," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said. "... Not only did our players, parents and some of our

Please see TOYS, B2



# Rocks get first victory

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

They say the first win's always the hardest to get. Salem's varsity hockey team finally notched a 'W' with Friday's 2-0 victory at Northville in a KLAA crossover matchup.

Junior goalie George Veresan posted his first career shutout, stopping all 28 Mustangs shots he faced.

The Rocks parlayed Veresan's goalkeeping and strong team defense into a win thanks to second-period goals by Mark

McGee (on the power play, from Alek Zultowski and Kyle Eggenberger) and Jake Sealy (an unassisted shorthanded marker).

"This was our best defensive effort of the season," Salem head coach Ryan Ossennmacher said. "I'm very proud of the way our guys battled. We came into the game pretty banged up, especially on defense, and still found a way to win against a very good Northville team."

Veresan "was extremely aggressive and played

the puck very well, which really helps against a good skating team like Northville," Ossennmacher added.

The win improved Salem's record to 1-2-0-1 overall while Northville dropped to 5-2-1-0.

Salem and Plymouth square off 8:30 p.m. Friday at Plymouth Cultural Center in a KLAA South Division tilt.

**CLARKSTON 4, SALEM 3:** On Dec. 7, the Rocks fell despite goals by Austin Sartorius, Mark McGee and Jason Newel. Clarkston scored with 14 seconds left in the third period for the victory.

# Wildcats strong at Northville tourney

Plymouth's varsity wrestling team went 4-1 Saturday to finish second at the Todd Schoenhilde Memorial Challenge tournament at Northville.

The tourney is named after a former Mustangs' wrestler and football player who was tragically killed by a drunk driver in 2005. Proceeds from the tournament go to a scholarship in his name.

The Wildcats started with a 65-18 win over Ann Arbor Skyline, followed by a closely contested matchup against the host Mustangs. A 9-0 win by Jon Conn clinched a 38-33 victory for Plymouth.

"It's always good to win a close hard meet that

## PREP WRESTLING

comes down to the end like that," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said.

Plymouth then cruised to a 50-19 win over Dearborn, highlighted by Said Youssef's comeback win at 140. The senior captain trailed early on, but then fought back for an 8-7 victory over Ali Saad.

After starting 3-0 for the day, the 'Cats fell 45-22 to Saline. But Plymouth rebounded for a 60-18 triumph over Dearborn Crestwood.

Wrestlers who went undefeated for at least three matches included: Trey Berry (3-0), Bren-

don Davis (3-0), Said Youssef (4-0), Chase Kallil (4-0), and Brandon Harris (5-0).

## Setting record straight

Guernsey recently said he is hopeful that Said Youssef will be the first Plymouth High School wrestler to place (top-8) at the state meet, as the Wildcats have had an impressive list of state qualifiers in recent years.

The list of former qualifiers includes: Said Youssef and Alec Breckenridge, last season; Ali Youssef, Steve Korpus and Ben Kosmalski.

## TOYS

Continued from page B1

fans bring them, but the whole Novi team brought toys. Which was very, very classy."

According to Majszak, the team also will go to Gleaners Food Bank over the holiday break to work for a half-day. Such efforts, he noted, underscore that the program prides itself on "being a lot more" than just hockey.

"We're at that time of year, unfortunately, there's a lot of kids that can't get to experience Christmas like other people," he stressed. "It's really good to get them those toys and put a smile on some kid's face who might not have had one without that."

The players get something special out of such endeavors, too.

"Not only are we learning things on the ice and about our team," Majszak noted, "but the boys learn some life experiences, learn things they can take with them beyond hockey."

## Stalwart stopper

As for the shutout win



These gifts, collected Saturday at the Canton-Novi hockey game, eventually will find places under Christmas trees with help from Toys for Tots.

itself, Canton goalie Spencer Craig continued his sensational early season play with 39 stops.

"He's really playing at a whole other level right now," Majszak said. "He's focused and that's trickling down to the rest of the team."

Taylor Baker gave him all the offensive help he needed when he scored in the first, with assists to Duggan Tear and Brandon Grillo.

"He's really coming on and proving to be an offensive threat the past week," said Majszak about Baker. "He scored three of the goals against Churchill (a 5-3 win on Dec. 7) and then he

scored the first goal on Friday night."

Canton added a goal in the second when Grillo beat the Novi netminder on a play started by Zach Cox and Collin Smith. Both of the Chiefs' goals came on the power play.

Next up for the Chiefs is their last game before the holiday break, 7 p.m. Friday against Woodhaven at the Ice Box.

**The Plymouth and Salem** hockey teams also are doing plenty of community service over the holidays. See Sunday's Observer for more.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
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# Whalers buzz past Sting

Plymouth's depth prevailed Saturday night in the Whalers' 4-3 win over Sarnia at Compuware Arena.

It was the OHL club's fourth consecutive victory and 12th in 14 games to improve to 21-8-2-1, good for 45 points and first place in the West Division.

Garrett Meurs' goal at 10:27 of the second period snapped a 1-1 tie for Plymouth and the Whalers never look back from that point on, getting stronger as the game progressed.

Meurs scored his 14th and 15th goals of the season with other markers by Stefan Noesen (10) and J.T. Miller (13).

Stopping 32 of 33 shots



GARY KIELYKA

Stefan Noesen scores for the Plymouth Whalers Saturday night against Sarnia goalie Brandon Maxwell.

for the victory was goalkeeper Matt Mahalak, who improved to 8-3-0-0 for the season.

Plymouth finishes up the pre-Christmas portion of the schedule

next Friday in Oshawa and Saturday in Belleville.

The Whalers next home game is a 2 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, Dec. 28 against London.

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# Chiefs tap out Maples

Canton's varsity boys basketball team upped its record to 3-0 with Tuesday's 46-27 win at Birmingham Seaholm.

The Chiefs got out to a 10-4 lead after the first quarter, but the Maples closed the gap to 15-13 at halftime.

Canton stepped it up in the second half, however, outscoring Seaholm 13-6 and 18-8 in the third and fourth, respectively.

Leading the Chiefs with 22 points, eight rebounds and five blocks was forward Paul Baumgart.

Helping him in the paint was senior center Terrell Sewell, who

chipped in with 10 points and eight boards.

Junior guard Josh Mayberry also had eight rebounds, along with five points.

Canton's next test is 7 p.m. Friday at home against Northville.

**CANTON 44, DEXTER 39:** Josh Mayberry and Paul Baumgart scored 12 points each Friday night to lift visiting Canton to a 44-39 victory against Dexter.

Baumgart also led the Chiefs (2-0) with nine rebounds, with Terrell Sewell adding seven points and six boards. "I loved the way our guys competed on the road versus a good team," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said.

"We played really well defensively. Miles Felton (three

steals) put great pressure on the ball and Kyle Adams (five points, four rebounds) shut down their best scorer."

The Chiefs trailed 9-7 after one quarter before surging ahead in the second. They outscored the Dreadnaughts 13-5 to build a 20-14 half-time lead and extended the edge to 32-22 after three.

Reddy added that clutch free-throw shooting by Mayberry helped finish off Dexter. Canton led by three points with less than five seconds to go and Mayberry went to the charity stripe shooting a one and one "and he calmly knocked down both of them to seal the deal."

**Note:** Sunday's Observer (Sidelines) incorrectly reported that Canton lost to Dexter.

bled out the final seconds in an apparent show of sportsmanship.

### Until next time

Still, Washington thought the opponent could have let up a little bit in the final minutes. For example, sophomore Leonard Crosby scored his second 3-ball of the fourth quarter with just a minute remaining, opening up a 98-71 lead.

"They could have backed down, they could have pulled off their full-court man-to-man defense," said Washington, a former star guard at Salem. "But that's basketball. It didn't rub me the wrong way."

"It just makes me a little more hungrier and my guys a little bit more hungrier for the next time we play them (Jan. 24) knowing they tried to embarrass us."

Washington said his team would take the defeat as "a learning experience. You got to guard a little closer, close out a little better and understand who the shooters are."

Other PCA players who chipped in offensively were sophomore forward-guard Daniel Jipping (eight points, six rebounds) and junior forward Drew Ibach (seven points, eight rebounds).

Freshman Bakari Evelyn tallied 10 points and five assists for Southfield Christian.

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# 'Cats shut down Northville

Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team played excellent team defense Tuesday night in a 39-26 win over visiting Northville.

The Wildcats led the KLAA crossover game 7-4 after the first quarter and 15-11 at half-time, but head coach Bob de Bear wanted his team to step it up in the rebounding department in the second half.

The message got through as Plymouth outboarded the Mustangs from that point on and wreaked havoc with a number of steals and blocks.

Plymouth tallied 15 steals, with four each by Chyna Williams and Kate Watson. Both players also had four points and five rebounds.

Helping out with

strong play was forward Shelby Cheston (four points, five rebounds).

"Shelby Cheston had her best high school game yet," de Bear said. "She had two big blocks and a couple of key shots in the second half. We have asked her to play tough and that's what she did tonight."

Good ball movement out of the backcourt also helped the cause "and we ended up getting some easy looks."

Plymouth (3-2) broke the game open in the fourth, scoring often from the free-throw line during a 17-9 frame.

The team hit 14 of 20 from the charity stripe, with Jady Woody (10 points) going six-for-six and Kylie Robb (12

points) making all but one of eight attempts.

The top scorers for Northville (2-1) were Alex Moynes and Kendra Brenner, with seven each.

**DIVINE CHILD 46, SALEM 29:** The visiting Rocks got into trouble early on, turning the ball over and giving up 17 points in the first quarter of Tuesday's non-conference game.

They were unable to bounce back, although they did outscore Dearborn Divine Child by a 10-7 margin in the fourth.

Salem was led by Bri Berberet (15 points, seven rebounds) and Katelynn Krause (four points, six assists).

Rosanna Reynolds scored 14 for Divine Child.

Salem head coach Fred Thomann, whose team dropped to 0-3, said shooting struggles made it tough to chip away at the 17-8 deficit after the first. The Rocks made just 12 of 44 field-goal attempts.

## PCA

Continued from page B1

were in lock-step with the visitors.

A 9-0 run by PCA in the later stages of the first frame gave the Eagles a 17-13 advantage.

Jipping's jumper and two layups by Noel made it 14-13 and then junior guard Alexander Huber hit a rainbow triple from the left corner.

Huber (12 points, five assists) connected for another three a little while later for a 22-16 edge, the largest lead PCA would enjoy.

### Fast and furious

But Southfield Christian answered thanks to a trey by Toma and a bucket in the closing seconds by senior guard Lindsey Hunter III (21 points) to make it a 22-21 contest after one.

Southfield Christian put the pedal to the metal even more in the second, taking the lead for good (28-26) when junior forward Frank Holecek hit a bank shot with under six minutes to go in the half.

Soon the pace intensified, with defensive pressure by the road team not only resulting in PCA misses but several fast-break buckets at the other end.

It was a 46-36 lead for Southfield Christian at halftime.

"When we finally started to get some stops, then we could open it up a lit-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Eyeing the basket Monday is Plymouth Christian senior center Eric Jipping (No. 42), while Southfield Christian's David Johnson tries to deter the scoring bid.**

tle bit," Baker said. "Then they had to play a little bit quicker when we got stops and got the lead."

That edge increased to 71-53 after three quarters, with Newberry and Toma hitting two treys a piece (each finished with four triples for the night).

"They were too wide open, ... we weren't closing off fast enough," Washington emphasized.

"We were so busy watching the ball that somebody on the back side's wide open and knocking down threes. That's something we can improve on."

More of the same highlighted the fourth quarter, which ended mercifully for PCA.

One basket away from hitting the 100-point mark, a Southfield Christian player instead drib-

# 'D' sparks Canton girls

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Canton's varsity girls basketball team is doing just fine testing the waters against some quality opponents, having knocked off both Saline and Bloomfield Hills Marian in week one of the 2011-12 season.

The latest victory was Friday's 41-32 road triumph against Marian, sparked by a defense that held the Mustangs to 10 points in the first half.

Senior point guard Robyn Mack led the charge, with 16 points, three steals and

five assists.

"I thought Robyn was outstanding," Chiefs head coach Brian Samulski said. "She really controlled the game and did everything to help get the win."

She wasn't alone, as Rachel Winters chipped in with five steals along with seven points. Taylor Hunley led Canton with eight rebounds while Kiara Schneider pulled down five boards to go with her seven points.

Contributing five points was Paige Aresco.

The Chiefs (2-0) led 10-5 after one quarter and

bumped the lead up to 19-10 at the break and 35-21 after three.

"To hold Marian to 10 points in the first half, I'd say is an outstanding team effort," Samulski said. "I thought the girls did a great job (closing off) the front, contesting every shot and blocking them out."

"Going to Marian and getting a win is always huge. I thought it was a great win and I'm proud of the girls and the way they played. They should feel good about what they accomplished in the first week."

## HOOPS

Continued from page B1

senior guard Sarah Benson (11 points) made a big steal, layup and foul shot with 20 seconds to play in the half.

That sliced Canton's lead to 16-8 at the intermission.

For the first part of the third quarter, the Chiefs looked primed to turn the game into a rout.

Mack and sophomore forward Paige Aresco (10 points) combined to score five points in a 10-second span early in the third and Schneider's high-glasser following a steal gave the Chiefs a commanding 24-8 lead with 5:45 left in the third.

But Mercy turned up the defensive heat with the Chiefs struggling against double coverage.

A bank shot and layup by Leatherwood within seconds helped Mercy get back to under 10 points (28-19) with one frame left.

Mercy's momentum carried over into the fourth, although a triple by Mack stopped the



Canton sophomore guard Rachel Winters (No. 10) puts up a shot during Tuesday's contest. Guarding her are Farmington Hills Mercy's Allie Gorcyca (No. 31) and Paige Roberts (No. 13).

bleeding and kept Canton up 34-26 midway through the stanza.

### Energized

The Marlins then went on a 13-2 run to seize a one-point lead in the final minute. Leatherwood turned a pair of Canton turnovers into two layups and a tack-on foul shot.

Then after sophomore guard Sierra LaGrande missed a three-point try from the right flank, she drained one from the other side to make it a 36-35

Canton lead with 1:05 left. Canton coughed it up again, and Leatherwood breezed through the lane from the right side of the paint for a lead-changing bucket.

"Her energy at both ends I thought really helped us get back in the game," Morris said.

Unfortunately for the Marlins, Winters connected in her do-or-die moment and the Chiefs didn't let up after that.

Layups by Aresco and Schneider (13 points, six rebounds) in the first 1:15 of overtime put Canton in front 43-39 and Winters followed with a layup a minute later.

Mack sealed the victory with three free throws.

Samulski wasn't surprised that the Marlins bounced back from their slow start.

"We knew it was going to be a battle, that it was going to be tough," Samulski said. "I kept telling the kids that they were going to make a run and they made a run."

"Gary's an outstanding coach, Mercy's a great program, so eventually you knew it was going to come. It was just a matter of time."

## BOWLING

Continued from page B1

**PLYMOUTH:** Also pumped up to see what the new season holds is Tammy Thompson, coach of the Wildcats' boys and girls teams.

Last season, Plymouth's boys finished 10-5 overall and 8-4 in the division

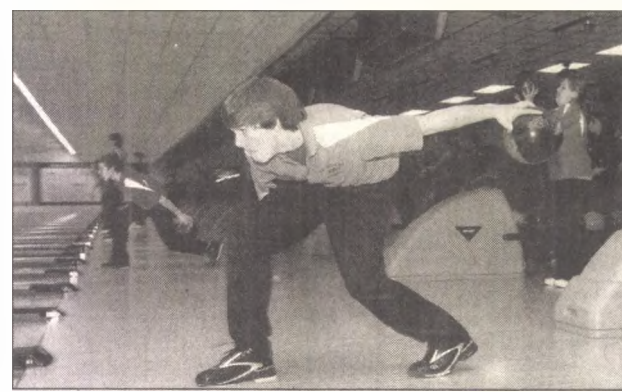
while then capturing first place at regionals and ninth at states. The girls went 9-5 and 7-6.

"I'm looking forward to another great season," Thompson said. "Plymouth has a lot of talent."

Returnees sparking the boys to hopefully another big year are Rob Korstjens, Eric Thompson, Brandon Congdon, Evan Grimme, Ryan Riva and Matt Bracey.

Thompson lists Zach Behr, Eric Combee, Joe Langell, Jordan Orzech, Nathan Purcell and Burhan Yaish as others who could contribute.

Spearheading the Plymouth girls is Caitlyn Webb, who placed second at regionals. The oth-



Back for another season for the Plymouth varsity boys bowling team is Rob Korstjens, shown in this file photo.

er regional performer, Mackenzie Carlson (eighth place), graduated.

The other returnee is Tiffani Patterson, with remaining roster members including Megan Blanck, Megan Brewer, Jenna Collins, Emily Fraser, Serena Oliver and Lauryn Vincent.

**SALEM:** Although several key bowlers from last year's boys and girls teams graduated, head coach Kathie Hahn doesn't expect any drop-off thanks to an influx of freshmen to the ranks.

The Salem boys (8-7, 7-5 last season) will be sparked by returnees Kevin Williams, David Nikkila, Joe Mirsky and Steven Cadwell.

Newcomers who could help the cause include Nolan Rudis, Tyler Snyder and Tony Pzylski.

Back with the girls squad (9-6, 7-5) are Kristin Larkins, Bridget Maul, Micaylin Peltz and Rachel Amodio.

"We are looking forward to a promising season," Hahn said. "We lost

some strong players, but have gained some great ninth graders who will be strong leaders in the Rocks' future."

### NOTICE OF SALE MAYFLOWER TOWING

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction for cash to satisfy lien pursuant to F.S. 713.78 on December 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

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### CITY OF PLYMOUTH

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 21, 2011. The bid opening will be at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 21, 2011 for the following:

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Specifications and bid documents are available at the City Hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC  
City Clerk  
City of Plymouth

Publish: December 15, 2011

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**RELIGION CALENDAR**

**Dec. 15-21**

**ADVENT SERVICES**

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Dec. 21  
**Location:** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Special worship services

**Contact:** (248) 553-3380

**BREAKFAST**

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18  
**Location:** St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** All you can eat, pan-

cakes, French toast, sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, apple-sauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk with appearance by Santa Claus; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

**Contact:** (734) 425-4421

**HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17

**Location:** Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, 8625 E. Jefferson Ave., in Detroit's Indian Village neighborhood.

