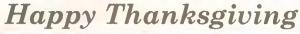
HOLIDAY

ENTERTAINMENT, B6







PLYMOUTH

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Holiday hours

Municipal offices in both Plymouth and Plymouth Township will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22-23, for the Thanksgiving holiday

Trash pickup will also be delayed by one day due to the holiday in the township. Trash collection in the City of Plymouth is not affected.

Normal business hours will resume in both communities on Monday, at 8 a.m. in the city and 8:30 a.m. in the township.

Snyder drafts major K-12 changes

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

Gov. Rick Snyder has made it clear he believes the state needs to restructure the way it pays for and

oversees public education.

The draft of his new act to govern the financing of education would allow K-12 students to choose school districts, expand use of online learning and hand out monetary incentives of \$2,500 per semester for finishing high school early.

If and when it makes its way through the legislative process, the

proposed Michigan Public Education Finance Act would replace the School Aid Act of 1979.

And, while the governor believes the steps are necessary to create "career-ready citizens," local educators and some legislators have their doubts.

"It's basically a dismantling of public schools," said Jeremy Hughes, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Lots of change

The draft bill was released Monday on the Oxford Foundation's website at oxfordfoundationmi.

com. It was drafted by Lansing attorney Richard McLellan and is designed to allow students to learn "any time, any place, any way."

It would, among other things: Allow students to move to any district in the state willing to accept them. Districts would still have the ability to decide whether

to participate in open enrollment. • Give students access to online learning from across the state, with the cost paid by the state. Districts providing online courses would get public funding based on performance.

Please see SNYDER, A10



Sworn in

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth **Bader Ginsburg last** week administered the oath of office swearing in eight new members of the National Museum and Library Services Board

> appointed by President Barack Obama, including

former



Plymouth Commu-

nity Arts Council director Paula Gangopadhyay

The board is the advisory body for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Members of the board are selected to serve based on their expertise and commitment to libraries or muse-

Gangopadhyay is now the Chief Learning officer at The Henry Ford, which includes The Henry Ford museum, Greenfield Village, Benson Ford Research Center, Ford Rouge Factory tour, IMAX, and the Henry Ford Academy. She was executive director of the PCAC from 2006-08.

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Volume 126 • Number 30

Entertainment

Fred Hill and his Briefcase Drill Team have been invited back to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

Bite o' the Big Apple

Briefcase team back in Thanksgiving parade

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

It's a once-in-a-lifetime expe-

rience - again. That's how Fred Hill describes the encore performance of his Fred Hill Brief-

case Drill Team in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which will take place Thursday in Manhattan. The team, long a feature of Detroit's Thanksgiving parade

and a show-stopper at events around the country, including the Fiesta Bowl and the Indianapolis 500, was invited back to Macy's parade this year, four years after its 2008 New York debut. "We're ready to rock and

roll," said Hill, the "general" of the 16-man Plymouth troupe whose choreographed antics and spirited chants mock its bland appearance. The group had a final home rehearsal at its "secret location" atop downtown Plymouth's parking

deck — on Sunday night. "What a thrill it is to be going back there again," Hill added.

The Macy's return engagement is unusual, said Hill, because organizers there are usually looking for new per-



The Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team is a popular attraction, particularly in Plymouth's annual Fourth of July parade.

formers and features. But the New York crowd — estimated at three million or more enjoyed the team so much four years ago, he said, it was invited back.

'It's a rush'

Veteran team member Cam Miller described the Macy's parade experience as both humbling and exhilarating.

"Every single window as far up as you can see if full of people's faces," Miller said,

describing buildings along the Macy's route. "It's a rush."
"They absolutely went cra-

zy," added Miller, an attorney and the prosecutor for the city of Plymouth. "It's a very humbling experience to have."

The 2008 New York crowd was so loud, Miller said, Hill sometimes had to communicate with his marchers through hand signals rather than shouted orders.

Please see PARADE, A3

Santa's visit marks **Christmas** kickoff

By Matt Jachman **Observer Staff Writer**

Downtown Plymouth's Christmas season officially begins at 6 p.m. Friday when Santa Claus, greeted by hundreds of children and their parents, stops in at Kellogg Park.

The Jolly Old Elf's long-awaited arrival in recent years has come with an even bigger buildup, including, this year, live entertainment, free candy for his younger fans and the chance to visit the Plymouth Historical Museum for crafts and a special Christmas exhibit.

"We get hundreds of people in the park, and so instead of them just waiting ... we entertain them a little bit," said Tony Bruscato, operations director of the Downtown Development Authority, which sponsors many of the holiday kick-

The evening starts off at 5:15 p.m. at Kellogg Park with holiday songs from the student choir at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. At 5:30 p.m. Christine Belisario, who performs as Christmas Carol, will take the stage with a variety show, including magic and ventriloquism. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive, via fire truck, about 6 p.m., and will preside over the lighting of the park's Christmas tree. Santa's visit is sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, and he will hear children's Christmas wish lists in his "Santa house" beginning about

Please see KICKOFF, A3



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus makes his annual arrival in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park Friday at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY



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FINANCIAL

CANTON NORTHVILLE NOV PLYMOUTH

Plymouth mom sues for alleged abuse



Lauren Gohl of Plymouth, with her son Jayden, who is at the center of an alleged abuse case at a Livonia elementary school.

By Karen Smith Observer Staff Writer

An attorney representing a special-needs preschooler allegedly abused by a former Livonia Public Schools teacher said he would file a lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court seeking in excess of \$75,000 for physical and emotional injuries the boy suffered.

The lawsuit is the first of at least three expected to be filed on behalf of children in the Webster Elementary School class taught last school year by Sharon Turbiak.

LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa said parents have a right to seek a grievance through the court system. "If that's

what they wish to do, I certainly understand that's an option for them," he said.

An internal report recently released by LPS includes witness statements saying Turbiak slapped and yelled at the children, let them fall and laughed about it instead of supporting them when they moved to the floor or a chair, and put a boy confined to a wheelchair in the bathroom for timeout for 15 to 20 minutes. The report says a parapro in the classroom spanked a child. The first documented complaint against Turbiak was dated Oct. 24, 2011, the report says.

Boy with brain shunt grabbed by head

Attorney Ven Johnson of Detroit, who represents Jayden Gohl of Plymouth, said a social worker saw Turbiak on March 5 grab Jayden by the top of his head and jerk it backward and yell directly into his face, "You need to listen to

Jayden was born with hydrocephalus, has had seven brain surgeries and has a shunt in his brain. Any severe head movement and/or injury is potentially life-threatening to Jayden, Johnson said.

The social worker reported the incident to the principal, Shellie Moore, who in turn reported it to LPS human resources chief Cindy DeMann. But none of them reported it to Child Protective Services as required by law, Johnson said, and Turbiak was allowed to return to the classroom and endanger more children.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are LPS, Wayne RESA Center, Turbiak, Liepa, Moore, DeMann and Nancy Respondeck, the parapro. The class was part of a Wayne RESA center program serving students from multiple districts. All 12 of the children who were in the class are cognitively impaired and some also have physical impair-

ments. Mark Schultz, the district's public safety administrator and a former police officer, reported the issue to Livonia Police Department on April 24, the day after he began the internal investigation.

Turbiak was placed on leave in April, and the school board voted June 18 to recommend the state tenure commission terminate Turbiak's employment. Turbiak then resigned, effective March 31, 2013, and the Michigan Tenure Commission dismissed the case against her. She remains on paid administrative leave until March 31, 2013. The school board fired the parapro June 13.

Livonia police sought warrants from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, but those warrants were denied and the case was closed.

Turbiak has not returned calls from the Observer.

Johnson said his client's rights were violated and he suffered physical pain and suffering, mental anguish, embarrassment and humiliation. The lawsuit seeks punitive damages and reasonable expenses of medical care, treatment and services.

'A failed culture'

Parents of other students in the classroom spoke at Monday's school board meeting, including D.J. Hurula, whose daughter Katelyn was in the class and whose wife, Becky, is a 17-year LPS teacher.

Hurula said the abuse Katelyn and the other children in the classroom suffered was "perpetuated by the incompetence and inaction of teachers, therapists, building administrators and staff at central office.'

He said the district failed his daughter. "The one thing a school district exists to provide, a safe and productive learning environment for its students — all of its students, yes, even the specialneeds kids - you failed to provide," he said.

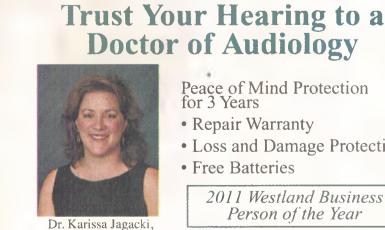
Lawsuits like the one already filed are a sign of a failed culture, he told the board: "You have the responsibility to initiate the kinds of reform that will be required to fix the culture and climate at Livonia Public Schools."

Resident Brad Wolkan said the board needs to resolve the Webster issue before asking voters for a construction bond of more than \$200 million. He said it needs to fix LPS culture and environment and remove Liepa. "How can you, our representatives, ask us voters to trust a morally and financially irresponsible administration with that amount of public finds when they have already proven they cannot be trusted with the most precious thing we have, our children?" he asked.

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PARADE

Continued from page A1

The team was to fly to New York Tuesday morning and was to meet that evening with Macy's representatives for a rehearsal. Wednesday is a free day, and they'll get in a little warmup time on Thanksgiving morning before the parade steps off, just outside Central Park, at 9 a.m.