**Details:** The Community Chorus of Detroit with the CCD Chamber Orchestra and soloists, and special guests, the Detroit Children's Choir's Touring Choir

**Contact:** www.community-chorusofdetroit.com

**SOUP & SCRIPTURE**

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

**Location:** Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

**Details:** Hearty soup and bread supper followed by Advent service  
**Contact:** (734) 427-2290

**Dec. 22-28**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Time/Date:** 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25  
**Location:** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Family service at 5 p.m.; candlelight service at

7:30 p.m.  
**Contact:** (248) 553-3380

**Dec. 29-Jan. 4, 2012**

**THESIS**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Jan. 2, 2012

**Location:** Gesu Catholic Church, 17180 Oak Drive, Detroit

**Details:** Helen Marie Berg, senior at Catholic University, will present her thesis: "In Unity, There is Hope: A Story of a Detroit Parish." She will tell the story of how Gesu Catholic Church and School has changed as Detroit has changed.

**Contact:** (313) 862-4400 or visit <http://gesudetroit.org>

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com). If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

**Passages**

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

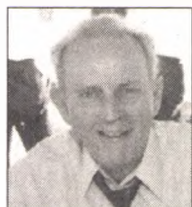
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**DOLMETSCH, MARY LOU (DEACY)**

Age 80, December 8, 2011. Born in Chicago, resident of Livonia for 44 years. Beloved wife of Bob. Loving mother of Bob (Sharon) & Jim (Lisa) Dolmetsch, Mary Jo (Mark) Westbrook, Patti (Rick) Galli. Dear grandmother of Edward, Kristin, Mike, Anthony, Sara, Gina, Jeanette, Jackie, Troy. Visitation at Harry J. Will in Livonia Sunday, December 11 from 2-9. Rosary at 8:00pm. Funeral service on Monday, December 12 at 10:00am at St. Colette Church in Livonia. In lieu of flowers, donations directed to Angela Hospice or Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Please view memorial tributes at [www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com)



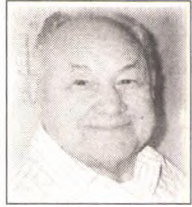
**WILSON, WILLIAM**

Age 76. Beloved husband of Shirley (nee Davies). Devoted father of Michael (Shawn) Wilson, and Tracy (Marty) VanEe. Loving grandfather of Samantha, Nathan, Jacquelyn, Rachel, Carly, Isabella and Jack. Fond brother of Judy (Tom) Piccinin and the late Hugh Wilson Jr. Ford Motor Employee for over 33 years. Graduate of Tulelake High School, CA & Kent State University and a US Air Force Veteran. Visiting Thurs Dec. 15th 3-8 pm at Charles Step Funeral Home 18425 Beech Daly (Btw 6-7 Mile.) In State Friday 10:30 am until 11 am services at St. Paul Presbyterian Church. Interment at Glen Eden Cemetery. Donations to Michigan Humane Society or Wounded Warriors Project appreciated. Condolences to StepFunerals.com



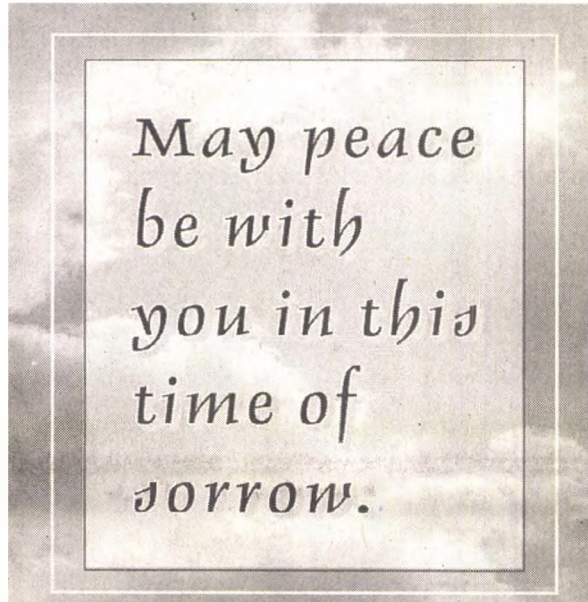
**YOUNG, JERRY JOSEPH, SR.,**

Of Gramps Wooden Toys in Farmington Hills, age 82, died December 8, 2011. Husband of Lyla Young for 62 1/2 years. Respected and loved father of Cindy (Robin) Priemer, Jerry (Debbie) Young, Jr., Pamela Schultes (deceased), Judy (Karl) Chimner, Craig (Sue) Young, Todd (Lisa) Young, Louise "Bunny" (Tom) Hozeska, and Jennifer (Jim) Young. Gramps to 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Brother of Susan, Joe, and David. The family would like to thank Jerry's longtime clients for their support through the years. Memorial visitation will be on Saturday, December 17, 2011, 11:30am until the time of the memorial service 1:00pm at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in his name to the American Diabetes Association. [www.mccabefuneralhome.com](http://www.mccabefuneralhome.com)



**TUPAJ, STANLEY**

Age 90. Beloved husband of Lottie. Dear father to Tom of Colorado, Patricia Robak, Laurie (Kerry) Banka, Gary (Teresa) of Virginia, and Carol Prokop. Proud grandfather of 7. Loving brother of Sophie (Don) Pfeiffer, Henry Tupaj and the late Mary Navin. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, 36100 5 Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan) Thursday 3-9pm with 7pm Military Honors and 7:30pm Rosary. Funeral Service Friday at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia. In-State 10am Mass 10:30am. Memorial Contributions may be made to Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 150 Bingham Farms, MI 48025. Please visit online guestbook [fredwoodfuneralhome.com](http://fredwoodfuneralhome.com)



**Party focuses on saint, holiday traditions**

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

Forget the fur-lined red coat and Santa hat. Kindly old St. Nick — Santa Claus' predecessor — will be decked out in his authentic bishop's vestments and mitre when he greets youngsters Saturday, Dec. 17 at St. Thomas Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills.

"He'll tell the story of how he became a saint and how he has helpers called Santa Claus to give gifts in good cheer to everyone," said Richard Shebib, a board member of the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit, the group organizing the children's party.

The event, now in its second year, is open to the public. Shebib said the festivities last year drew both church members and non-Orthodox visitors.

Although Santa Claus images dominate the holiday season, Shebib said most children are likely to be familiar with St. Nicholas.

"When I was a little boy we used to call him (Santa) St. Nick. I think a lot of children's stories refer to Santa as St. Nick. The parents will know and children will be in tune to that."

St. Nicholas was a Fourth Century bishop in what today is southern Turkey. He used his inheritance to do good works, according to the Web site Catholic.org. In one case, he paid the dowries of three poor sisters by throwing bags of gold into their home at night. Some stories say the bags fell into shoes drying by the fire, which led to the Christmas custom of hanging stockings or putting out shoes to receive gifts from the saint.



St. Nicholas will distribute candy coins and pose for photos with the children after talking about his origin at the party.

Youngsters also can pose with two live reindeer from

noon-2 p.m. The event will run from 2-4 p.m. at the church, located at 29150 W. 10 Mile.

"This is an outreach program for the Council," said Shebib, adding that nursing home residents have been invited to attend each year. "It's also a community service for young teens to come in and help us out."

Young adult members of Orthodox churches will be stationed around the church hall and will explain various traditions of Christmas, such as trees, stars, angels, and wreaths. "We'll ask the children to go around the hall to each tradition and listen to the presentation. When they are done they will come to me and I give them a small gift," Shebib said.

Refreshments will be served and a service of Great Vespers will follow the party at 4 p.m.

For more information call Shebib at (248) 345-9346.

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<p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>                  Tridentine Latin Mass                  St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8                  38100 Five Mile Road                  Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200                  Mass Schedule:                  First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m.                  Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m.                  Sunday Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.                  Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass                  Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions                  Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills                  www.orchardumc.org                  248-626-3620  <b>Worship:</b>                  9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.                  10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages                  Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b>                  9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI                  (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.)                  (734) 422-0494                  Friends in Faith Service                  9:00 am                  Traditional Service                  10:30 am                  Visit <a href="http://www.rosedalegardens.org">www.rosedalegardens.org</a>                  For information about our many programs</p>	<p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b>                  14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96                  www.christoursavior.org                  Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional                  Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am                  Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413                  Staffed Nursery Available  <b>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ</b>                  Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, &amp; Creeden                  734-522-6830</p>
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p>
<p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b>                  45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525                  Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.                  Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.                  Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.                  Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.                  NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER                  (734) 453-3195</p>	<p><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b>                  Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.                  Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.                  Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire                  Services held at: <b>Saint Andrews Episcopal Church</b>                  16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road                  Nursery provided • <a href="http://www.fellowship-presbyterian.org">www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</a></p>	<p><b>WARD CHURCH</b>                  40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168                  248.376.7400                  www.wardchurch.org                  Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m.                  Contemporary Worship at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m.                  Children's Programs available at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m.                  The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b>                  17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360  <b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>                  SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M.                  THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.                  website: <a href="http://www.stpaulsivonia.org">www.stpaulsivonia.org</a></p>
<p><b>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</b></p>	<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p>	<p><b>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:dhart@dnp.com">dhart@dnp.com</a></b></p>	
<p><b>OPEN ARMS CHURCH</b>                  Worship: Sunday 10:30 am                  Children's Programs Available                  Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001                  Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen &amp; Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini                  33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152                  Between Farmington &amp; Merriman                  Across from Joe's Produce                  248.471.5282</p>	<p><b>North Congregational Church</b>                  36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted)                  (248) 848-1750                  10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School                  Faith • Freedom • Fellowship                  Rev Mary E Biedron Senior Minister</p>		



## Clinics, concert offer 'All That Jazz' for young musicians

By Julie Brown  
 and Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writers

Musicians of all ages can practice their jazz skills at a series of clinics offered by Schoolcraft College, Friday-Monday, Dec. 16-19.

Anyone simply interested in listening to the music and watching the musicians also may attend the free sessions, which will culminate in a concert by four college jazz groups on Monday.

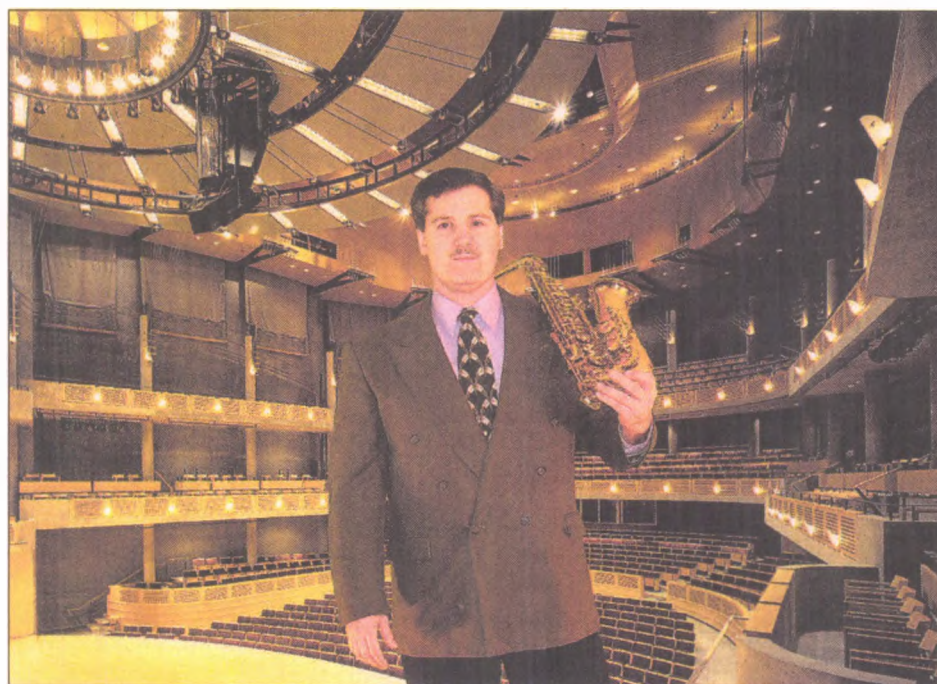
Riccardo Selva, director of jazz studies at Schoolcraft College since 2009, looks forward to bringing his former professor and mentor, Don Owens of Northwestern University, to the four-day event.

"He is just a wonderful teacher and musician," Selva said.

Last May, Schoolcraft's jazz program went to Northwestern as part of a Chicago tour. "All of the students really liked him. We're bringing him back in," said Selva, a Southgate resident.

The upcoming clinics evolved from a one-day event with guest jazz artist Wayne Bergeron last spring.

"That was in April and that was our first big guest artist. As a result, I applied for a grant and received funding from the Schoolcraft College Foundation for our current guest artist and four days as opposed to one," said Selva, adding that the spring clinic and



Riccardo Selva, director of jazz studies at Schoolcraft College looks forward to bringing his former professor, Don Owens to the four-day jazz event.



Don Owens  
 Northwestern  
 University  
 faculty

concert "attracted a lot of people."

He expects the upcoming series will draw organized student jazz groups, individual musicians, as well as jazz lovers who simply want to attend the series to watch and hear the performances.

### Involving youth

The program will feature an open rehearsal Sunday, Dec. 18, at



Schoolcraft College's Jazz Ensemble performs in Chicago, Ill., earlier this year.

Schoolcraft, located on Haggerty north of Six Mile in Livonia.

"We're really trying to spread the arts to the

younger generation," Selva said. "There's nothing like participating in a musical group. We're trying to turn them on to

### JAZZ CLINICS

**Friday, Dec. 16:** Peggy Babcock, Farmington Harrison High School Jazz Band director hosts a clinic, 3-6 p.m. at Farmington Harrison High School, 29995 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Owens will work with local high school jazz ensembles and visitors. Bring your own instruments.

**Saturday, Dec. 17:** School, community groups and individuals can participate in a clinic from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Alexander Music Building at Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti. Bring your own instruments.

**Sunday, Dec. 18:** The open rehearsal, with the Schoolcraft College Jazz Department and the Eastern Michigan University Jazz Ensemble, runs 3-6 p.m. in the DiPonio Room at Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center. Bring your own instruments to sit in with the college musicians.

**Monday:** Dec. 19: A composers workshop runs 10:30 a.m.-noon, in the Presentation Room at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. Participants should bring their instruments and may bring their original compositions. Piano and drums will be provided. From 3:30-5 p.m., professional jazz musicians and professors talk about the specific roles of each player in both a jazz combo and jazz ensemble. They'll also present ideas and strategies for improvisation. Participants with instruments will form a jazz combo and receive coaching. Piano and drums will be provided.

that. That should be really fun."

Selva has contacted Livonia schools and found interest among local educators in working with Owens. He sent out mailings to 57 high school music programs in the area.

"I'm working hard to get kids to join us in the (Sunday) rehearsal. Experiencing some great music-making is unlike recorded music. It's an aesthetic experience unlike anything else."

Owens will premiere an original work, *The Chicken Borman Shuffle*, named for one of his grandkids, at the con-

cert on Monday, Dec. 19. Performers will include the Eastern Michigan University Jazz Ensemble, Schoolcraft College's Jazz Ensemble and its Jazz Combo, along with a group consisting of Selva, his Schoolcraft colleague, Barton Polot, drummer Bill Cairo, bass player Paul Keller and Don Babcock of Eastern Michigan University.

"No one has heard that piece. I have the score and I'll be rehearsing it with some of my people," Selva said. "There are elements of contemporary music to the

Please see JAZZ, B7

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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 Jan. 13, 2012

**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** Call for entries to the 6th annual Member Exhibition that runs Feb. 3-18, 2012.

**Contact:** (248) 344-0497

### PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

**Time/Date:** 1-3 p.m. Dec. 17

**Location:** 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Artist reception for exhibit that runs through Dec. 22, featuring works in colored pencil, ink, pastel and watercolor by members of Pam Grossmann's adult drop-in drawing classes. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Contact:** (734) 416-4278

## GET OUT!



The Wayne County Lightfest, featuring more than 45 animated displays, is open 7-10 p.m. daily through Dec. 31 along Hines Drive, in Westland. The attraction is closed Christmas Day.

## 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; gocomedy.net

### JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

### JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31; Charlie Wiener, Jan. 4-7, 2012; Dave Waite, Jan. 11-14, 2012; Norm Stultz, Jan. 18-21

**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

### MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

**Time/Date:** Lars Callieou, Dec. 15-17; David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31

**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

## Dance

### MOON DUSTERS

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

**Contact:** Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Please see GET OUT!, B7

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# GET OUT!

Continued from page B6

## Film

### PENN THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18

**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

**Details:** "Polar Express," \$3

**Coming up:** "Elf," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23; "The Big Year," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, 2012, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30; and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31; "Puss In Boots," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2012; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8, 2012; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012; all seats \$3

**Contact:** (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

### REDFORD THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 17

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

**Details:** "It's a Wonderful Life," tickets \$4

**Coming up:** "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2012 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 7, 2012



Youth Choir members are Summer Edwards, (left) Satyam Joseph, Nora Wygant, and Corey Goines. All are from Farmington Hills. They and other members will perform Dec. 22 at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre.

**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

### 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:** "Karans Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" will explore the story of a site excavation initiated by U of M in the 1920s and 1930s. It will illuminate the historical records of a single village community, located 80 kilometers southwest of Cairo in the Egyptian countryside, during Egypt's Greco-Roman period

**Contact:** (734) 764-9304

## JAZZ

Continued from page B5

piece, but there's also the blues shuffle, straight forward jazz-blues."

The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the DiPonio Room of the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. Tickets are available at www.scbxoffice.com and at the main bookstore. Cost is \$8 general admission; \$5 students and seniors; children under 12 will be admitted free.

### Joining in

All of the clinics are open to the public. Musicians of all ages may bring their instruments. They'll form "pick up" groups if they don't have their own jazz ensembles.

"There's nothing like making music with your friends," Selva said, who plays in a jazz ensemble with men in their 70s and 80s. Many of his fellow musicians have played an instrument for most of their lives.

"The music is something very near and dear to them," he said. "They pass it on to their children. They love music and they sometimes play in groups together. It brings us all together, all ages, and it's something that enriches everybody's life."

For more information, e-mail Selva at rselva@schoolcraft.edu.

## New Year's Eve Celebration

Monaghan Banquet Center  
19801 Farmington Road • Livonia, MI 48152

**December 31, 2011**  
**\$100 per couple**

Entertainment by  
**CCKing Productions**

Cocktail hour will start at 6pm  
Hors d'Oeuvres from 6 to 7 pm  
Dinner served from 7:00 to 8:30 pm  
Party favors, Pizza at 1:00am

Dress to Impress

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Delicious Homemade Polish and American Cuisine

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Tuesday, December 20th  
**Santa is Here!**  
4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Kids Eat FREE (12 and under)  
Get a Picture with Santa!

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Sandwich Crepes • Sweet Crepes • Bubble Teas  
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Try our Popular Bubble Tea...  
a tea based drink with flavor additives and tapioca "bubbles"

Treat yourself to a Delicious Sweet Crepe

## China House

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Just E. of Farmington Road  
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**Dinner for 2**  
**\$4 off**  
Dine-in Only  
**China House Inn**  
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.

**Buy 1 Entree**  
**Get 2<sup>nd</sup> Entree**  
**50% off**  
Dine-in or Carry-out. All Day  
**China House Inn**  
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.

## Rocky's

37337 Six Mile Newburgh Plaza  
Livonia

Chicken • Ribs  
Fish & Chips  
BBQ • Meatloaf

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

Let Our Family Cook For Your Family...

### CHRISTMAS DINNER TO GO

(Serves 10 • Pick-up Saturday, Dec. 24)

Applewood Smoked Pork Loin Dinner

Rotisserie Turkey Breast or Rotisserie Chicken Dinner

Includes side dishes, House Salad & House Bread

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**

**\$89<sup>99</sup>**

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HOLIDAY CATERING!

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## 734.462.6240

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Sandwiches • Full Lunch & Dinner Menus

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Best Wings in Livonia!  
All Day-Every Day!  
**50¢** Wings **75¢** Boneless Wings

All Day Monday  
8 oz. Angus Beef Burger  
**\$4.95**  
with Chips or Fries

All Day Friday  
All You Can Eat Fish & Chips  
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Dine In Only w/beverage order

Wednesday Night  
12 oz. N.Y. Strip Steak  
**\$8.95**  
Dine In Only w/beverage order

Friday & Saturday  
Slow Roasted Prime Rib  
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All New Late Night HAPPY HOUR  
up to **1/2 off** all menu items  
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19170 Farmington at 7 Mile  
Livonia  
**248.615.1330**

Cinnamon Nuts and More  
Cinnamon Roasted Almonds, Pecans and Cashews

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Between Cherry Hill and Palmer  
**734-895-7111**



## Add this grab-and-go snack to holiday recipes

If you're planning a long day of holiday shopping, don't forget to slip a snack into your pocket or purse. Raisins are the perfect portable food to help you recharge as you negotiate the mall crowds.

This little fruit has big benefits that help to maintain a healthy lifestyle, according to the California Raisins Marketing Board. Raisins, which are dried grapes, are fat and cholesterol free, naturally low in sodium, packed with antioxidant protection for heart and colon health, a great addition to the day's total intake of dietary fiber and potassium, known to contain compounds that may inhibit growth of the bacteria associated with tooth and gum disease and an ideal source of all-natural energy.

Raisins rank among the top antioxidant foods, according to USDA government tests.

They're also a sweet addition to favorite foods — from beverages to treats. Try these recipes, courtesy of Sun-Maid, for your next holiday gathering:



Merry Munchies

### Merry Munchies Makes 3 dozen cookies

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter or margarine softened  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups firmly packed brown sugar  
1 large egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups all-purpose flour  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
1 cup chopped walnuts  
1 package (1 cup) Sun-Maid Baking Raisins

Heat oven to 350 F. Combine butter, brown sugar, egg and vanilla; beat until well blended. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add to butter mixture; mix well. Stir in walnuts and raisins. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheets. Bake at 350 F for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from cookie sheets; cool on wire racks.

### Raisin Chocolate Fudge Makes 25 pieces

$1\frac{1}{2}$  cups sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup light corn syrup  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter or margarine  
12 large marshmallows or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups mini marshmallows  
12-ounce package (2 cups) semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups coarsely chopped walnuts  
1 cup Sun-Maid Natural Raisins

Butter an 8-inch square pan. In 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ -quart saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup, milk and butter. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until butter melts and sugar is dissolved. Add marshmallows. Bring to a full boil, stirring constantly; boil 5 minutes. Remove from heat; add chocolate pieces and vanilla. Stir until chocolate is melted. Stir in walnuts and raisins; pour into buttered pan. Let stand until firm; cut into squares.



Raisin Chocolate Fudge

### Baked Brie with Zesty Raisins Makes 24 servings

2 (4 $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces each) wedges or rounds Brie cheese  
2 tablespoons orange juice  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup Sun-Maid Golden Raisins or Sun-Maid Natural Raisins

1 tablespoon packed brown sugar  
2 tablespoons finely shredded orange peel  
Cut Brie wedges in half horizontally. Set aside. Heat juices just to boiling in a saucepan. Remove from heat. Stir in raisins. Cover and let stand 10 minutes. Drain. Stir in sugar and peel. Spoon half of mixture on bottom of Brie wedges, place wedge on top. Cover with remaining raisin mixture. Wrap individually and chill for a minimum of 2 hours or up to 3 days.

To serve, bake uncovered at 400 F for 8 to 10 minutes or until Brie is warm and slightly softened. Serve with crackers.

### Hot Fruit Punch Makes about 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons

$1\frac{1}{2}$  gallons water  
7 to 8 sticks sugar cane (or 1 16-ounce can with syrup)  
4 to 5 tamarind pods, husked and strings removed  
2 to 3 cinnamon sticks  
1 cup Sun-Maid Natural Raisins  
1 cup Sun-Maid Pitted Prunes  
3 to 4 apples cored and sliced  
3 to 4 fresh or frozen guavas  
Granulated sugar to taste  
Brandy, optional

Heat water, sugar cane, tamarind and cinnamon sticks in a large pot. Boil uncovered for 6 to 7 minutes. If desired, use a slotted spoon to remove sugar canes and cinnamon sticks. Add raisins, prunes, apples, guavas and sugar to taste. Simmer until fruit is soft, approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

Serve hot with brandy, if desired.

### CITY BITES

#### Brunch anyone?

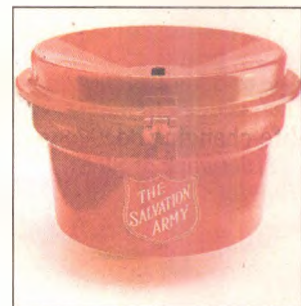
**PLYMOUTH** — Get prime rib, Eggs Benedict, Belgian waffles, smoked salmon, bacon, sausage, salads, desserts and more at Sean O'Callaghan's Holiday Brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$18.99 for adults and \$8.99 for children. Make reservations by calling (734) 459-6666. The restaurant is located at 821 Penniman.

#### Tasty fundraiser

**PLYMOUTH** — Selling lots of Grand Traverse Pie Company certificates was no pie-in-the-sky dream for the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC). The organization sold more than 200 certificates, each good for one nine-inch pie, earlier this fall to help fund its youth theater program, Plymouth Uptown Players, (PUPS). The group earned \$1,000 from the fundraiser, which will benefit PUPS' in project development and prop purchases. Learn more about PUPS at [www.plymoutharts.com](http://www.plymoutharts.com). For more about Grand Traverse Pie Company call (734) 459-9200.

#### Apple honors

**SOUTH LYON** — William Erwin and William Emery of Erwin Orchards & Cider Mill in South Lyon earned a fourth place — and honorable mention — for their apple cider at the 15th annual Michigan Apple Cider Contest, held earlier this month in Grand Rapids. The contest is sponsored by the Michigan Apple Committee and Bob Tritton, a Michigan State University Extension District Fruit Educator.



#### Red Kettles

**SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN** — Donate \$1 to The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit at Buddy's Pizza and you'll and receive a paper Red Kettle that can be signed and displayed in the store. The donation drive continues through Dec. 24 at all nine Buddy's locations. Local stores are at 31646 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills and 33605 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

## Celebrate breakfast with the crunch of almonds

Some things are just better together; milk and cookies, Bert and Ernie, and breakfast with almonds.

It's not surprising that breakfast — known as the most important meal of the day — is often skipped thanks in large part to chaotic mornings that leave little time for making nutritious meals.

But it's always good to remember why the most important meal of the day earned its reigning title.

Cynthia Sass, author of the New York Times Best Selling Book *Cinch! Conquer Cravings, Drop Pounds and Lose Inches*, is a great believer in the power of a nutritious breakfast.

"My first tip when counseling people is to get them started on breakfast. Something is better than nothing. People may think skipping breakfast means saving calories, but in fact it forces your body to work when it doesn't have fuel, which can result in a sluggish metabolism," Sass explains. "Even if you aren't hungry, train your body to eat something in the morning. People tend to eat fewer calories and make healthier choices throughout the day when they start

with breakfast."

Sass's secret weapon for a breakfast packed with a whole lot of punch? Almonds.

The almond, in all of its versatile forms — whether whole, sliced, roasted, chopped, as almond butter or almond milk — often makes a daily appearance in Sass's morning menu.

Including almonds in your breakfast is the extra boost a bowl of cereal, cup of low-fat yogurt, or slice of whole wheat toast needs to go from good to even better.

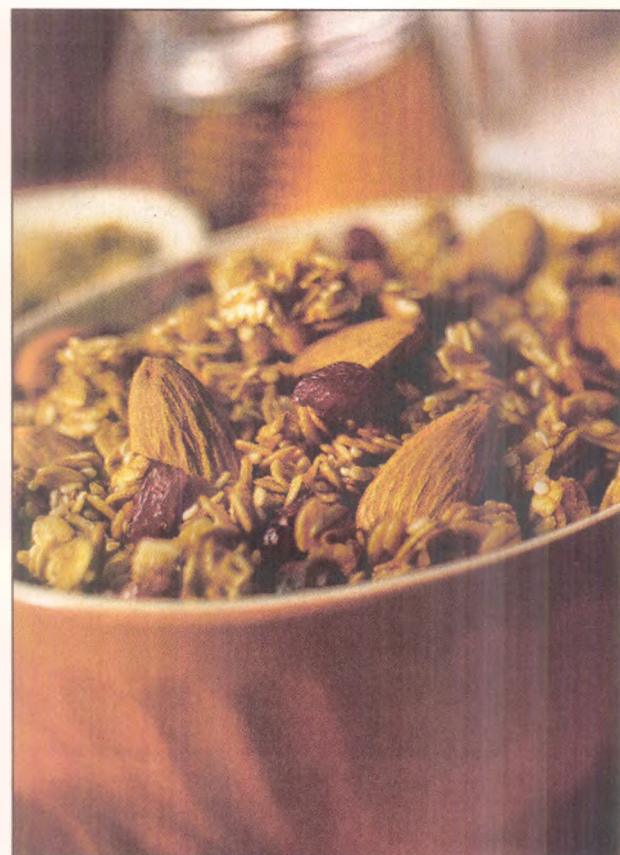
A recent study published in the February 2011 issue of *Nutrition & Metabolism* by Dr. Mori, et al, found that eating a breakfast upgraded with almonds (a low glycemic index food) aided in stabilizing blood glucose levels for the better part of the day, while also keeping study participants satiated for a longer period of time. Read the article, "Acute and second-meal effects of almond form in impaired glucose tolerant adults: a randomized crossover trial" by Dr. Mori and her team, at [www.nutritionandmetabolism.com/content/8/1/6](http://www.nutritionandmetabolism.com/content/8/1/6).

In addition, the U.S. Dietary Guidelines recommend that the

majority of your fat intake come from unsaturated foods. One serving of almonds (28g) has 13 grams of fat and only 1 gram of saturated fat, so almonds are a healthy snack you can eat worry free.

Here are some favorite almond breakfast ideas to help start the day right:

- Top whole wheat toast with almond butter and sliced bananas.
  - Add almonds to oatmeal with skim or low-fat milk topped with dried or fresh fruit.
  - Sprinkle sliced almonds into your breakfast parfait layered with low-fat yogurt and fruit.
  - Toss toasted, sliced almonds into scrambled eggs or a veggie omelet for an extra healthy boost.
  - Dip half a banana into non-fat yogurt, then roll into chopped roasted almonds and oatmeal. Wrap in parchment paper and freeze overnight.
  - Smooth rich almond butter onto apple slices and enjoy.
- For more breakfast recipe ideas, tips from registered dietitians and the latest almond research visit [www.AlmondBoard.com](http://www.AlmondBoard.com).



— Courtesy of Family Features Almonds added to cereal



## Specialty: Helping seniors move to new quarters

By Nancy Austin  
Seniors Real Estate Specialist

I specialize in helping seniors move. Usually that statement will evoke a surprised, questioning look. Most people don't realize there are Realtors who are dedicated to helping seniors move.



Nancy Austin  
Senior Living

If you glance at the foot of this column you will see I am a Seniors Real Estate Specialist.

The designation is awarded by the National Association of Realtors. Let me tell you a little bit about it.

Seniors Real Estate Specialists (SRES) are Realtors qualified to address the needs of home buyers and sellers age 50+. The SRES Council awards the designation to those members who have successfully completed its education program.

The Realtor has demonstrated the necessary knowledge and expertise to counsel clients age 50+ through major lifestyle transitions involved in relocating, or selling the family home or both. The SRES also receives regular updates and is prepared to offer the options and information needed in making life-changing decisions.

A network of SRES Realtors® now exists

and can be found in metro Detroit, in Michigan and in our 50 states. Most families find us through referrals from retirement communities, workshops, and word of mouth.

I have been an SRES, for approximately 15 years. I love it. It is my passion. I love helping the seniors and working with their families.

My interest in obtaining my designation began with my parents. During their later years, their concerns about their home centered around which updates were most important so the house would sell easily. Utilizing the expertise I have acquired over the years, I was able to advise them of the importance of the updated kitchen and bath, removing wallpaper, neutral paints, decluttering and maintaining pleasant landscaping. These are the kinds of things that affect the overall appeal to a potential buyer.

I also realized at the same time that other seniors were exposed to losing equity in their homes due to a lack of updating; or perhaps, not knowing which were the more valuable updates. I knew I could help minimize their loss as well as smoothing and de-stress the moving transition.

How does it all work? Say, for example, I visit your home and ascertain through our visit and conversation, that your



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A variety of senior housing options are available, including those owned by American House.

home needs some paint, new carpet or refinished hardwood floors. Additionally, since you have been in your home for the last 20-40 years or more, you have accumulated antiques, china, figurines, tools, vintage clothing, and years and years worth of National Geographic magazines. Maybe furniture needs to be repositioned to show off the space you are selling. I can advise you as to what is best for the appearance of your home. My consultations are complimentary. I can then refer you to my list of trusted contractors. If you engage any of these services, you would then pay whatever fee they charge. Or, of course, you are free to use your own plumber, electrician, painter or organizer.

We also recognize that many times the adult children, who could otherwise be helping, may live in other parts of the state or even in other states. I have worked with families who have adult children both locally and long distance keeping all abreast of the work being done. I work with compa-

nies that, if you have no help (or even if you do), will help from organize the move to the actual move. There are dedicated employees within these companies that are so thorough that they make sure that in your new living quarters, your new bedroom is readied, including making your bed to insure a good night's sleep. They will also make sure your kitchen is usable when you wake up your first morning there. There are companies that will dispose of or move items to children's homes or will dispose of articles through consignment, estate sales, and donations.

We know and respect the seniors' various financial and legal positions. Should you need professional help in those areas, we have contacts which include financial planners and elder law attorneys.

We have a firm grasp on retirement living options such as retirement communities, assisted living, Alzheimer units, senior condo complexes and other living arrangements such as retrofitting a

house to enable a senior to age in place if so desired.

There are so many facets to helping seniors with the transition. In short, An SRES understands that this can be a stressful time for a family. An SRES works with seniors because he or she enjoys interacting with them. They enjoy helping others. They have respect for older individuals. They have an ability to listen and to ask the right questions. They like to sit and chat with the senior and the family. They enjoy learning about their life and ambitions. They are there to tailor the move to the senior's needs. They are patient and are prepared to take as long as the families deem necessary for this transition. An SRES is there for the senior. Short and simple. I think the best way to describe the help with the move is: if you need it, we can see to it that it will be accomplished.

Seniors Real Estate Specialist **Nancy Austin** may be reached at [nancyaustin@gmail.com](mailto:nancyaustin@gmail.com) or by calling her at (734) 718-8900.

## Food draws a crowd

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** We have a problem which I suspect is like many other associations in that our co-owners are apathetic about attending meetings. Do you have any suggestions?

**A:** I have somewhat tongue in cheek told my association clients that there are two ways of getting co-owners at annual meetings. First, levy an additional or special assessment and, second, have an open bar. There is some truth to the latter in that I have seen situations where participation is



Robert Meisner

engendered by serving coffee and cake. It is also important to start the meeting with an explanation of what is going

to take place and what procedures you are going to follow. Another interesting idea is to schedule guest speakers; they could be local politicians or people of interest in your area. It could even be a fellow co-owner who has expertise in an interesting subject that they want to share with the community and, finally, it is the need to participate in the democracy of your association which directly affects the way in which you live. That is, of course, the most important reason for anyone to attend.

**Q:** We have a unit owner in our condominium that has asked the association to be placed at the top of a rental waiting list as an accommodation for their daughter's handicap. They live in a second floor unit (no elevator) and it is difficult to carry her up the stairs. So far the unit owner says that installing a lift up the stairs is not possible. They want to move where there is better access for her and they say that they need to rent their existing unit sooner rather than later in order to afford the new home. What do you think we have to do?

**A:** This is, indeed, a difficult question, but in a federal court case in the 2nd Circuit it was held that the Federal Fair Housing Act addresses accommodating handicaps, but not alleviating economic disadvantages with having a handicap. The court held that there is not an obligation under the FHAA to provide an accommodation to remedy economic status. Simply stated, the FHAA is intended to insure that a handicap person has an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a unit, but renting the unit isn't using or enjoying the unit. At best, it allows them to use and enjoy a different unit in a different property. They aren't asking for an accommodation to use a unit in the condominium. The association should be willing to let them install a lift or make other modifications to the building to accommodate them so they can use and enjoy their unit, but that should be enough. You are best advised, however, to retain an experienced condominium lawyer who can opine on the specific facts of your case.