The Macy's parade, for the most part, proceeds down 6th Avenue to around 34th Street, where Macy's is located. It is broadcast on NBC to much of the country — but not in this area, where NBC features the Detroit parade instead.

Team members all wear dark blue business suits, white shirts and identical ties, and carry identical briefcases used in their drills. Hill said they'll be performing their "classic" maneuvers such as the



Fred Hill and the Briefcase Drill Team have been doing their thing for nearly three decades.

Businessman's Shuffle and Boom-Chucka-Lucka, a crowd favorite.

'We look business. We are totally un-business," Hill said.

Hill, a Realtor, founded the team in 1985 as a fun way of promoting the downtown Plymouth clothing store he owned at the time. The team made its first appearance in

Detroit's parade in 1987 and has been at every one since, but for 2008 — and quickly caught on.

"There isn't really anything that approaches what we are," said Hill, who was inspired by a formation of lawn mower-pushing men he saw at a parade in his home town of Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

On the town

Team members, who are paying for the New York trip themselves. are staying at the Radisson Martinique, which is near Macy's.

Some planned to take in a University of Michigan basketball game at Madison Square Garden during their free time; Miller, who also made

the trip in 2008, said his plans include visiting St. Patrick's Cathedral, heading to Ground Zero to see the rebuilding there and riding the Staten Island Ferry to get a good look at the Statue of Liberty.

Hill said team members were concerned about heading to the parade in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandv. which caused much destruction on the East Coast when it struck last month. He said they feared they would be using hotel rooms and other resources that people displaced by the storm would need, and that their frivolity be inappropriate so soon after the storm.

But a Macy's representative sent a note saving that recovery was under way and that the parade would signal a return to normalcy for New Yorkers and be a part of the healing process.

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KICKOFF

Continued from page A1

The Plymouth Corps of the Salvation Army will have its canteen truck at the park to offer free hot chocolate to visitors.

Also beginning at 6:30 p.m., visitors will have a chance for free admission to the historical museum for the new exhibit "A Dickens of a Christmas." Children visiting the museum will have the chance to make a snowman ornament. The museum will be open until 9 p.m.

Bruscato said the Christmas kickoff events will follow what is expected to be a busy afternoon at downtown stores. The Friday after Thanksgiving starts off a little slow in the downtown shopping district, he said, as shoppers tend to hit malls and big-box stores early for bargains, but traffic often picks up in the afternoons.

Santa's hours at his Kellogg Park house are: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, then noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 1, then 6-8 p.m. Dec. 7, then noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 16, then 6-8 p.m. Dec. 21, noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 22 and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 23.

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Knifing suspect faces charges

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

An Inkster man accused of brandishing a knife and cutting a Novi police officer while allegedly robbing a Canton retail store of a 42-inch television could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted of a laundry list of criminal charges.

Alden Ralph Mays, 57, is facing a hearing Monday in 35th District Court on charges of armed robbery, assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder), felonious assault, resisting and obstructing a police officer and being a habitual offender, authorities said.

Mays was charged after Canton police investigated an incident that happened just before noon Friday, Nov. 9, inside the



Mays

Walmart store on Michigan Avenue west of Belleville Road, Detective Sgt. Dave

Schrein-

Mays is jailed with a \$1 million/10 percent bond, meaning he would have to post \$100,000 to leave jail as he awaits a preliminary examination that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

According to a Canton police report, a suspect was trying to steal the television when two female loss-prevention employees tried to stop him. A Novi police officer who was in the Walmart store investigating an unrelated credit card

fraud case intervened, grabbed the suspect and took him to an office.

Inside the office, the suspect reached in his pocket, brandished a knife and began to resist the Novi officer, who was cut on the hand as he moved toward the suspect to kick him in the chest and push him out of the office, the police report said. The officer wasn't seriously injured.

Authorities said the suspect then fled the score but was found by Canton officers inside a 2005 Cadillac XRS in the parking lot, where he was taken into custody.

The police report indicated the knife was retrieved from under a seat of the car while a second, smaller pocket knife was found on a key chain.

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CRIME WATCH

Disorderly conduct

A 22-year-old Brighton man was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge Saturday night after being kicked out of an electronic music concert at Compuware Arena on Beck

An additional charge was added when police later found two "joints" of suspected marijuana among the suspect's possessions.

An arena security guard told police the man and a friend had just been ejected from the concert for being disorderly and were walking across a parking lot when the man deliberately threw himself against a parked Pontiac Grand Prix, breaking off an exterior mirror.

A Plymouth Township Police Department report said that after an officer arrived the man was "running his mouth," saying the police "have nothing on" him and couldn't arrest him.

Police said the man appeared intoxicated and ignored repeated requests by people there, including his friend, that he quiet down. Police left a note for the Grand Prix's owner asking that he or she contact them in order to press a vandalism charge.

At the police station, the report said, the man was too drunk to go through the booking process, which had to wait until he sobered up. That's when, police said, two marijuana cigarettes were found in a cigarette pack.

Police said the "joints" tested positive for marijuana, and the suspect was also charged with marijuana possession.

Theft from vehicle

The catalytic converter was stolen from a Buick Rendezvous parked outside a home on Newporte Drive one night earlier this month.

The theft was discovered on the morning of Nov. 12; the complainant told police it had occurred some time since 10 p.m. the day before. The Rendezvous was parked in a carport at the time of the theft.

Catalytic converters are sometimes stolen for their scrap metal value.

Spice report

Canton police arrested a driver and impounded his car after he was caught with the now-illegal synthetic drug known as K2 or Spice, a police report said.

The suspect was arrested around 11:30 p.m. Sunday near Ford and Canton Center after officers spotted him abruptly changing lanes without signaling, the report said. The suspect also had an out-of-state license plate on the floor behind the driver's seat a plate he told police he had gotten from his job with a car dealership.

The suspect told police he bought the K2 before the law went into effect. The police report indicated he had eight grams of the substance.

Home invasion

A woman notified police after her residence in the 45200 block of Claymore, northeast of Warren and Canton Center, was broken into, a police report said. The incident happened sometime between 9 p.m. Saturday and 2:50 a.m. Sunday.

A police report indicated a window had been shattered. The woman said missing items included two laptop computers, a flat-screen television and three other TVs, purses, jewelry and other electronic equipment.

Car break-in

A man reported that someone went into his unlocked car and stole some of his belongings while it was parked in the 40400 block of Blythefield, southwest of Palmer and Lotz, sometime prior to 10:15 a.m. last Thursday.

The man told police missing items included a wallet, a GPS unit, an iPod and headphones.

The police report indicated his wallet was later recovered near Michigan Avenue and Lotz, though money and credit cards had been removed.

Lost purse

A man notified police last Thursday after he found a purse with spilled contents in a driveway on Brookdale, in the 1600 block of Northbrook Court, northeast of Lotz and Palmer.

Police tracked the purse to a woman who lives on a nearby street. She told police her purse was taken from inside her unlocked GMC Yukon between 10 p.m. Nov. 14 and 6:20 a.m. Nov. 15. She said the vehicle was ransacked while parked in her driveway. A wallet and credit cards were miss-

ing from the purse.

Police nab bank robbery suspect

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

A bank robbery ended peacefully Monday morning after Canton police took a suspect into custody not far from the Bank of America branch on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

Police received a call just moments after 9 a.m. that a suspect described as a middle-aged white

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male, "scruffy in appearance," went inside the bank and produced a note demanding money, Schreiner said.

"No weapon was implied," he said.

A teller complied with the suspect's demands, and he managed to escape briefly with an undisclosed amount of money, Schreiner said.

However, police officers in the area quickly located a man fitting the suspect's description and took him into custody. The suspect was captured on foot.

"It was a good job by the police officers," Schreiner said.

A preliminary investigation indicated the man is homeless but previously had a Canton address, Schreiner said. Charges were pending, and the suspect's name hadn't yet been released.

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'Friends' host annual candlelight vigil

Candles will glow around the world Sunday, Dec. 9, when tens of thousands of bereaved parents, siblings, grandparents, relatives and friends will join together to light remembrance candles to honor the memories of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Held annually the second Sunday in December, this will be the 16th Worldwide Candle Lighting sponsored by The Compassionate Friends, the nation's largest selfhelp bereavement organization for families that have suffered the tragic loss of a child. TCF has more than 650 chapters in the United States, with sister organizations in at least 30 countries around the globe.

The local ceremony, sponsored by the TCF Western Wayne County (Livonia) chapter, takes place in Plymouth's Kellogg Park beginning at 7 p.m. The remembrance