**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 [rbmeisner@meisner-associates.com](mailto:rbmeisner@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 Sept. 6-9, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

#### CANTON

44152 Arlington Rd	\$128,000
44042 Bannockburn Dr	\$142,000
41663 Bedford Dr	\$47,000
49068 Belfair Ct	\$400,000
1660 Bennington Ct	\$50,000
6845 Bridgemoor Dr	\$272,000
655 Cherry Orchard Rd	\$125,000
44941 Coachman Ct	\$126,000
3903 Cornerstone Dr	\$105,000
6230 Cottonwood Dr	\$675,000
4031 Elizabeth Ave	\$70,000
42135 Fairview Dr	\$125,000
3998 Fieldview Dr	\$199,000
41447 Glade Rd	\$100,000
1749 Glenshire Dr	\$160,000
3088 Haverford Dr	\$344,000

45097 Horseshoe Cir	\$120,000
44700 Kirk Ct	\$175,000
48895 Manhattan Cir	\$268,000
45195 Middlebury Ln	\$272,000
1704 Orchard Dr	\$23,000
47584 Pembroke Dr	\$76,000
377 Queens Way	\$159,000
7734 S Royal Ct	\$150,000
1789 Stonebridge Way Ct	\$335,000
45165 Thornhill Rd	\$269,000
8127 Warfield St	\$145,000
1031 Wildwood Ln	\$169,000
42087 Woodcreek Ln	\$293,000
2133 Woodmont Dr W	\$75,000
2500 Woodmont Dr W	\$150,000
48922 Woodson Way	\$305,000

#### GARDEN CITY

32139 Balmoral St	\$45,000
30944 Barton St	\$62,000
29688 James St	\$40,000
341 W Rose Ave	\$40,000

#### LIVONIA

36725 Angeline Cir	\$120,000
15989 Blue Skies Dr	\$200,000
33998 Bretton Dr	\$200,000
29680 Clarita St	\$52,000
14320 Doris St	\$145,000

18590 Gill Rd	\$190,000
19626 Hardy St	\$92,000
32052 Joy Rd	\$100,000
18857 Lathers St	\$71,000
29260 Lyndon St	\$135,000
18916 Norwich Rd	\$145,000
16540 Riverside St	\$155,000
15145 Taylor Blvd	\$190,000
16237 Wayne Rd	\$152,000
28562 Wentworth St	\$110,000

#### NORTHVILLE

16932 Algonquin Dr	\$363,000
16022 Brook Trout Ln	\$135,000
18190 Cascade Dr	\$341,000
16856 Dundalk Ct	\$255,000
705 Randolph St	\$54,000
715 Randolph St	\$65,000
18549 Steep Hollow Ct	\$440,000
39748 Village Run Dr	\$195,000

#### PLYMOUTH

764 Ann St	\$195,000
11846 Brownell Ave	\$140,000
8839 Cobblestone Cir	\$350,000
49559 Donovan Blvd	\$90,000
15214 Lakewood Dr	\$165,000
51191 Plymouth Lake Cir	\$540,000
11420 Spicer Dr	\$185,000

14150 Terrace Ct	\$125,000
1165 W Ann Arbor Trl	\$395,000

#### REDFORD

25950 Five Mile Rd	\$205,000
12903 Beech Daly Rd	\$48,000
14383 Fenton	\$61,000
15087 Fenton	\$75,000
15803 Fox	\$42,000
9648 Garfield	\$60,000
9218 Louis	\$49,000
11439 Seminole	\$31,000
18457 Summer	\$15,000
15425 Woodworth	\$23,000

#### WESTLAND

34130 Beechnut St	\$50,000
33421 Fran Ct	\$60,000
8039 Fremont St	\$57,000
7912 Gary Ave	\$73,000
33530 Harvard Ave	\$130,000
30340 Marshall Ct	\$66,000
485 N Sybald St	\$72,000
34538 Nancy St	\$75,000
2054 S Newburgh Rd	\$72,000
8335 Sanford Dr	\$80,000
267 Summerfield Dr	\$165,000
30963 Windsor St	\$41,000

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

#### BEVERLY HILLS

16925 Birwood Ave	\$127,000
19200 Devonshire St	\$360,000

#### BIRMINGHAM

812 Chapin Ave	\$94,000
1368 Cole St	\$470,000
685 Kennesaw St	\$450,000
351 Lake Park Dr	\$905,000
1245 S Bates St	\$290,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave	\$210,000
Unit	\$140,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave	\$335,000
Unit	\$108,000
1621 Torry St	\$290,000
1347 Villa Rd	\$665,000

#### BLOOMFIELD HILLS

717 Browning Ct	\$635,000
2802 Heathfield Rd	\$218,000
3865 Oakhills Dr	\$185,000
1768 Shaker Heights Dr	\$265,000
2742 Turtle Bluff Dr	\$199,000
4224 Wabek Lake Dr S	\$165,000
4755 Walnut Lake Rd	\$250,000
1515 Winthrop Rd	\$20,000

#### BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

250 Billingsgate Ct	\$75,000
1873 Chipping Way	\$140,000
2171 Devonshire Rd	\$100,000
1310 E Square Lake Rd	\$230,000
5530 Farmers Ct	\$171,000
1207 Hidden Lake Dr	\$1,310,000
3372 Indian Summer Dr	\$605,000
2617 Kopson Ct	\$220,000
2895 Meadowood Ln	\$1,398,000
3926 Oakland Dr	\$1,400,000
3915 Orchard Hill Dr	\$240,000
3842 Wabek Lake Dr E	\$355,000

#### COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

2016 Alpha St	\$58,000
2170 Applebrook Dr	\$285,000
4660 Benstein Rd	\$92,000
4070 Bluebird Dr	\$27,000
4918 Driftwood Dr	\$270,000
7970 Flagstaff St	\$485,000
5170 Joe Dr	\$260,000
3712 Loch Bend Dr	\$345,000
6025 Lochmore Dr	\$150,000
2574 Solace Dr	\$40,000
5662 Strawberry Cir	\$383,000

#### FARMINGTON

32010 Grand River Ave	\$19,000
32655 Meadowlark Ct	\$107,000
23800 Power Rd	\$98,000

#### FARMINGTON HILLS

29463 Breezewood	\$105,000
30041 Briarton St	\$101,000
31118 Country Ridge Cir	\$145,000

\$265,000	30020 Eastfield St	\$93,000
\$228,000	29264 Fieldstone	\$228,000
\$173,000	29519 Fox Grove Rd	\$173,000
\$249,000	28564 Golf Pointe Blvd	\$249,000
\$201,000	33453 Harlan Dr	\$201,000
\$83,000	28300 N Skye Dr	\$83,000
\$175,000	21875 Parklane St	\$175,000
\$45,000	23045 Purdue Ave	\$45,000
\$168,000	29122 Raleigh Rd	\$168,000
\$100,000	32360 Red Clover Rd	\$100,000
\$110,000	20865 Rensselaer St	\$110,000
\$199,000	25580 Ridgewood Dr	\$199,000
\$80,000	21919 S Brandon St	\$80,000
\$161,000	25576 Wessex St	\$161,000
\$87,000	24740 Westmoreland Dr	\$87,000
\$475,000	30557 Woodstream Dr	\$475,000

#### FRANKLIN

\$440,000	24770 Franklin Park Dr	\$440,000
\$475,000	30714 Helmandale Dr	\$475,000

#### MILFORD

\$200,000	836 Chatham Dr	\$200,000
\$235,000	1092 Eagle Nest Dr	\$235,000
\$91,000	1464 Garden Rd	\$91,000
\$405,000	2858 Honeywell Lake Rd	\$405,000
\$52,000	1015 Pearson Dr	\$52,000
\$535,000	2795 Rivendell	\$535,000
\$249,000	1312 Yosemite Valley Dr	\$249,000

#### NOVI

\$313,000	44463 Bristol Cir	\$313,000
\$440,000	20902 Chase Dr	\$440,000

\$406,000	22246 Chase Dr	\$406,000
\$300,000	29120 Eastman Trl	\$300,000
\$388,000	25948 Island Lake Dr	\$388,000
\$280,000	44891 Lafayette Dr	\$280,000
\$45,000	51146 Mayfair Ter	\$45,000
\$995,000	25675 Shoreline Dr	\$995,000
\$410,000	22785 Summer Ln	\$410,000
\$379,000	24178 Trafalgar Ct	\$379,000
\$204,000	40644 Village Oaks	\$204,000
\$325,000	45760 White Pines Dr	\$325,000

#### SOUTH LYON

\$165,000	22365 Brookfield Dr	\$165,000
\$223,000	23794 Copperwood Dr W	\$223,000
\$300,000	1099 Gentry Dr	\$300,000
\$125,000	881 Hearthside St	\$125,000
\$223,000	25785 McCrory Ln	\$223,000
\$68,000	344 S Warren St	\$68,000
\$30,000	54465 Villagewood Dr	\$30,000

#### SOUTHFIELD

\$103,000	27308 Apple Blossom Ln	\$103,000
\$142,000	27555 Arlington Ct	\$142,000
\$30,000	26313 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$30,000
\$119,000	25520 Grand Concourse St	\$119,000
\$80,000	28720 Inkster Rd	\$80,000
\$135,000	17309 Jeanette St	\$135,000
\$33,000	22500 Lucerne Dr	\$33,000
\$30,000	20459 Mada Ave	\$30,000
\$65,000	27046 Selkirk St	\$65,000
\$139,000	28046 Senator Cir	\$139,000
\$108,000	16160 Sherfield Pl	\$108,000
\$16,000	30216 Southfield Rd # A135	\$16,000

#### WHITE LAKE

\$300,000	10311 Cedar Point Dr	\$300,000
\$290,000	10882 Hillway St	\$290,000
\$55,000	2103 Kingston St	\$55,000
\$165,000	9410 Leona St	\$165,000

### BRIEFS

#### Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will offer a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For information, contact: Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or [laiello@kw.com](mailto:laiello@kw.com).



# HOMES

apartments.com . HomeFinder

**OWN YOUR HOME FOR AS LOW AS \$9,900\***

2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH

NEARLY 1,000 SQ. FT. \$1,000 LOWES OFF CARD UPON CLOSING

APARTMENTS

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College Park Estates Sun Homes

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**CANTON HOMES FOR SALE \$16,900**

Payments as low as \$25/mo. Includes insurance, home payment and lot rent. Financing available. 3 bedroom/2 bath, deck, shed & appliances.

**SUN HOMES**

Academy/Westpoint academywestpoint.com 1-888-858-5659

\*Some restrictions apply

Expires 12/31/11 EHO

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NEARLY 1,000 SQ. FT. \$1,000 LOWES OFF CARD UPON CLOSING

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2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH

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**OWN YOUR HOME FOR AS LOW AS \$9,900\***

2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH

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2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH

NEARLY 1,000 SQ. FT. \$1,000 LOWES OFF CARD UPON CLOSING

**Apartment**

**WESTLAND \$300\***

Moves You In!

Spacious 1 bedroom

Private entry

On-site maintenance

Hurry, won't last!

734-721-6699 EHO

**Apartment**

**WESTLAND**

Hickory Woods Apts.

\$224 MOVE IN!

1 Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants)

2 Bdrm-\$550

2 Bdrm-\$650

**FREE GAS & WATER**

(734) 729-6520

**Condos/Townhouses**

**CANTON:** Luxury condo, 2 bdrms, bsmt, 2 car garage, fireplace, pool/workout room. \$1250/mo. 734-216-1933

**Homes For Rent**

**CANTON:** 44750 Leslie 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1900 sq. ft. 2 car garage, newly decorated. \$1500/mo. Call: 248-330-9262

**Homes For Rent**

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

**Homes For Rent**

**GARDEN CITY -** 1 Bdrms only \$579

2 Bdrms only \$619

Newly updated! Hurry - Limited supply!

New Management Bentley Square (734) 367-1087, EHO

**Homes For Rent**

**GARDEN CITY -** 29828 Elmwood, 4 bdrm, shed, fenced, \$795/ mo. Showing Weds, Sat. & Sun. at 5pm. 313-920-5966 or 248-563-8315

**Homes For Rent**

**LIVONIA:** Beautifully updated. 3 bdrm 1.5 bath, brick ranch, w/new kit & floors, lin bsmt, 2 car gar. \$1100. 313-303-8524

**Homes For Rent**

**PLYMOUTH:** 1 bdrm, hardwood, appl., washer/dryer, a/c, covered deck, on park, near lake \$775. 517-655-2753

**Homes For Rent**

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

**Homes For Rent**

**WESTLAND:** 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, carpeted, just painted, c/a. No pets. \$890 - special! 734-591-9163

**Homes For Rent**

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

**Homes For Rent**

**WESTLAND:** Spacious 3 bdrm duplex, new carpet and paint, fenced. \$650/mo. Mr. Ludwig: 313-418-9905

**Homes For Rent**

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

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# SERVICES

hometownlife.com

**Cabinetry/Formica**

\* TILE WORK \*

Install yours from \$125

Bath grout from \$75

Caulking 734-469-0565

**Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair**

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

**Drywall**

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

**Electrical**

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

**Hauling/Clean Up**

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

**Painting/Decorating Paperhangers**

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

**Quality Painting**

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

**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

**Need to rent that house or apartment?**

Place an ad with the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies

and have it rented in no time.

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# BUY & SELL

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**Auction Sales**

**ESTATE AUCTION** Fri., Dec. 16, 7pm Cultural Center 525 Farmer Plymouth MI Antiques & Collectibles; Furniture; Daisy BB Guns; Collectible Toys; Household Items; Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm Joe Carl, Professional Auction Service 734.451.7444 jcauctionservices.com

**Estate Sales**

**Estate Sale Filming for HGTV's Cash & Cari** Season 3 GREAT FINDS incl. Primitive Furniture, Antique Telescope & More! 420 Morgan Circle Northville MI 48167 Dec 16-17th, 10-5pm http://reposestate.com 248.719.8332

**GARDEN CITY ESTATE/GARAGE SALE**

2nd phase Garage and workshop. Tools, household, fishing, jewelry, misc. Sat. 12/17, 10-4pm. 32135 Leona, Merriman & Cherry Hill.

**CASH & CARI**

Planning an Estate Sale?

Let Cash and Cari Help

The hit HGTV series Cash and Cari is entering its third season and is looking for Michigan-based estate sales. cool collections and dirty barns to be featured in our upcoming season, being filmed in the winter and spring of 2011/2012.

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When you recycle your newspaper, you help reduce the amount of paper that ends up in landfills. It's a simple way to help the environment.

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**MIDWEST AUCTION GALLERIES**

**Auction Of Chinese Ceramics & Works Of Art** SAT. DECEMBER 17TH AT 10:00 A.M.

Over 600 lots featuring two old collections including over 200 lots of antique Jade, over 100 lots of antique Ivory, over 150 lots of Chinese porcelain, cloisonne, - Ming to Qing bronzes, and many more items not listed.

On line bidding is available at: www.liveauctioneers.com

www.proxibid.com • http://www.auctionzip.com

You can visit us at our website to preview all lots at http://www.midwestauctioninc.com

Phone and absentee bids are always welcome.

Any questions feel free to call us at 248-236-8100

**Observer & Eccentric HOMETOWN WEEKLIES**

CLASSIFIED EARLY DEADLINES

The Classified Department of the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies Newspapers will be closed Monday, December 26th & Monday, January 2nd, so our employees may observe the Holidays.

**Edition of Sunday, Dec. 25th**

Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Thursday, Dec. 22 @ 5 pm

Classified Display Ads Friday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm

Classified Liners Friday, Dec. 23 @ 4 pm

**Edition of Thursday, Dec. 29th**

Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon

Classified Display Ads Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon

Classified Liners Tuesday, Dec. 27 @ 4 pm

**Edition of Sunday, Jan. 1st**

Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Thursday, Dec. 29 @ 5 pm

Classified Display Ads Friday, Dec. 30 @ 3 pm

Classified Liners Friday, Dec. 30 @ 4 pm

**Edition of Thursday, Jan. 5th**

Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Friday, Dec. 30 @ noon

Classified Display Ads Friday, Dec. 30 @ noon

Classified Liners Tuesday, Jan. 3 @ 4 pm

**Garage/Moving Sales**

**NORTHVILLE:** Downtown Moving Sale. 519 Horton Sat Dec 17, 1-4 Antiques, furniture & more. Off 8 Mile

**PLYMOUTH - MOVING.**

Beautiful cream colored sectional sofa, custom red fabric chair/ espresso wood arms, mahogany buffet, curio cabinet, dining room table/cane chairs w/custom felt pad, TVs, tables, rugs, lamps 2 rusty/green Walker Buzenberg recliners, whicker 9 prices furniture set, lawn mower, 16 ft extension ladder, leaf blower, garden tools, office desk with hutch & glass doors, antiques, more Showing Fri. Sat & Sun, Dec 16-18in. Call for appi. 734-306-4935 or 734-674-8374

**FUR COAT -** Norwegian Silver Mist Fox fur coat. \$850, make offer. 734-420-2640

**BUFFET - OAK:** With matching armoire and wine rack, excellent cond. \$425/best offer. Westland, 734-467-6352

**COUCH:** Formal decorator couch, muted, wown sheen, paisley print, oriental look w/teal blue, deep green, rust/gold. \$225/best offer. 248-254-3575

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER:** Solid oak with claw feet, comes with 27" TV, will hold 32" flat screen, sold together for \$100 or will separate. 248-714-5377

**RETRO REFRIGERATOR \$85**

NEW twin box spring \$25. Twin box & mattress \$35. Large side by side fridge \$125. Dehumidifier \$45. Large chest freezer \$225. Small upright freezer \$110. Gas stove \$85. Blue sofa bed \$45. 248-465-0262

**TABLE - BUTCHER BLOCK:** With 4 king chairs, almost new. \$300. Call: 248-374-0873

**BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE:** Styling chairs, shampoo bowls and chairs, reception chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves, chair mats, washer/dryer, ceiling fan and misc. items. Cash only Dec 10, 3:30-8pm & Dec 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth (248) 459-8888

**PAC MAN MACHINE** Never been painted. Original condition. Takes quarters. Exc. cond. \$600. 313-277-6698

**CI PAT MACHINE:** In mint cond. 2 yrs old, top of the line. \$350. 734-449-7226

**SNOWBLOWER - ARIENS ST** 724: 7 horse B & S, 24 inch, portable cab. \$250. Call: (248) 891-8276

**BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE:** Styling chairs, shampoo bowls and chairs, reception chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves, chair mats, washer/dryer, ceiling fan and misc. items. Cash only Dec 10, 3:30-8pm & Dec 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth (248) 459-8888

**\*CHRISTMAS TREE** Artificial Spruce, pre-lit, 10', \$200 248-348-7718

**Christmas Trees**

**Mutch's Hidden Pines LLC** 303 W. Newark Rd., Lapeer (1/2 mile east of M-24) Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce

\*Cut your own & pre-cut

\*Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate & more!

\*Wagon Rides

\*Visit with Santa from 10am-4pm Sat. & Sun. only

Free Shaking, Bailing and Drilling.

Business Hours: Friday, November 25, 9:00am-5:00pm; Friday's Dec. 2, 9, 16, 12:00pm-5:00pm; Saturday's & Sun's, Nov. 26-Dec. 18, 9:00am-5:00pm. Visa & MC accepted. (810) 667-2711 www.mutchshiddenpines.com

**U-CUT-FIR, PINE & SPRUCE** Open 7 days. 10AM till Dark

Closed Thanksgiving Day

HOLTZ CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION

9381 Day Rd. near Maybree, MI 734-587-3155

Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall) SPECIALS

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 shaken, 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 till Dark. 3090 Dutch Rd., Howell. Take D-19 (at I-96, exit 137) South to Coon Lake Rd. West to Dutch Rd. Follow the signs

For more info a map. (517) 546-3890 Waldocktreefarm.com

**Hospital/Medical Equipment**

Aluminum Loading Ramps Handicapped & mobility. heavy duty & portable. For vans or RVs 3 piece, One 6 ft & two 1 1/2 ft. with handles. Like new \$295/best. 313-533-0998, 313-515-3330

**Lawn, Garden & Snow Equipment**

**SNOWBLOWER - ARIENS ST** 724: 7 horse B & S, 24 inch, portable cab. \$250. Call: (248) 891-8276

**Miscellaneous For Sale**

**BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE:** Styling chairs, shampoo bowls and chairs, reception chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves, chair mats, washer/dryer, ceiling fan and misc. items. Cash only Dec 10, 3:30-8pm & Dec 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth (248) 459-8888

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**AIRLINES ARE HIRING**

- Train for high paying Aviation Career: FAA approved program. Excellent pay if qualified - Job placement assistance Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-891-2281

**MICH-CAN STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED**

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**ALLIED HEALTH CAREER TRAINING-** attend college 100% online Job placement assistance Computer available Financial Aid if qualified SCHEV certified. Call 800-481-9409 www.CenturaOnline.com

**Musical Instruments**

**PIANO -** Gulbransen baby grand piano circa 1918, walnut stain, orig. ivory keys. Exc. cond./tone! Asking \$200 248-626-3725

**Cats**

**CAT -** Beautiful, loving, adult female indoor cat. De-clawed, loves attention. Looking for a good home. 248-486-4328

**CAT -** Super cute - young small female indoor cat. Active, playful & looking for good home. 248-486-4328

**CAT/KITTEN ADoptions**

Every Sun. 12-4 at Pets Supplies Plus, 43665 Ford Rd., Canton. (734) 595-3646

**KITTENS For Christmas:** 12 weeks old, adorable, need loving homes. 313-537-0685

**Dogs**

**Awesome Selection of Affordable Pups** Ypsilanti and Wyandotte 734-487-0800 www.petcitytypes.com

**German Shoppard Pups** Ready for pickup- January 6 Come reserve yours today! \$350. 734-397-0101

**DIRECT CARE WORKER**

PT positions avail. Positive attitudes a must. Must be able to climb driving record. Starting \$7.61/hr. (734) 341-1629

**Finance & Budget Director**

Canton is now accepting applications for Finance & Budget Director. Job description with complete qualifications and hiring process are available on the Canton Township website at www.canton-mi.org Application Deadline: 4:00pm 12/22/11 E.O.E.

**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**

Bloomfield Township accepting applications Visit: www.bloomfieldtpwp.org for information. An Equal Opportunity Employer

**GENERAL LABOR**

**SERTA MATTRESS**

Due to facility expansion and increased demand, we have numerous DAY & NIGHT positions available in the below depts:

- Assembling
- Resolving
- Sewing

All hands on manual labor position - heavy lifting. Very



**JOBS**  
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RN  
Mature, experienced nurse needed for oncology clinic. Part time. Fax resume to 313-769-6298.

**SCRUB TECH & MEDICAL ASST**  
Experience required for surgical suite.  
Fax resume: 248-305-5880

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1-800-579-7355  
WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**Help Wanted-Sales**  
**Home Improvement Consultant**  
The Holidays are approaching and so is the NEW YEAR! Take this Opportunity to sell-out on a New Career Path Today! Fully PAID Training Provided. State of the art technology and marketing support.  
**NO COLD CALLING**  
All leads prequalified (734) 462-6019  
Call now to discover all of the reasons why our team is the one to join! ggacareers@guttergrate.com  
hometownlife.com

**Attorney/Legal Counseling**  
**DIVORCE \$75.00**  
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CS&R 734-425-1074

**CASH IN WITH CLASSIFIEDS**  
1-800-579-SELL

**Help Wanted-General**  
**JOB OPENINGS**  
Starting Pay \$8.25/hr. Raises advancement. Regular part-time work. EOE. Apply for inventory at: www.rglis.com

**OFFICE CLEANERS NEEDED**  
Mon-Fri. from 6pm-10pm. In the Livonia/Farmington Hills area. \$9/hr. Call: 734-642-0074

**PARKING ATTENDANTS**  
\$9/hr. to start. Part time & full time. Must have own transportation & the ability to run 2 miles a night. 248-682-1800

**Earn \$50.00-\$100.00 per week**  
Deliver newspapers twice a week on Thursday and Saturday evening/Sunday morning in Plymouth/Canton area. Must have reliable transportation, car insurance and drivers license. Experience delivering newspapers helpful.  
**Call 734-582-8690**

**PROGRAMMER**  
Wanted for internal inventory and sales processing software system. Exp. in Business Basic or Cobol would be a plus. We need a reliable, hard working self-starter for this permanent full time position with an excellent benefit package. No travel is required for this position located at our main office in Livonia, Michigan. Please fax your resume and salary requirements to: (734) 452-3935

**TOOL AND DIE MACHINISTS**  
Start the New Year Off Right!  
At the premier machining facility

**TELEMARKETERS**  
No exp. nec. Good pay for good people. Call Sheri Mon-Fri. 9-3pm (248) 231-2182

**SIGNING BONUS AVAILABLE After 12 mo. employment**

**Die-Namic**

Day Shift Avail. for the following positions:  
**CNC Lathe & CNC Mill**

**TOOL AND DIE MACHINISTS**  
START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT AT THE PREMIER MACHINING FACILITY  
SIGNING BONUS AVAILABLE AFTER 12 MONTHS EMPLOYMENT

Positions include:  
**CNC Lathe & CNC Mill**  
**Wire & Conventional EDM**  
**Surface ID & OD Grinding**

A minimum of 5-7 years experience is required for all positions and must do own set-ups and control adjustments. We offer competitive wages and a full benefit package.  
Apply in person between 8AM-4:30 PM at:  
**Die-Namic Inc.**  
7565 Haggerty Rd.  
Belleville MI 48111  
Or fax resume to: 734-710-3223 or email to: sthompson@die-namic.com  
EOE - M/F/D/V

**Die-Namic**  
Day Shift Available for the following positions:  
**CNC Lathe**  
**CNC Mill**  
Positions include:  
**CNC Lathe**  
**CNC Mill**  
**Wire & Conventional EDM**  
**Surface ID & OD Grinding**  
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EOE - M/F/D/V

**Help Wanted-Office Clerical**  
**SUPPORT STAFF**  
2 openings for a Livonia based co. with salary & benefit packages. Must have the following skills and be strong in telephone answering, Microsoft Office to include word and typing. Please forward resume to: ceresume@hometownlife.com

**Help Wanted-Dental**  
**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Premier Livonia Dental Office is seeking a motivated and dependable dental assistant for a full time position. Dental exp is required. Must possess strong listening, computer and multi-tasking skills. 5 day work week incl. Tues evenings & Sat. Fax resume: 734-462-6405 or email: info@liviadentalistrypc.com

**TOOL AND DIE MACHINISTS**  
Start the New Year Off Right!  
At the premier machining facility

**Help Wanted-Medical**  
**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
Full-Time in Troy. 3+ yrs exp in internal medicine. Must have exc. computer skills. Call: 248-649-8060 Fax: 248-649-8062

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT/MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST**  
For internal medical practice in Commerce Twp. Fax resume: (248) 363-6202

**MEDICAL TECHNICIAN**  
Busy Livonia practice seeks punctual, energetic, eager, quick study, dependable person to fill medical technician position. Part-time, possible full. No exp. preferred, we will train right person. Perfect for HS grad! Send resume: PO Box 530309, Livonia, MI 48152

**SIGNING BONUS AVAILABLE After 12 mo. employment**

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**CNC Lathe & CNC Mill**

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Full-Time in Troy. 3+ yrs exp in internal medicine. Must have exc. computer skills. Call: 248-649-8060 Fax: 248-649-8062

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EOE - M/F/D/V

**OPTOMETRIC ASSISTANT**  
Positive, personable professional needed part-time for private office. Pre-testing, contact lenses, eyeglass dispensing, exp. preferred. Email resume to: eyecarehr@yahoo.com

**PODIATRY ASSISTANT**  
Exp. a must, part-time, flexible hrs. for a multi-location podiatry practice. Please call: 734-261-3400

Challenging fun for ALL ages  
**Thursday PUZZLE CORNER**

**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

**ACROSS**  
1 Athena's symbol  
4 Ernesto Guevara  
7 Hot soak  
11 Car that's seen better days  
13 Leo mo.  
14 Milan money, formerly  
15 Luncheonette list  
16 Heavy fabrics  
18 Allow  
20 Offensively bold  
21 L-o-n-g time  
22 Born as  
23 Tribal emblem  
26 Ranch work  
30 Went jogging  
31 London's Old  
32 Debtor's note  
33 Made a sound  
36 Dirty  
38 Go for the gold

**DOWN**  
1 Physicist Georg  
2 Exude moisture  
3 Freeway strip  
4 Rustic dwelling  
5 Requiring first aid  
6 Id companion  
7 Played loud  
8 Non-soap opera  
9 Guadalajara trio  
10 Leftovers dish  
12 Thick soup  
17 Ten-four buddy  
19 PTA member  
22 Toshiba competitor  
23 Robert Morse role  
24 Feedbag tidbit  
25 Explosive initials  
26 Stashed away  
27 A crowd, for Caesar?  
28 - de guerre  
29 Author - de Maupassant  
31 Peace gesture  
34 Tied the score  
35 Eliminates  
36 Opal or moonstone  
37 High-pitched  
39 Keno kin  
40 Jane Austen heroine  
41 Gunk  
42 Wound a matador  
43 Fairway shout  
44 Close  
45 Weight rebate  
47 Broom rider  
49 HMO staffers

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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

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**SUDOKU**

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

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

Level: Intermediate

**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 — Winter Wonderland**

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

blizzard freeze ice skid warmth  
coat gloves scarf slide wind  
drift hat season snow winter

**Word Search**

P	H	O	M	O	S	E	S	S	O	S	S	N	S	N	S	
H	E	F	E	R	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
T	H	E	A	L	K	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
K	N	X	N	I	C	K	A	R	E	I	A	O	O	C	D	
S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	
S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	
X	N	I	C	K	A	R	E	I	A	O	O	C	D	A	H	
S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	
X	N	I	C	K	A	R	E	I	A	O	O	C	D	A	H	
S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	
X	N	I	C	K	A	R	E	I	A	O	O	C	D	A	H	
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X	N	I	C	K	A	R	E	I	A	O	O	C	D	A	H	
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S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	
X	N	I	C	K	A	R	E	I	A	O	O</					





**Auto Misc.**

Aluminum Loading Ramps Handicapped & mobility, heavy duty & portable. For vans or RVs. 3 piece, One 6 ft & two 1 1/2 ft. with handles. Like new. \$295/best. 313-533-0098; 313-515-3330

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

**Autos Wanted**

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

A. Brother's Towing  
 \$250-\$600 for Junk Cars  
 Cash on the Spot.  
 Free Removal 313-304-7544

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

UNWANTED AUTOS, LLC  
 \$300 & up for autos, \$400 & up for full size trucks, vans & late models. (248) 467-0396

**Trucks for Sale**

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2006  
 Sandstone, 271, 4WD, and loaded! Winter ready!  
 Just \$18,973!  
 888-372-9836

**Lou LaRiche**

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

**Lou LaRiche**

FORD F150 2008  
 Silver Slate, 8K, 5 speed and XLT Great Truck...Great Price!  
 Only \$14,995!  
 888-372-9836

**Lou LaRiche**

FORD F150 FLARESIDE SUPER CAB 4X4 1993  
 2 Dr., air, Auto, CD, 2000 miles on new Rhino crate 302 engine and rebuilt transmission, oversized A/T tires, relocating and will consider all offers!  
 \$2000 - 734-751-4836

NEWSPAPER POLICY  
 All advertising published in this newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department: Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170, 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper & only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears & reporting any errors immediately. The newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, only the first insertion will be credited. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination" based on race, sex, or religion. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983 3-31-72). Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter & spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage & support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers.

CONTACT US AT:  
 800-579-7355  
 www.hometownlife.com  
 oeads@hometownlife.com  
**DEADLINES:**  
 Fri. at 4 pm for Sunday  
 Tues. at 3 pm for Thursday

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www.hometownlife.com

**Trucks for Sale**  
 GMC SIERRA 2004 SLT Extended cab, RW, w/cap, dark blue, 68K, \$14,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

GMC SIERRA 2007 1500 SLE Extended Cab, black, RWD, \$11,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

**Mini-Vans**

CHEVY ASTRO VAN 2000 Senior owned, 1 owner, very good cond., many extras, new Michelin tires, \$4,200.  
 Call: (734) 421-8547

CHEVY UPLANDER 2005 Ten Almond, LT, DVD, and remote start! Perfect for holiday travel! Reduced to \$11,441!  
 888-372-9836

**Vans**

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

**4 Wheel Drive**

GMC SIERRA 2007 4x4 Single Cab, 34K, red, Like New \$18,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

**Sports Utility**

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

CHEVY EQUINOX LT 2010 37K brown  
 Must see \$23,700.  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 2006 Jet Black, SS, sunroof, and ABS! Abuse the octane!  
 Just \$15,995!  
 888-372-9836

CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 2002 4x4 Black \$7,895  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

FORD EXPEDITION 2006 Silver, leather, 4x4 \$12,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

FORD EXPLORER 2002-XLT, meticulously maintained, 4x4, loaded, sunroof, leather, detailed. \$5500. 734-777-0269

GMC SIERRA 2006 1500 Extended cab, 4x4, gray, 78K, \$17,949  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

GMC TERRAIN 2010 Bronze Metal, P/LP/W, ABS & OnStar! Cruise in style!  
 Reduced to \$21,983!  
 888-372-9836

GMC TERRAIN SLT 2010 AWD, Black \$28,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

GMC TERRAIN SLT2 2010 37K, black, \$25,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

GMC YUKON XL 2000 Gray SLT, runs great  
 Must See \$8,495  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 2008 73K \$18,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

INFINITI Q35X 2006 AWD, Blue, \$13,500  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

MERCEDES C320 2001- V6, auto, 170,000 miles. Silver. \$6000/or best offer. 734-788-1643

SAAB 97X 2006 AWD, Black, 84K, \$12,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

SUBARU FORESTER 2006 AWD, 73K \$12,495  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

**Antique/Classic Collector Cars**

CADILLAC SEVILLE 1985 1 owner, non-smoker, garaged, stored in winter under 72,000 miles. Full power, alarm, light blue/dark blue leather seats. Runs & looks like new inside & out. All records & maintenance receipts. It's a beauty!  
 \$6500/best. (734) 422-5584

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

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

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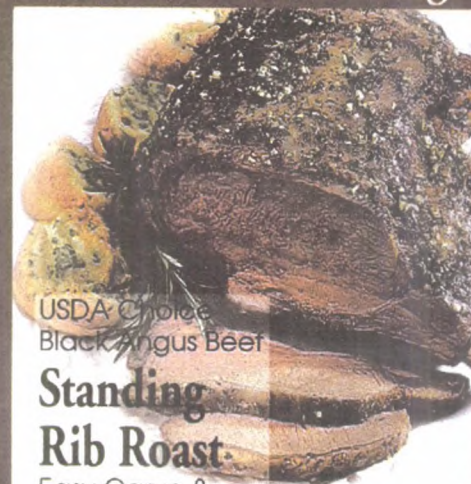
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# Say yes to Michigan ski areas this season



COVER PHOTO COURTESY  
OF CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN

**By Mary Quinley**

Contributing Writer

Winter sports fans who crave white-smothered slopes and challenging half-pipes need not cross the border to satisfy their urges. That's because Michigan is home to 42 ski areas, more than 40 terrain parks and hundreds of kilometers of groomed cross-country trails.

And, no matter where you are in the state, a ski area is always less than a two-hour drive. Here's a sampling:

**Lower Peninsula**

• An enticing menu of snowsports awaits visitors at

Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs and Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls. Downhill and cross-country skiing on 850 skiable acres, snowshoeing, snowboarding — there are five terrain parks — dog sled rides, tubing, ice skating and Zipline tours are outdoor options. Check the web at [www.Boyne.com](http://www.Boyne.com) or call (800) GO-BOYNE.

• Head to Caberfae Peaks Ski & Golf Resort in Cadillac for Family Fun-Day Sundays in January 2012. A family of three can ski — group lesson included — for \$49. Each additional person costs \$15. Coupon is required. Go to: [www.caberfaepeaks.com](http://www.caberfaepeaks.com) or call (800) YOU-SKII or (231)

862-3000.