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

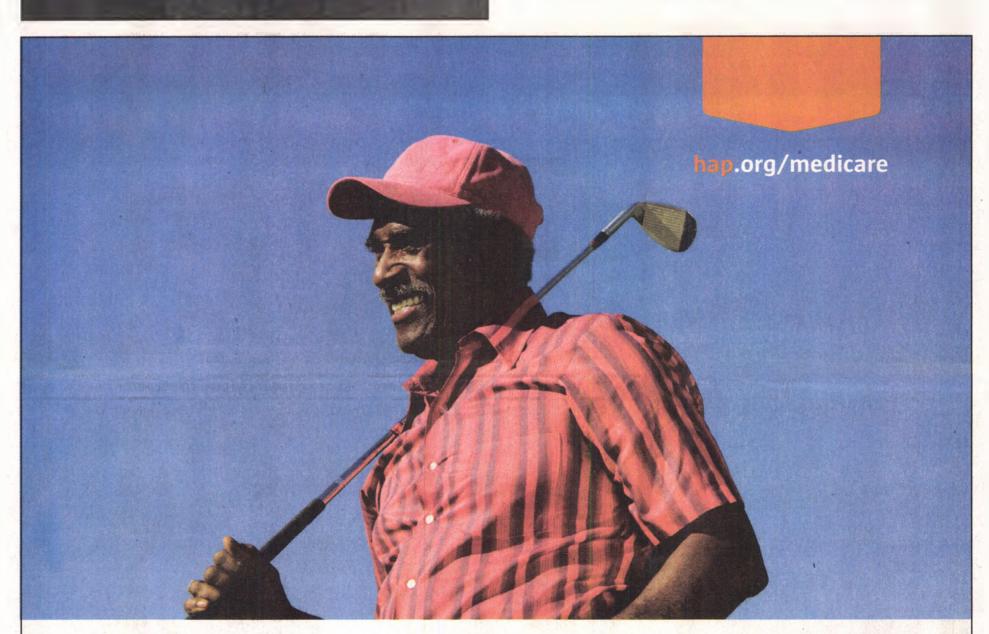
Gail Lafferty of Livonia reads the names of children lost to their families during The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil in Plymouth's Kellogg Park. This year's vigil is set for Sunday, Dec. 9.

will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, poetry and songs. Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon.

The Worldwide Candle Lighting is a way of uniting together to remember all children around the world who have died too soon and to try to bring light out of darkness during this difficult time of the year. Like a ring, this circle of light surrounding the globe represents that there is no beginning and no end for the love we carry for our children.

Friends and family are invited to the remembrance and candles will be provided. Parents do not have to attend to register their child.

For more information or to register a child, call (734) 778-0800 or email either Gail Lafferty or Brenda Hernandez at tcf-candlelight@yahoo.com



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"Around Town" 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

EUCHRE TOURNEY

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 24, 6 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Salem Wrestiing Boosters is hosting their annual Fall Euchre Tournament. The cost is \$25 per player and you must be at least 21 years old to participate. Awards will be given to the top 3 players with the highest scores. There will also be raffles and great prizes. Complimentary food and cash bar is also available. Walk-ins welcome but seating is limited.

Contact: E-mail rkddox@ aol.com or call (734) 981-7913 or (313) 706-3282 for more information.

HOLIDAY ART FAIR Date/Time: Dec. 1, 9:30

a.m. to 2 p.m. **Location:** Connection Church in Canton

Details: Connection Church in Canton hosts a Holiday Art Fair. If you have a craft and are interested in renting a table (\$35 & \$25)

Contact: For more information please email Katy at cchoidayartfair@gmail.

FARRAND FAIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Nov. 29, 4-8 p.m.

Location: Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar Lane, Plymouth

Details: Farrand Elementary hosts its fifth annual Craft & Vendor Fair. Find that last minute gift, or something unique and special for someone on your holiday shopping list. Admission is free. Raffle items, jewelry, candles, health & wellness, skin care, hair accessories and much, much more. Need a little bit of extra cash to shop? South Lyon Jewelers will be there paying you cash for your gold. Go through your jewelry boxes and find broken or unwanted gold to sell at this event. Babysitting will be provided from 4-6 p.m. in the school media center.

and make a craft. **BLOOD DRIVES**

Date/Time: Various **Location:** Various

Children will have the op-

portunity to watch a movie

Details: The American Red Cross has scheduled a variety of blood drives around the community: Friday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Summit on the Park in Canton; and Thursday, Nov. 29, 1:30-7:15 p.m., St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

Contact: To make an appt for any of these drives, call Diane at (313) 549-7052 or email diane.risko@redcross.

MIXED MUSINGS

Date/Time: Through November

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Peggy Kerwan will kick off the 2012-2013 solo exhibit season with her exhibit titled "mixed musings." Her colorful artworks will be displayed for the month of November in the main gallery. Admission is free and open to the public. An artist reception takes place Saturday, Nov. 17, from 2-4 p.m. Meet the artist, supporters, and members of the PCAC. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through

Contact: Call (734) 416-4278 or visit www. plymoutharts.com for more information.

Thursday.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov.



FRANK RUGGIRELLO

Energy honors

Four Plymouth-Canton schools — Pioneer and West Middle Schools and Workman and Tonda Elementary Schools — have received the nationally recognized Energy Star Award for 2012 in recognition of their superior performance. This is the highest recognition available and buildings that earn the EPA's Energy Star Award use 35 percent less energy and generate 35 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than similar buildings across the nation. The awards were given for performance during the 2011-12 school year.

27, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Elks

Lodge #1780 in Plymouth MI has Jazz @ The Elks in a beautiful club setting on the last Tuesday of every month. The Nov. 27 event features the Terry Lower Trio with Russ Miller. Russ is an Assistant Professor in the Music Department at Wayne State University and has played with several famous Jazz artists. Russ plays Alto Sax and Flute. Terry will be on Keyboard, Jim Ryan on Drums, and Ray Tini on Bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

WCGH REUNION

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m.m Tuesday, Dec. 11 Location: Cafe Marquette in the William D. Ford Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Wayne County General Hospital employees will gather for their 28th annual holiday reunion. A luncheon buffet will be served starting at The cost is \$16 and includes beverage, dessert and tip. You can pay at the door.

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SEWING GUILD

Plymouth

Date/Time: First Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church,

Details: Meetings are open to sewists of all levels. The Nov. 1 meeting

features "Purse/Tote challenge" judging and holiday gift ideas; The Dec. 6 meeting features "Holiday potluck luncheon."

Contact: For more information, email ASGPC@ comcast.net

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

MOPS MEETINGS

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

Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www.stekmops.org.



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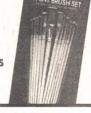
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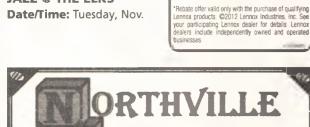
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Canton Ford Road at Lilley, west of Ikea



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 22, 2012

Father pens book about daughter's death on 9/11

By Ken Abramczyk

At 8:42 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001, Bev Titus was jolted up out of bed with what her husband John described as "a burst of energy" that would soon transform to the worst nightmare a father or mother could experience.

Bev Titus got out of bed, made coffee and turned on the television to see a plane hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center, then drove to her husband John's office at Schoolcraft College. "She felt like she was being called as a wit-ness to history," John said of her sudden jolt that morning.

Both watched the horrific events unfold on television. That morning, 19 terrorists from the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets. Two planes were intentionally flown into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center. The towers collapsed within two hours. A third plane was flown intentionally into the Pentagon, while a fourth crashed into a field in rural Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to take control of the jet.

Nearly 3,000 people died that day, victims of the worst terrorist attack in American history.

John and Bev Titus learned later that their daughter Alicia, 27, a flight attendant, was on United Airlines Flight 175, which crashed into the south tower.

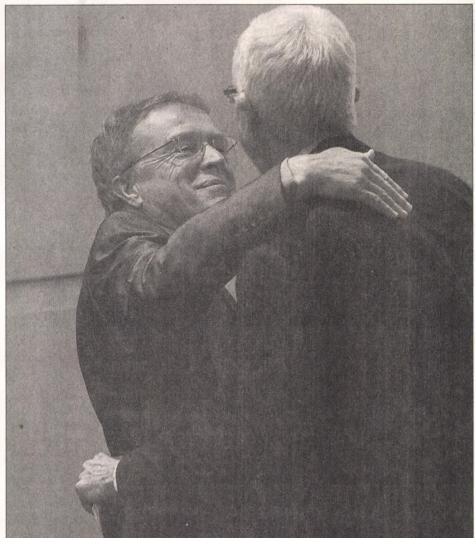
John Titus returned last week to Schoolcraft to discuss with students his profound loss and overwhelming grief. Titus, who retired in 2009 as a mental health counselor and faculty member at Schoolcraft, wrote a book about his loss and journey of grief titled Losing Alicia: A Father's Journey After 9/11, published last year. Titus wrote about his struggle over the murder of his daughter, and his agonizing grief after one of the most horrific tragedies in American history.

Titus described his emotions and the withdrawal he felt the day before the appearance and the tears he shed that morning, remembering he was returning to the origin and beginning of his journey of grief.

"It's great to be back here, but it's hard," Titus said.

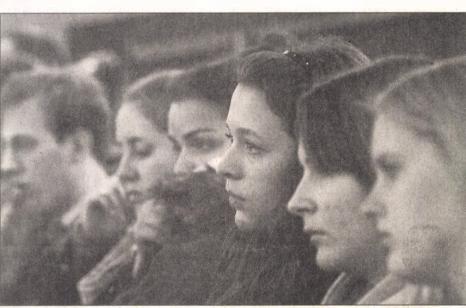
Wave of panic

On Sept. 11, 2001, denial "protected" the couple at first, Titus said, but the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author John L. Titus greets Stuart C. Baker, counselor at Schoolcraft College, Baker was in a meeting with Titus as the 9/11 tragedy unfolded.



Several Schoolcraft students listen to author John L. Titus.

phone kept ringing that day at their home. When United Airlines called to inform them that Alicia was on the plane, "we felt a wave of panic and sadness. When the panic hit, it was like a tsunami. Our cries of anguish threatened to take our breaths away

"Life, as we knew it, would never be the same."