• At Shanty Creek Resort & Club in Bellaire, packages, which include ski clinic, lodging, breakfast and downhill and cross-country skiing, start at \$129. Check the website at [www.shantycreek.com](http://www.shantycreek.com) or call (800) 678-4111.

• Families love to ski, snowboard and ice skate at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville. The resort offers an Unlimited Ski & Ride Package with rates beginning at \$229 per adult, per two-night stay. Inquire about horse-drawn surray rides. Go to [www.crystalmountain.com](http://www.crystalmountain.com) or call (800) 968-7686.

Please see **SKI, 20**

**6**

**Big flavor**  
with small pours and small bites:



**9**

**Michigan pride**  
Don't mess with the mitten

**DON'T  
MESS  
WITH THE  
MITTEN**

**10**

**Tool time**  
Holiday gifts that will 'inspire'



**12**

**Get fired up**  
Fireplaces add ambiance and energy



The Lux 60, with its sleek, modern lines, is a contemporary look for today's gas fireplaces. It's on display at the Fireside Hearth in Canton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRESIDE HEARTH



**18**

**A jolly Holly Christmas**  
Experience the charm of this Victorian Village

**INSIDE:**  
**HOLIDAY DISHES, PAGE 8**  
**ETIQUETTE 101, PAGE 14**  
**FOR THE BIRDS, PAGE 16**





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# BIG

## Holiday Flavor

**Y**ou've heard of big things in small packages. This holiday season, try big flavor in small bites paired with excellent wine.

The latest trend in holiday hosting ties together hearty hors d'oeuvres with carefully selected wine samplings. Pairing small bites with different varietals not only complements flavor, it also makes your gourmet appetizer experience something guests will remember well into the New Year.

And when it comes to apps, just remember every host's must-have staple: the California black ripe olive. They're mild in flavor, versatile and perfect for dressing up any dish.

To pair, 'tis the season for Frei Brothers Reserve®. The winery's Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon are sourced from each varietal's ideal growing appellation within Sonoma County. Here are three easy and irresistible recipes pairing California black ripe olives and Frei Brothers Reserve for the holidays.

For more delicious California black ripe olive recipes, visit [www.calolive.org](http://www.calolive.org).

### Cabernet-Braised Short Ribs

*Start to finish: 3½ to 4 hours*

*Servings: 8 to 10 appetizers*

- 4 bone-in beef short ribs (about 2 pounds)
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper
- 3 tablespoons diced pancetta
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup each: finely chopped onion and celery
- ¼ cup each: finely chopped fennel and carrot
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1½ cups Frei Brothers Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
- ¼ cup beef stock
- 1 teaspoon each: dried thyme and rosemary
- 1 (2.2-ounce) can sliced California black ripe olives, drained
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste

Season short ribs with salt and pepper. Sear on all sides in a large saucepan over high heat. Remove from pot and set aside.

Add pancetta, garlic, onion, celery, fennel and

With small pours and small bites



carrot; cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, for 10 minutes.

Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute more. Add wine, stock, herbs, olives and tomato paste, scraping up any browned bits on the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon.

Return short ribs and any juices to the pan. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer over very low heat, covered but with the lid cracked, for 2½ hours.

Remove cover and simmer over medium-high heat for 30 minutes more or until ribs are very tender and sauce has thickened.

Gently shred beef and place dollop of shredded beef atop Olive Potato Pancake and serve.

Pair with 2008 Frei Brothers Reserve Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

### Olive Potato Pancakes

*Start to finish: 35 minutes*

*Servings: 8 to 10 appetizers*

- 3 pounds Russet potatoes, peeled
- 1 cup snipped fresh chives
- ½ cup flour
- 1 (2.2-ounce) can chopped California black ripe olives
- 2 teaspoons garlic salt
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 4 eggs
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided

Coarsely grate potatoes and place in a bowl of ice water to keep from discoloring.

Stir together chives, flour, olives, garlic salt, pepper and eggs in a medium bowl. Drain potatoes and firmly squeeze out excess moisture; stir into egg mixture.

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until very hot. Spoon 1 heaping tablespoon of potato mixture for each pancake into skillet. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes per side, flattening with the back of a spatula and cooking until golden brown and crisp on both sides. Repeat with remaining oil and potato mixture.

Place a spoonful of Cabernet-Braised Short Ribs onto each pancake.

### Black Olive Risotto Balls

*Start to finish: 1½ hours*

*Servings: 8 to 10 appetizers*

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 medium shallots, chopped
- 1 cup Arborio or short grain rice
- 1 (32-ounce) container chicken stock, warmed
- ½ cup Frei Brothers Reserve Sauvignon Blanc
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1½ cups freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano, divided
- ¼ cup minced sun-dried tomatoes (preferably smoked)
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 1 (2.2-ounce) can sliced California black ripe olives, drained and coarsely chopped
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- ½ cup flour
- 2 eggs, beaten
- Olive oil cooking spray

Melt butter in a large skillet. Add garlic and shallots; cook over medium heat for 5 minutes. Stir in rice and cook for 2 minutes more. Add chicken stock, ½ cup at a time, adding more when broth has been absorbed, stirring frequently. When all broth has been used, stir in mozzarella, ½ cup Parmigiano-Reggiano, sun-dried tomatoes, basil, olives and pepper. Let cool, then cover and chill for at least 1 hour or until firm.

Roll mixture into 1½-inch balls. Stir together breadcrumbs and remaining Parmigiano-Reggiano. Roll each ball in flour, then in beaten egg, then in breadcrumb mixture. Let stand for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Place risotto balls on a baking sheet and spray liberally on all sides with olive oil cooking spray. Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown, coating with olive oil spray every 10 minutes.

Serve warm with marinara sauce.

Pair with 2009 Frei Brothers Reserve Russian River Valley Sauvignon Blanc.

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# Delicious and aromatic, these holiday dishes delight

There is something about warm, delectable dishes and the aroma of a freshly prepared meal that really bring loved ones closer. This season, when planning your holiday menu, consider adding some scrumptious dishes made with quality ingredients that are sure to become fast favorites with your family.

Try the recipes below to help take your holiday dishes to a new level, perfect for the season. Find more holiday recipes at [www.JohnsonvilleKitchens.com](http://www.JohnsonvilleKitchens.com).

## Risotto with Italian Sausage, Mushrooms, Peas and Asparagus

*Yield: 6 to 8 servings*

- 5 ¼ cups (42 ounces) chicken stock
- 3 sprigs fresh herbs; basil, oregano or thyme, (optional)
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 package (19 ounces, casings removed) Johnsonville Mild Italian Sausage
- 2 cups white button mushrooms, wiped clean and sliced about ¼ inch thick
- 2 cups Arborio rice or medium grain risotto rice
- ½ cup dry white wine
- ½ pound asparagus, stemmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup peas; fresh, shelled or frozen
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- Shaved or shredded Parmesan for garnish

Pour stock into sauce pan. If using fresh herbs, add to stock and bring to gentle simmer. Cover until ready to use.

In large sauce pan, heat oil over medium heat, add onion. Saute until tender and translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add sausages. Using wooden spoon, break up sausage as it cooks into bite size pieces until browned, about 5 minutes.

Add mushrooms; cook, stirring until just wilted, about 2 minutes. Mix in rice; cook, stirring until kernels are hot and coated with oil; about another 2 minutes. Add wine; stir continuously until liquid is absorbed.

Using a ladle, add hot stock about ½



## Spicy Sausage Queso

cup at a time, stirring constantly and making sure stock has been absorbed before adding more to rice. Continue adding ½ cup of stock and stirring rice constantly and gently. When rice is about half cooked or only 1 ½ cups of stock remains, add asparagus pieces into rice and continue stirring.

When you have about 1 cup of liquid left, stir peas into rice and season with salt and pepper to taste. Continue stirring. Risotto is done when rice kernels are creamy on the outside and firm yet tender to the bite, about 20 to 25 minutes total.

When risotto is just right, remove from the heat; stir in shredded Parmesan cheese. Spoon into large soup bowls. Top with shaved Parmesan; serve immediately.

## Spicy Sausage Queso

*Yield: 6 cups*

- 1 package (16 ounces) Johnsonville Hot All Natural Ground Italian Sausage

- 2 pounds Velveeta process cheese, cubed
- 1 jar (16 ounces) chunky salsa
- 2 teaspoons fennel seed, crushed
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon dried basil
- Garlic toast

In skillet, cook and crumble sausage until no longer pink; drain. Place cheese in large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 6 minutes or until melted, stirring every 2 minutes. Stir in salsa, seasonings and sausage. Microwave 2 minutes longer, or until heated through. Serve with garlic toast.

## Italian Sausage Stuffing

*Yield: 12 servings*

- 1 package (16-ounces) Johnsonville Italian All Natural Ground Sausage
- ¼ cup olive oil, separated
- 2 loaves (12 ounces each) focaccia bread
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan
- 1 small green pepper, diced
- ½ cup oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- 5 large fresh basil leaves, chopped

- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 large eggs
- 1 ½ cups white wine, or chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons butter, cut into small pieces

In skillet, cook and crumble sausage in 1 tablespoon olive oil until no longer pink; set aside.

In large bowl, combine bread cubes and remaining oil. Sprinkle with pepper; toss to coat. Transfer to lightly oiled 15 x 10-inch baking pan. Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes or until crisp and lightly browned, stirring once. Remove pan to wire rack to cool slightly.

In very large bowl, combine bread cubes, reserved sausage, Parmesan cheese, green pepper, sun-dried tomatoes, basil and garlic. Combine eggs and wine or stock; pour over bread mixture and toss to coat. Transfer to buttered 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Dot with butter, bake, uncovered, at 350°F for 35 to 40 minutes or until heated through and top is starting to appear slightly toasted.

— Family Features



This season,  
give the  
gift of  
Michigan  
pride



As the holidays approach, give a gift that's not only made and sold exclusively in Michigan, but also directly supports families throughout the state.

"Don't Mess with the Mitten" T-shirts, hoodies and auto air fresheners, made by Northville-based YesMichiCAN are a fun, inexpensive way to spread a little state pride this season. Comfortable and stylish tees and sweatshirts emblazoned with the bold "Don't Mess with the Mitten" logo make great gifts for anyone who loves the Mitten State.

The merchandise can be found at independent retailers throughout Michigan, or ordered online and shipped directly to college students, enlisted military and Michigan natives who have moved out of state. Wrap up a Yes-MichiCAN product and know you're giving a gift that gives twice, as a portion of all proceeds are donated to Bridgepointe, a Michigan-based charity that helps families throughout the state.

Here's a look at how YesMichiCAN merchandise will fit into any holiday gift list:

- **Hometown Pride:** Original "Don't Mess with the Mitten" T-shirts (\$24) and hoodies (\$42) come in Great Lakes blue with white graphic lettering that includes a silhouette of the Mitten State. They are made of 100-percent pre-shrunk cotton and available in

Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large.

- **Gifts under \$5:** "Don't Mess with the Mitten" air fresheners, new this year, will help you show off your Michigan pride wherever you drive. Hang one from your rear-view mirror and look forward to the state's bright future. In a delicious vanilla scent, \$3.

- **College Spirit:** Score a point in the perennial battle between the University of Michigan and Michigan State

by donning a "Don't Mess with the Mitten" T-shirt or hoodie in the colors of your alma mater. Maize-and-blue or Sparty green-and-white color combinations make great gifts for current college students or alumni who've moved out of town.

- **Military Troops:** Enlisted military personnel serving away from home will love a care package with a comfortable "Don't Mess with the Mitten" T-shirt

or hoodie that represents their home state with a bold statement. Order online at [www.yesmichican.com](http://www.yesmichican.com) and ship directly to troops.

- **Shop Local:** "Don't Mess with the Mitten" merchandise is sold exclusively by independent merchants throughout the state. Find it at Shine ... A Lifestyle in Royal Oak; After the Rain in Milford; Dancing Eye Gallery in Northville; Grandpa

Please see MITTEN, 21

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# Holiday gifts that will 'Inspire' everyone

By **Lon Grossman**  
Guest Columnist



Lon Grossman

It's that time of year again when you are trying to find that great new holiday gift to surprise the handyperson in your life. I found some interesting tools on the market that I think are worth checking out. I know my Christmas wish list just got a little bigger.

## Skil Oscillating Multi-Tasker™

I know what you're thinking. What the heck is a Multi-Tasker™ and why would I need or want one? It's uncanny how I know how your mind works.

Now to answer that question: The Multi-Tasker™ is an oscillating, hand-held tool that easily (and I emphasize "easily") cuts through wood, drywall, grout and most metals. The 2.0 amp motor is strong enough for just about any job or project you will undertake around your house.

Skil designed the Multi-Tasker with variable speeds, which I found perfect for total control, as well as when I used it for sanding. Yes, it has a sanding pad and comes with assorted sanding sheets. Another feature I liked was the weight. It only weighs about 2.75 pounds. That makes it easy enough to hold but provides stability when using the tool.

You'll also like the soft-grip design, which made it comfortable to hold and use. There are lots of other features you can check out at Lowe's, Amazon.com or other retailers. You can also check out this \$79.99 tool at Skil's website [www.skil.com](http://www.skil.com).



Skil Oscillating Multi-Tasker

## Black and Decker's Sure Grip™ All In One Laser Level



The Black and Decker Sure Grip All In One Laser Level

Decker's Sure Grip™ All In One Laser Level will not only prove it, but will help you keep level. The Sure Grip™, at only \$29.97 is an incredibly clever, next-generation laser level.

Why would you or the handy person on your gift list need or want the Sure Grip™? Two reasons. First, it works! Second, it works great and absolutely will not damage or scuff any wall. The only marks left on my wall were dirty hand prints pointed out to me by my dutiful wife.

The Sure Grip™ operates on two AAA batteries (included).

It securely attaches by itself to a wall and can stay in place up to two hours.

It makes hanging mirrors, photos, paintings, shelving, etc. a lot easier and certainly more accurate. It is also perfect for painting or attaching graphics on walls. A couple of features I truly loved were the audio signal. It let me

This new product works! Black and

Please see **TOOLS, 11**



# Today's fireplaces add ambiance, energy efficiency to your home

By Sally Rummel  
Contributing Writer

Nothing adds more warmth or ambiance to a home than a fireplace. As the focal point of a room, a flickering fireplace creates a cozy place for people to gather, as well as a quiet spot to enjoy warmth and solitude.

"We're selling a look, an ambiance, more than we are selling a function," said Steve Brown, owner of American Fireplace in Ferndale, with a 5,000-square-foot showroom and 81 live gas fireplace displays. His company designs and installs fireplace systems for homeowners as well as restaurants, casinos, yacht clubs and more, in addition to selling and installing manufactured models.

Homeowners who install a fireplace will almost always get back their investment when they sell their home. "A fireplace is the third most popular selling feature of a home, just behind kitchens and bathrooms," said Nancy Henry of Town 'N' Country True Value Hardware in Garden City, one of Michigan's largest fireplace dealers. "People want to enjoy the decorative aspect of a fireplace, as well as having the ability to use it as an energy-efficient heat source."

If you haven't looked at the range of fireplaces available in today's market, you may be in for a surprise. In addition to a traditional masonry fireplace found mainly in older homes, today's models include updated energy-efficient wood-burning stoves, gas logs and electric models. There are even fireplaces that burn glass beads and contemporary linear models with a dancing line of fire behind a sleek wall of stone.

## Choices

Which kind of fireplace will work best for you? Wood offers a homeowner the pros and cons of building, starting and tending a fire. A wood burning fireplace can effectively heat a room and is most efficient with glass doors and an electric blower. Gas and electric fireplaces offer the convenience of instant operation. Gas is more realistic with its live flames, whereas electric simulates a fire with light and sometimes heat. Gas inserts with glass fronts and ventless gas fireplaces can be very efficient, heating well and consuming little fuel. An electric fireplace may be the only solution for small spaces, including condos and apartments. It's also an easy, less expensive solution for old, very small or damaged fireplaces.

"The biggest seller in the world of fireplaces is an insert, which fits into an existing fireplace, not only to upgrade a home's interior beauty, but to make a fireplace more efficient," said Rhea Withers, of Fireside Hearth, with stores in Utica and Canton. "People may not be moving, but they are improving their fireplaces in their current homes." Inserts are available in gas or wood units, and range in price from \$3,000 to \$5,500.

Another "buzzword" in the fireplace industry, according to Withers, is zone heating. "Homeowners can set their furnace down lower so they are not constantly heating their entire home, and can 'zone



This gas direct vent insert by Mendota, available at Town 'N' Country Hardware in Garden City, provides all the energy efficiency and ambiance of today's new gas fireplaces.

heat' the family room with an efficient fireplace," said Withers. "It will cost less money than heating the whole house."

Wood-burning stoves, which can be put into a fireplace as an insert or stand alone, are enjoying a resurgence in popularity as people in today's economy try to save money on their home heating bills. Today's models are much more energy efficient than they used to be," said Valerie Dixon of The Grate Fireplace Shop of Walled Lake. "They require less wood to burn, while providing more heat and they don't pollute the air like they used to." Wood stoves are priced from about \$1,200 to \$3,000, according to Dixon, who heats

her fireplace store with a wood stove.

Direct vented gas logs are still very popular, because of their high efficiency. They provide the ambiance people are looking for in a fireplace, at a more affordable price, usually between about \$1,000 and \$1,600. "It functions like a baby furnace, with direct zoned heating and a more realistic flame," said Brown, of American Fireplace. "For a more true fireplace look, homeowners can opt for an open hearth with a gas log set."

Fireplace doors, available in different colors, styles, framing, etc., can provide a new look to a gas log fireplace. For homeowners desiring a more realistic fire-

place, a mesh screen can hide the glass.

Electric fireplaces have come a long way, too, since their debut in the 1970s when the fire appeared to be very unrealistic looking. Today's models, especially suited for small spaces, are very energy-efficient, require no venting access, chimneys or major construction, and are more affordable than many other fireplace options.

Fireplace accessories continue to be big sellers, even for homeowners with gas logs. "We sell a lot of log holders, tool sets, even bellows to customers with gas logs," said Dixon, of The Grate Fireplace Shop. "Again, it's all about the ambiance."



The Escape 135, is a gas insert, which will make a homeowner's fireplace more efficient. It's available for installation from Fireside Hearth in Canton and Utica.



The holidays are a perfect time to enjoy a fireplace.



## IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET YOUR CHIMNEY CLEANED

As beautiful and functional as a fireplace is, it can be a leading cause of home fires during the months of December through February. Half of all home fires take place during these three months of the year. That's the word from the National Fire Protection Association, which adds that the top three days for home fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day — at least in part because of holiday decorations and traditions.

Having your fireplace, wood-burning stove and chimney systems inspected annually is essential for optimum safety. With wood burning systems, incomplete combustion results in unburned residue called creosote, which rises in the chimney as part of the smoke. Creosote is deposited on the inside of the chimney walls, presenting a major fire hazard to the home.

Gas and oil flues should also be checked on an annual basis for any soot deposits or debris blockage, which could lead to dangerous carbon monoxide poisoning. A chimney professional can inspect and clean the inside of your chimney to eliminate these dangers. One area business, Rockford Chimney Supply in South Lyon, provides products and expertise that can add to the safety of your chimney. "If your chimney is old or cracked, you can re-line that component with our American-made stainless steel," said owner Sue White. "The galvanized steel that builders use on the top of the chimney will rust over time, resulting in water accumulation and leaks into the fireplace. This kind of fix with our stainless steel liners will save you a lot of money and will make your chimney safer for your home."



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## January 2012

**John Tartaglia's ImaginOcean**

1/20/2012 10:00 AM (School Show) \$8/person  
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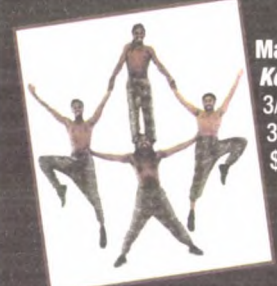


## February 2012

**"Are You My Mother?" by ArtsPower**

Based on P.D. Eastman's classic picture book, "Are You My Mother?" is Arts Power's enchanting musical about Baby Bird's journey. Adapted for the stage by playwright and lyricist Greg Gunning and composer Richard DeRosa. "Are You My Mother" shows children and adults alike how loss can be turned into empowerment and how Baby Bird ends up finding more than she is looking for.

2/11/2012 11:00 AM \$12 Adult, \$11 Senior/Youth, \$8 Group, \$10 Early Bird Special by 12/13/11



## March 2012

**Kenya Safari Acrobats**

3/30/2012 10:00 AM (School Show) \$8/person  
3/30/2012 7:30 PM \$25 Adult, \$20 Senior/Youth/Group, \$19 Early Bird Special by 1/30/12



## April 2012

**Country Roads: The Music of John Denver & Dan Fogelberg**

Enjoy the country sounds of this concert program's vocal and band arrangements which are rendered flawlessly by two-time Tony nominated actor Bob Stillman and a repertory company of first-rate New York and Nashville musicians. Celebrate the iconic albums that launched the careers of two major singer/songwriters.

4/13/12 8:00 PM \$30 Adult, \$26 Senior/Youth, \$25 Group, \$22 Early Bird Special by 2/13/12

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Forks go to the left of the dinner plate.

# Impress your guests with holiday etiquette

(ARA) — You've spent the entire day in the kitchen cooking the perfect holiday meal. But it's an hour before your guests arrive and you find yourself standing in front of the table listening to that little nagging voice inside your head.

Do the water glasses go to the right or left? What side does the knife go on? Should you go ahead and put food on the table before guests arrive, or wait until everyone gets there?

"We hear from so many panicked people this time of year looking for a crash course in how to set the table and proper manners," said etiquette coach Jill Slatter. "Most of us are stretched so thin juggling work, school and home that we don't have time to sit down together for a proper meal except at the holidays, and then the pressure is on to be perfect."

Slatter is the etiquette expert for Greensboro, N.C.-based Replacements, Ltd., billed as the world's largest retailer of old and new china, silver, crystal

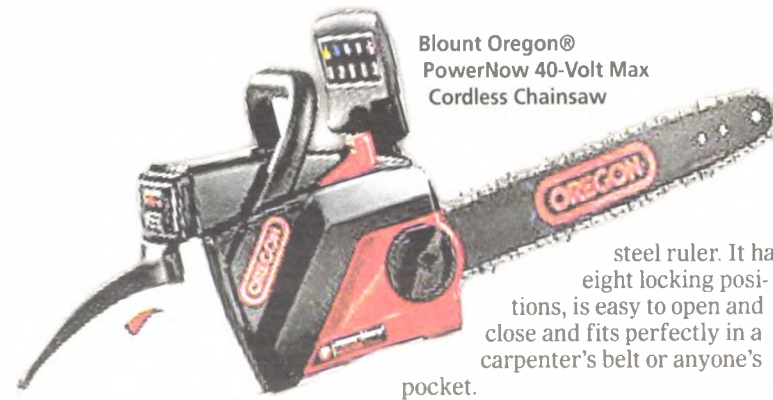
and collectibles. Based on their most frequently asked questions, Slatter shared a holiday etiquette 101 crash course that's sure to help you impress your guests.

### Set the perfect table

Forks to the left, knives and spoons to the right. The sharp side of the knife blade should be turned toward the dinner plate. Only include utensils in your place setting that will be used for the courses you are serving. "If you're not serving soup or salad, you certainly don't want an extra spoon or fork in your place setting," Slatter said. "Not only will those get in the way and create extra work for you, the extra utensils may confuse your guests." The bread plate goes on the left of the dinner plate, glasses on the right.

Wait to pour. Water glasses should be the only glasses filled before your guests arrive. Iced tea, wine and other beverages

Please see ETIQUETTE, 17



Blount Oregon® PowerNow 40-Volt Max Cordless Chainsaw

## TOOLS

Continued from page 10

know when I was "on the mark" even when I was working at the other end of the wall.

There is also no guessing or constant checking needed to see if the bubble is between the lines. When you are level, a color change bubble vial automatically changes from red to green. That shouldn't be a problem unless you're colorblind. In that case, it's time to give up driving and spend some time looking at your four bare walls.

The Black and Decker Sure Grip™ All In One Laser Level is available at most hardware retailers.

### Bora Multi-Angle™

Affinity Tool Works, LLC right here in Troy has introduced the Bora Multi-Angle™ that would make a great stocking stuffer. It's an adjustable square that helps you take the guesswork out of layouts of complex angles.

The precise pre-set locking positions allow for consistent measurements from project to project. It is constructed of durable materials with an extruded aluminum base and etched stainless



Bora Multi-Angle

steel ruler. It has eight locking positions, is easy to open and close and fits perfectly in a carpenter's belt or anyone's

pocket.

I loved the Bora Multi-Angle™ collapsible design, which allows for ease of use and multiple storage options. It has consistent measurements with eight pre-set positions and is engineered for everyday use by any professional contractor. It also comes with a lifetime warranty and can be purchased at Home Depot (www.homedepot.com) and retails for approximately \$45.

### Blount Oregon® PowerNow™ 40-Volt Max Cordless Chainsaw

Another tool I've been hinting to my wife about is the Oregon® PowerNow™ 40-volt Max Cordless Chainsaw from Blount. Blount is no stranger since they are the world's largest manufacturer of saw chain. I know with my treed lot, I sure could use this saw.

For the first time there's a true alternative to noisy gas-powered chainsaws. With this saw's 40V Max lithium ion battery pack there is instant start-ups with no pull cords, gas or warm-up times. It is equipped with a 14-inch bar and can power through logs as large as 10 to 12 inches. According to the manufacturer the PowerNow can cut up to 250, two- to three-inch branches on a single charge with the Endurance battery pack. The PowerNow™ is sold with either the Endurance or Standard battery pack (the Endurance battery pack doubles the runtime of the Standard battery pack.)

Obviously, this chainsaw is quieter than gas-powered chainsaws and is silent between cuts. At just under 11 pounds, the PowerNow is lightweight, easily portable and offers good ergonomic comfort.

Another feature I cannot wait to try out is the PowerSharp® built-in chain sharpening system so you'll never cut with a dull chain again. When the chain dulls, simply pull the PowerSharp Lever for three to five seconds with the saw running and the chain will work like new.

Please see TOOLS, 22

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The type of feeder you use is important. To attract the greatest number of species, you'll need to provide different types of feeders and feed choices.

## Surefire tactics to fill your yard with birdsong this winter

Cold temperatures and dealing with snow and ice can give many people a serious case of the winter doldrums. Most of us won't be able to fight winter blues with a tropical getaway or a spa weekend. But there is an easy, convenient way to give yourself an emotional boost during the winter, and do something good for nature at the same time: feed wild birds.

More than 65 million Americans have tried bird feeding, according to a recent Census Report. Bird feeding is an easy and enjoyable hobby for people of any age, ability and skill level. Whether you're new to bird feeding or a seasoned pro, here are some tips to help you enjoy a successful, mutually beneficial relationship with your backyard birds this winter:

### Figuring out feeders

The type of feeder you use is important. To attract the greatest number of species, you'll need to provide different types of feeders and feed choices. Hopper and platform designs are always popular, but whatever feeders you use during winter should have a few features in common:

- A wide cover over feeding ports, perches and dispensing trays will help

prevent feed from being buried by snowfall. The cover should extend several inches over the feeder edge to ensure protection from all but the worst storms.

- Place feeders in sheltered locations out of severe winds. Placing feeders close to the house, or using window feeders, both offers the birds more shelter and gets them closer for great viewing. You can also place feeders near protective cover like hedges.

- Bigger is better for winter feeding. Large capacity feeders mean you'll have to brave winter weather less frequently to refill them.

### Keep 'em clean

Birds appreciate cleanliness when it comes to their feeders. Because natural food sources are scarce in winter, your feeders will attract hungry birds. It's important to clean them regularly to keep them free of mold, mildew and other unhealthy conditions that could foster disease.

### Back yard with benefits

Here's some steps to make your backyard even more beneficial to birds:

- Consider adding a heated bird bath.

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OE08761953

Please see BIRDS, 21





Always place liquids to the right of the dinner plate.

## ETIQUETTE

Continued from page 14

ages should be poured once everyone is seated. Wine glasses should be filled halfway, not to the rim.

Salad and bread should be the only food on the table when your guests arrive.

Are you the hostess with the mostest?

Remember, the hostess always sits last. Passing isn't just in football. Always pass food around the table counter clockwise to the right and refrain from serving yourself first. Always pass the salt and pepper as a set, even if you're only asked for one.

Can your guests see each other? Sure those flowers you spent hours arranging for the centerpiece are pretty, but they will only get in the way if your guests have to crane their necks to see each other. Make sure your guests can look over any table adornments.

### Be a gracious guest

"There is nothing more disruptive than a cell phone ringing at the dinner table," said Slatter. "Turn your phone on vibrate, or better yet, don't even bring it to the table. Holiday gatherings mark the time to enjoy the company of the people you are with, rather than ignore them by chatting with someone who's not even there."

Wait for the signal. Your hosts will let

you know when it's OK to begin eating. They may offer a blessing or statement or perhaps start by passing a dish.

If you're not sure which utensil to use with each course, start on the outside and work in toward the dinner plate.

If you need to excuse yourself temporarily, gently place your napkin on your chair to indicate you will be coming back.

Signify you're finished with the meal by placing your napkin to the left of the dinner plate, and your fork and knife side by side diagonally across your plate with the sharp side of the knife blade facing inward and the fork tines up.

"Another big question we hear concerns what to do if you accidentally break a piece of the host's dinnerware," said Slatter. "You should certainly offer to replace the broken piece especially if it has sentimental value for the host or hostess."

Slatter says don't lose hope if your host doesn't know the name of the pattern or the manufacturer; you can always take advantage of Replacements' free pattern identification service.

If you're still in doubt about holiday etiquette 101, help is just a mouse click away. You can watch more of Slatter's tips on Replacements' YouTube channel. You can also find cheat sheets of place setting guides diagramming how to set the table for various meals at the company's website, [www.replacements.com](http://www.replacements.com). Bon appetit!



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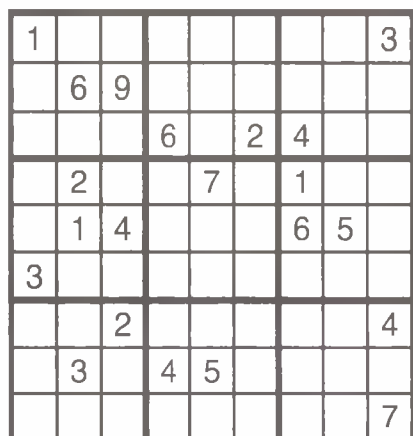
8335 Hall Road  
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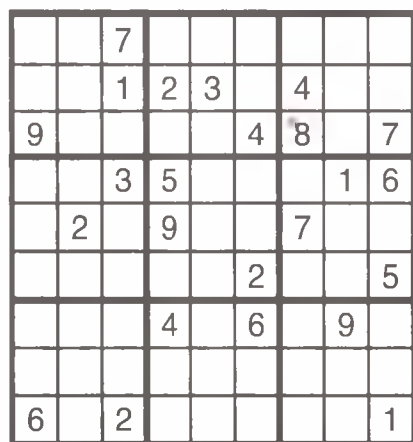


# Sudoku

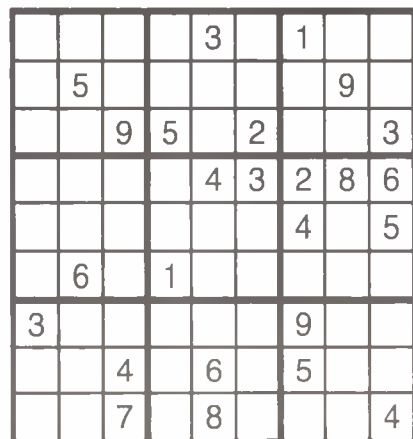
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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



Level: Intermediate



Level: Advanced



Level: Intermediate

Answers found on page 22

# Experience the charm of this nearby Victorian village

By Dennis Zelazny

Contributing Writer

I recently made a quick trip to the not-so-sleepy town of Holly. It's a town that is expanding its footprint and quickly filling up its storefronts. It was refreshing to experience all it had to offer. Holly is definitely open for business. For a unique antique, one of a kind gift or a good meal, Holly has it.

Situated comfortably between U.S. 23, and I-75, Holly's roots go back 150-plus years, to the arrival of its first settlers in 1831. Many more followed, and by 1843, Ira C. Alger, one of the many settlers had an idea. He dammed the Shiawassee River and constructed a sawmill to provide



Dennis Zelazny

lumber for homes and schools. A year later, he built a gristmill to process the grain from the surrounding agricultural land. With these assets, Holly was able to attract the railroads, and in 1855, the first train rolled into town, marking the beginning of Holly's growth era, and the development of downtown Holly as its hub.

Holly enjoys the distinction of being the first railroad junction in the state. Of course, time had taken its toll on this little village but lately there has been a new breed of business owners with fresh ideas and they mean business.

My day started at a local hot spot, the Bittersweet Cafe, owned by Dee Von Boemel. There I met up with Hope Ponsart, executive director of the Main-street Holly DDA. She agreed to play hostess so I could get a real look and feel for all the village had to offer.

I quickly discovered there are more than 30 interesting places to explore in town including stores, spas and restaurants. Eleven are new business ventures since March 2011. The majority of the village stores are women-owned businesses. The shopkeepers work well together, and are happy to promote each other's products and services. The village businesses keep extended hours throughout the year and all are all big supporters of the Buy Michigan program.

The town has several antique stores, a Michigan-made grocery store, a Michigan artisan store, candle shop, a winery, a home decorating store, upscale clothing store and a pure essential and fragrance oil shop, to mention just a few.

The Blackthorn Pub offers over 100 craft beers in bottles as well as 20 rotating beers on tap. A recent new business upstart is a theater, Movies in the Village, where guests can catch a classic movie in a hometown setting. Just down the street is the Detroit Model Railroad Club that boasts the largest "O" scale model railroad layout in the state. It is open to the public on select weekends through March 2012. For dates and times, check out the website, [www.dmrcc.org](http://www.dmrcc.org).

It's all located on Saginaw Street, which is the village Main Street.

The store fronts look as if time has



A typical storefront doorway, that leads you into many stores that offer many unique and Michigan-made products.

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Please see **HOLLY, 19**





Battle Alley, the main side street off of Saginaw Street. You still can feel the presence of Carrie Nation if you pay close attention to the upstairs windows.

## HOLLY

Continued from page 18

stood still, a visitor might be convinced that he/she had stepped back in time to the 1800s, if it were not for the new products shown in the windows. A side street — Battle Alley — is home to where historians love to tell you the tale of Carrie Nation and her fight with prohibition. And at the far end of this street you will find the ever-popular Holly Hotel.

The DDA spearheaded an extensive streetscape project several years ago to make improvements, but much care was put into not changing any of the dynamics of this historic, friendly village.

One of the fun features I noticed was that the owners run many of the shops. Ponsart told me that the shopkeepers are a very engaged and cooperative group. They meet with the DDA every month over pizza, and its not an unusual to see one or more of them sweeping the street in front of their shops while you are visiting.

At holiday time, don't be surprised to find a 40-foot blue spruce which was donated by a local family for the town Christmas tree. It might be trite to compare it to a Currier and Ives moment but I can't find a better description.

To add to the flavor of the village is a horse-drawn carriage carrying passengers up and down the streets. There are also local residents that live above the stores, which adds to the personality and charm of the street.

I met John Shoemaker in his shop, A Simpler Time Antiques. He has been in business for less than 90 days and describes everything as just "one step



Meet some of the Holly Merchants.

impressed with the area he moved into the village when he opened the shop.

Holly is also home to the annual Holly Dickens Festival and the Michigan Renaissance Festival. It was also the main shooting location for the 2009 film *All's Faire in Love*. There are also a lot of outdoor recreational areas nearby. Just a few blocks from downtown is the Shiawassee River Heritage Headwater Trail at WaterWorks Park, many claim its one of the prettiest places for canoeing. For ski bunnies, Mount Holly is the largest ski/snowboard resort in southeastern Michigan and is located three miles northeast of the village in Groveland Township. The ski area has 19 trails with a range of difficulty, and a high-speed quad chairlift.

It might be hard to believe that all these fun activities take place just minutes off of I-75 and U.S. 23. The trip is a short one but I'm sure you will find fun times and many interesting things to do. Not to mention the many photo opportunities available! Happy Holly-days!