Phone calls came from family and friends offering support and from the media asking for interviews. The rest of the day was a blur. "We were in the midst of chaos," Titus

He prayed for strength; he received understanding and love from family

and friends.

The following days were struggles for the Titus family. "It was difficult to go to the stores, to hear the conversations of trivial things, conversations about 9/11, and people who would argue about it, or even watching people laughing and enjoying life," he said.

"We wanted to run away from it all, but we had to learn to cope, for our family, our children and

our grandchildren." The couple has another daughter and two sons.

Eleven years have passed, but it seems like a "lifetime ago," Titus said. He remembers Alicia and her beautiful face, and he lifts a photo to show the

audience a smiling young beautiful woman. "I reminisce of the wonderful memories we shared, the warmth of her hugs; it only seems like yesterday," he said.

The Titus family now lives in Ohio. Urbana University has dedicated a park to Alicia's memory using steel from the World Trade Center for a memorial for her and the 3,000 others who died that day.

Someone asked him at the park dedication about when he got over the loss of his daughter.

"You don't get over the loss of a child; you just learn to live with it," Titus said, remembering his response.

"Grief requires an unwavering courage to face each day."

JOHN TITUS

whose daughter Alicia was a stewardess on the plane that hit the

Realization of blessings

Titus told the audience that "grief is a journey that has no endpoint." He often wondered whether he would experience joy again, as depression haunted him and Bev. "Grief strips you down to your very soul. Your ego is shattered." Stress and strain were constant.

"Grief requires an unwavering courage to face each day," he said.

Then Titus spoke of his blessings, his supporters. "I feel very blessed to have so many loving people in my life. I thank God for all the love and understanding, and much of it came from here," Titus said of Schoolcraft's faculty and staff.

Titus slowly began to realize that he could use that same love and compassion to help others and he began to feel a greater compassion for people suffering throughout the world. Since Alicia's death, Titus has become a strong advocate for peace and social justice, writing articles, doing documentaries and giving talks all over the United States, Canada and Italy on these and related issues.

Titus said true peace is found in peace with God and not in a cease-fire in a war or a strong defense in preparation of war. "Waging war seems so outdated, so primitive, so desperate," Titus said.

He also quoted Martin Luther King Jr. War doesn't diminish violence, it creates it, King once said. "Darkness cannot drive out hate, only love can do that," Titus said, quoting King.

Shortly after 9/11, Titus said he was asked by a local television reporter about what he thought of the war in Iraq. "If it means more innocent people like Alicia will die, then I am opposed," he said. That comment was edited out of the broadcasted story, Titus said.

Adding to grief

Titus said Bush's invasion of Iraq and overthrow of Saddam Hussein only added to the grief and complicated it for the 9/11 families. Titus said there were "blatant failings by the government and by intelligence agencies," which he said occurred during and prior to the Bush administration. There were also

"hidden agendas" to fight a war in the Middle East, Titus said.

Titus believes that the 9/11 Commission was stacked with members who would stop short of criticizing the Bush administration.

While Titus questions the U.S. government, he adds that he is able to enjoy life.

He said he likes to think that he is wiser, and that he is listening to a different rhythm of life. "I am deeply grateful for each day," he said. "I can feel goodness in my heart and in my soul."

Titus said that God has helped him deal with the pain and loss through seeds of hope: "God is within each of us. God is there within."

He read from Alicia and what she had written about happiness, and how a young girl's hope for a knight in shining armor evolved to a king and his kingdom, to a kingdom only, with a realization that she only needed "an infinite amount of love to give and receive freely" and a purpose, goal or a destination.

She also wrote about sorrow and happiness. "Those who have known the greatest happiness have opened themselves to the most gut-wrenching sorrow. It's a gamble, you have to play to win. Or maybe those who have endured suffering have a greater respect for joy, can appreciate it wherever they find it, the smell of a rose, the sight of a baby, an old couple holding hands.

"And those who've lived their lives in a heartnumbing cocoon of sanity, safety and contentment don't have the capacity for pure joy. Or, maybe this is what I tell myself in order to pick myself up, dust off, and hop on

Titus concluded with the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, which he and his wife found on Alicia's bed stand when they went to her apartment in San

Francisco after her death. Part of the prayer reads: "Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

> kabramcz@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2591

Museum exhibit commemorates Dickens's 200th birthday

As a tribute to Charles Dickens, who would have been 200 years old this year, folks at the Plymouth Historical Museum are presenting the museum's new special exhibit, "A Dickens of a Christ-

Executive director Elizabeth Kerstens said staffers have "re-created the Village of Plymouth as it may have been during the Victorian era (1837-1901), which overlaps with Dickens's life (1812-1870).