Come back to Inspire in January, as life goes to the dogs in 2012.

away from getting personal." It's an atmosphere where everyone eventually gets to know everyone, and everyone truly enjoys the company of others. Shoemaker was so



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At Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, skiing is a favorite winter activity.

## Ski deals

- **White Gold Card:** Purchase a White Gold Card for \$189 and ski one time at 29 participating ski areas. The card includes a free ski tune-up (edge sharpen and wax) at participating retailers. Details at: [www.goskimichigan.com](http://www.goskimichigan.com).
- **Discover Michigan Skiing** From Jan. 2-31, 2012, 23 ski facilities will offer a beginner lesson, ski or snowboard rental equipment and a beginner-area ski lift pass or cross-country trail pass. Rates vary. Go to: [www.goskimichigan.com](http://www.goskimichigan.com).
- **"Cold is Cool" Ski & Ride Passport:** Ski free, except for a \$15 processing fee, if you're a fourth-grader in Michigan. The passport features up to three free lift tickets or trail passes at 20 ski areas. Go to [www.goskimichigan.com](http://www.goskimichigan.com).

PHOTO COURTESY BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESORT

## SKI

Continued from page 4

- Snowmobiling, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and tubing are popular snowsports at Treetops, an all-season resort east of Gaylord. Call (888) TREETOPS or visit [www.treetops.com](http://www.treetops.com).

- Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs touts 50-plus runs on three peaks. Learn to ski or snowboard lessons are offered. Call (800) SKI-NUBS or (231) 526-2131 or visit the website at [www.nubsnob.com](http://www.nubsnob.com). For lodging, contact the Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau at [www.petoskeyarea.com](http://www.petoskeyarea.com) or (800) 845-2828.

- Unlimited skiing and snowboarding

season passes are available for \$249 per person at Mt. Holiday, a day ski area situated a snowball's throw east of Traverse City. Contact [www.mt-holiday.com](http://www.mt-holiday.com) or 231.938-2500. Try the Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) TRAVERSE or [www.mytraversecity.com](http://www.mytraversecity.com) for lodging information.

- Clustered in the southeastern corner of the state are four ski areas. Mt. Holly in Holly will discount some lift tickets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, effective Jan. 3, 2012. Call (800) 582-7256 or (248) 634-8269 or check the website at [www.skimtholly.com](http://www.skimtholly.com). Clarkston's Pine Knob, (800) 642-7669, (248) 625-0800 or [www.skipineknob.com](http://www.skipineknob.com), offers reduced rates to patrons 65 years and older and military personnel. Mt. Brighton Ski

Area in Brighton, (810) 229-9581 or [www.mfbrighton.com](http://www.mfbrighton.com), offers discounts for families on Sundays after 6 p.m. And, a 350-foot-long half-pipe lures snowboarding buffs to Alpine Valley Ski Area in White Lake, (248) 887-4183 or [www.skialpinevalley.com](http://www.skialpinevalley.com).

### Upper Peninsula

Got snow? The UP certainly does. Up to 200 inches of snow per year attracts winter sports enthusiasts of all skill levels to the area's ski facilities.

Here are some UP slopes to consider: Iron River's Ski Brule, (800) DO-BRULE or [www.skibrule.com](http://www.skibrule.com); Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, (906) 774-2747 or [www.PineMountainResort.com](http://www.PineMountainResort.com); Porcupine

Mountain in Ontonagon, (906) 885-5612 or [www.skitheporkies.com](http://www.skitheporkies.com); Indianhead Mountain Resort in Wakefield, (800) 3-INDIAN, (906) 229-5181 or [www.indianheadmtn.com](http://www.indianheadmtn.com); and, Bessemer's Big Powderhorn Mountain, (800) 501-SNOW, (906) 932-4838 or [www.bigpowderhorn.net](http://www.bigpowderhorn.net).

For information on all UP ski areas and lodging, contact the Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association at (800) 562-7134 or [www.uptravel.com](http://www.uptravel.com).

### Information

For information on all Michigan ski areas, contact the Michigan Snowsports Industries Association at [www.goskimichigan.com](http://www.goskimichigan.com) or (248) 620-4448; or, Travel Michigan at (888) 78-GREAT or [www.travel.michigan.org](http://www.travel.michigan.org).



## BIRDS

Continued from page 16

Birds have difficulty finding fresh water in the winter.

- Leave bird houses and nesting boxes in place through winter to act as shelter for roosting birds.

- Choose bird-friendly landscaping that includes sheltering evergreen plants, and plants that provide fruit for a natural winter food source.

Give birds a boost with food high in fat, nutrition and energy.

With insects and fruit harder to find naturally during winter months, most birds will thrive on seeds. Suet, solid fat rendered from beef, venison or vegetables, is also good for birds, and provides much needed concentrated energy. Serving suet used to be a messy affair, but bird feed producers like Cole's Wild Bird Products have made the task much easier for the server and even more beneficial for birds. Cole's offers several mess-free ways to serve suet:

- Suet Kibbles are high potency and offer birds the berry flavors they love. Cole's formulation also incorporates dried insects for increased stamina. Serve it in a sunflower feeder or mix with your favorite seed to attract warblers, woodpeckers, bluebirds and nuthatches.

- Suet Nuts combines nourishing peanuts and berry suet.

- Suet Pearls feature sunflower meats buried within energy-packed suet. You can serve them separately or mix with seed.

Your seed choices should be high-quality and tailored to provide birds with the biggest energy bonanza possible. Sunflower is a great seed option for winter because it's rich in oil, which attracts birds and provides them with plenty of energy. Cole's Oil Sunflower is the highest-grade black oil sunflower seed, it's over 99 percent pure and cleaned four times to ensure you get more seed and fewer sticks.

Peanuts are another high-energy option. Choose hulled varieties that are whole — and more nutritious than peanut pieces. They're especially attractive to titmice, nuthatches, wrens and woodpeckers.

Once you've invested in good seed and the right feeders, don't overlook the importance of storing it properly. Store in airtight containers in an area of your home where the seed won't be exposed to extreme temperatures. Never store seed outside as this can attract pests and predators.

This winter, boost back yard birds' energy levels and serve up the right seed in the right feeder. You'll enjoy winter bird-watching and the birds will benefit from the extra energy. Be patient, it may take a few weeks before the birds discover newly placed feeders. While you wait, be sure to keep the feeders full. Eventually, the birds will come.

—ARA



A wide cover over feeding ports, perches and dispensing trays will help prevent feed from being buried by snowfall.

## MITTEN

Continued from page 9

Shorter's Gifts in Petoskey; City Style in Berkley; All About Blue in Ann Arbor; CS Sportswear in East Lansing; and Montcalm Community College in Sidney.

- Made in Michigan: YesMichiCAN is headquartered in Northville and uses all local vendors, including T-shirts from Border Bros. in Plymouth, screen printing at the Identity Source in Novi and layout by Pryor Design in Ann Arbor.

- Gifts that Give Back: YesMichiCAN was founded in 2009 by two old friends, Terri O'Brien of Northville and Lisa Burna of Lyon Township, who wanted to help people losing their jobs at the height of the economic meltdown. Each purchase helps fund Bridgepointe, which assists families in Michigan with a variety of needs. We can't do everything but we CAN do something to help neighbors, family and friends.

- Corporate Pride: Logicalis, Inc. dressed all of its employees in "Don't Mess with the Mitten" shirts to celebrate the grand opening of its U.S. headquarters in Farmington Hills; and the Detroit Regional Census Bureau and Michigan Campus Compact in Lansing used the shirts to reward college students that were involved in the census in Michigan. Shirts with the graph-



ic logo "Yes, MichiCAN" are also available by special order and are popular for corporate events.

- What's New: YesMichiCAN has more than 4,500 fans on its Facebook page, where it publicizes good news from throughout the state. The company also continues to expand its Girls Travel Club, an organization that takes high schoolers on trips throughout Michigan, exposing them to its wondrous beauty and culture in hopes they will be lifelong ambassadors for our state.

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## Sudoku Answers

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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

Intermediate

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

## TOOLS

Continued from page 11

The PowerNow™ 40V Chainsaw Kit with Standard Battery Pack comes with the chainsaw, 14-inch guide bar, Power Sharp® Chain, Standard Battery Pack and charger and sells for \$399.00. The PowerNow™ 40V Max Chainsaw Kit with Endurance Pack comes with the chainsaw, 14-inch guide bar, Power Sharp® Chain, Endurance Battery Pack and charger for \$499. You can learn more about their product by checking out their website at [www.OregonPowerNowTools.com](http://www.OregonPowerNowTools.com).

### Craftsman™ Nextec 12-Volt Right Angle Impact Driver

Last, but definitely not least; professionals, craftsmen and anyone working on cars or equipment will absolutely want (if they don't already have one) the Craftsman™ Nextec 12-Volt Right Angle Impact Driver.

Craftsman claims (and they are absolutely correct) that is great for working in tight spaces and the ingenious right angle design lets you handle those tough tasks that your everyday drill can't reach or handle. It weighs just 2.2-pounds and is powered by a 12.0-volt Lithium-ion battery for enhanced performance and longer shelf life and delivers 700-pounds of torque in both forward and reverse. This powerful impact driver delivers more torque and works faster than "full sized" 18-volt drills.

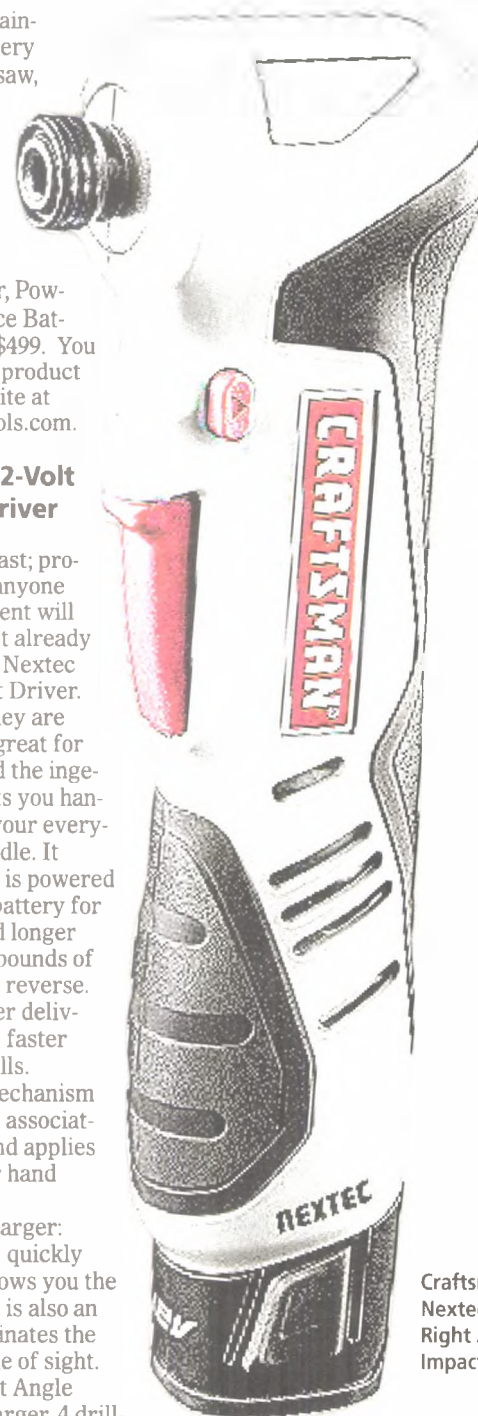
The innovative impact mechanism absorbs the twisting action associated with most other drills and applies it to the work piece so your hand doesn't twist with the tool.

The 30-minute "Quick Charger" with LED charge indicator, quickly charges the battery and shows you the status of the charge. There is also an LED Work Light that illuminates the work area for enhanced line of sight.

The kit includes the Right Angle Impact Driver, battery, charger, 4 drilling and driving accessories, storage case and comes with a one-year limited warranty. The retail price is \$99.99.

When you pull out any of Craftsman Nextec tools, such as their impact driver, it's going to bring a new meaning to "tool envy."

Check out their website at [www.craftsmantools.com](http://www.craftsmantools.com).



Craftsman  
Nextec 12-Volt  
Right Angle  
Impact Driver

Lon Grossman of Bloomfield Hills is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., an area residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at [drdiy@comcast.net](mailto:drdiy@comcast.net). Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website [www.technihouse.com](http://www.technihouse.com). Follow Lon's Blog at <http://drdiy.wordpress.com/>.



The Doctors and staff at TNT ORTHODONTICS in Brighton and South Lyon hope that everyone is enjoying the beginning of what promises to be a beautiful Michigan winter. They know that the first snow fall brings some conflicted emotions to many Michiganders. It's hard to see the warmth of summer and the color of fall come to an end. However, even if you are not a big fan of snow and cold weather, it's hard not to marvel at the beauty of snow-covered trees that glisten as the sun shines down on them.

With the Christmas season quickly approaching, the TNT team feels that it's a great time to reflect upon the past year. They had a lot to say about the things they remember and are thankful for in 2011. "After 18 years, it's hard to believe that we are still getting better, but our team has gotten even closer this past year and the support we feel from each other makes every work day great," states Dr. Tim Stroster. When asked what he is most thankful for Dr. Hamway said, "Our patients make every day fun," he also added, "I love seeing them come in for their appointments, and they must really like the results, because they continue to refer their family and friends to our office."

Knowing that some people in our community are struggling just to get by during these tough economic times, the TNT team decided that it was time to "Pay It Forward," and help someone less fortunate. Kim O'Neil-Adams, who has been with the office for just over a year, explored some possible ways to extend a helping hand. As a group the TNT team decided to adopt a family for Christmas through the local LACASA organization. The family that they adopted consists of a single mother and three young children. Knowing that this family will have a joyful Christmas with gifts under their tree is something that everyone at TNT ORTHODONTICS takes great pride and comfort in. Money was donated by the practice and by individual team members. Shopping for gifts and wrapping them is currently underway. "The whole process has been a great team-building process and a humbling experience for all of us," states Kim.

The doctors and staff at TNT ORTHODONTICS would like to extend the very best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy holiday season. They welcome new patients with a complimentary initial exam, and would love to have you join their orthodontic family. Just call to schedule your appointment at either their Brighton or South Lyon location.



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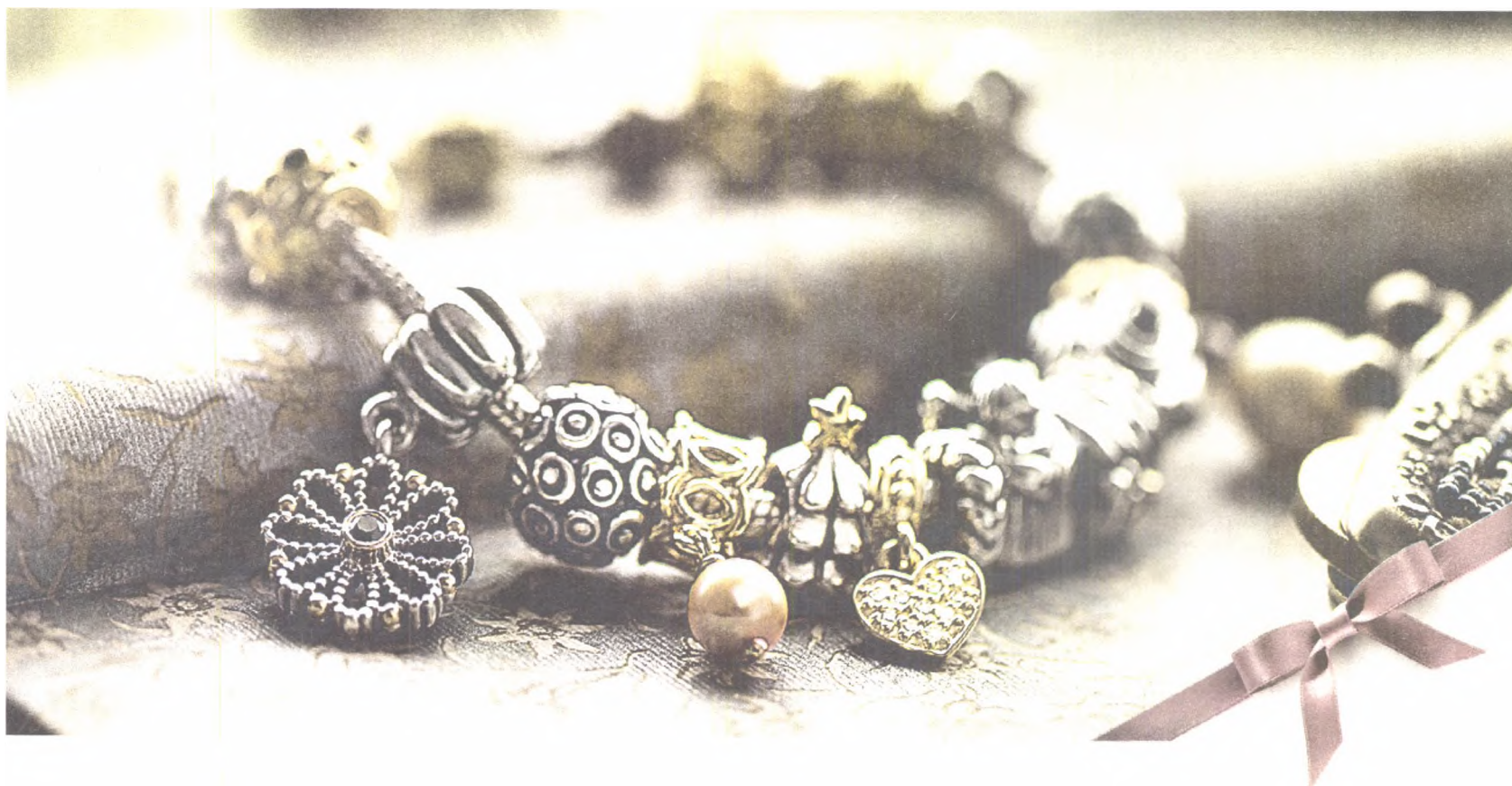
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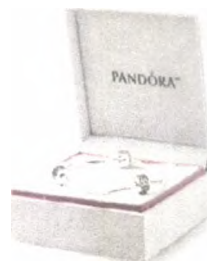


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