The exhibit runs through Jan. 13.

Christmas celebrations changed dramatically over the 64-year reign of Queen Victoria of England, for whom the Victorian era is named. This change was more pronounced in frontier areas, such as Plymouth. Plymouth Township was founded in 1827; Michigan became a state in 1837; Plymouth Cor-



The Plymouth Historical Museum's exhibit, "A Dickens of a Christmas," is a tribute to Charles Dickens, who would have been 200 years old this year.

ners became the village of Plymouth in 1867, which then became a city in 1932.

According to Kerstens, it took many months to prepare for Christmas, which

was the party season. "Winter was a special time for settlers because it was the only time they were free from tending crops," Kerstens said. "Still, a big part of the season was spent outdoors. People played in the snow even on Christmas day. Christmas dinner was eaten shortly after noon."

In the afternoon, people went for rides in sleighs and cutters. Some played lacrosse; others went icesailing or ice-fishing on the lakes. Tobogganing and sledding were popular with both children and adults. Settlers had their choice of endless evergreens for Christmas decorations, which were primarily used inside. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, popularized indoor Christmas trees in the 1840s. In our area, trees were decorated with candles, fruit, pine cones, cookies, lozenges, and home-made

ornaments.

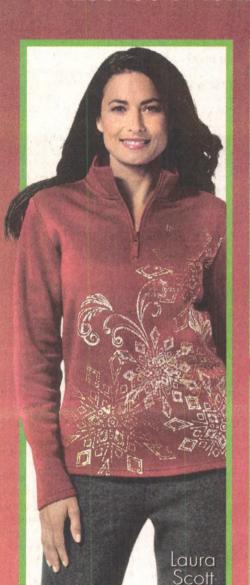
Each Saturday until Christmas, beginning Nov. 24, Santa Claus will be available to greet children of all ages. There are no restrictions on photographing children with Santa, and there probably won't be long lines. In addition, on Saturday, Dec. 1, Santa will be at the museum 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the Museum's annual open house and Craft Bazaar. Admission is free that day.

Hours of operation are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children (6-17). The museum is family friendly, with activities to engage visiting children. Tours can be accommodated. Please call (734) 455-8940 for more information or to make a tour reservation.

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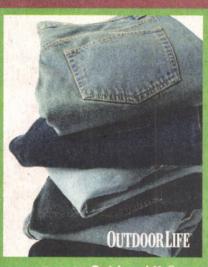
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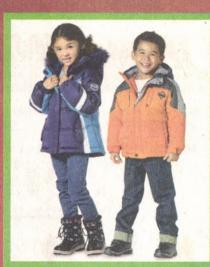
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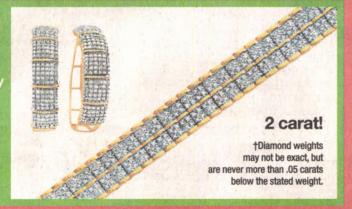


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sears

SNYDER

Continued from page A1

 Provide for per-pupil funding to follow students to whichever districts they use to learn. The funding would not follow them to private schools.

· Base funding on performance, once assessment and testing procedures are established. State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, pointed out the draft bill is just that — a draft. It is, he said, "more of a 'white paper'. right now" that obviously still has to go through the legislative process.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 22, 2012

Some concerns

That said, Heise said there are things in the

draft that concern him. "The one thing I'm concerned about is the idea of open borders, where you potentially mandate school districts would have to accept students if spots were available," said Heise, a current member of the House Education Committee. "That's something I've resisted in the past and fought against. If necessary, I will fight it again."

Like Hughes, Heise is also concerned about the online learning aspect of the draft. He pointed out the state recently approved an expansion of cyber schools in Michigan, but "with a lot of quality controls and restrictions."

"This sounds like we might be going back to wide-open online learning," Heise said. "We want to have better oversight and accountability and a true determination of what the costs are."

Hughes is most concerned about that aspect of it. He said he fears what kind of quality education students will get if the online learning is simply a matter of kids taking online classes without benefit of a teacher.

"The most effective online learning is where the child is online, but connected to a teacher at the other end," Hughes said. "There's a qualitative difference."

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, said he likes the idea of state funding following the student. He said redefining the school aid act makes sure school funding is "more needbased.'

"I like the idea the money stops with the kids and the parents, and they decide how to use it," Colbeck said.

And, while he also said districts "should have the power not to participate" in the open enrollment part of the plan, he said he likes most of the rest of the ideas outlined

"The most effective online learning is where the child is online, but connected to a teacher at the other end. There's a qualitative difference."

JEREMY HUGHES

Plymouth-Canton superintendent

in the draft.

"The rest of the attributes are pretty compelling," Colbeck said. "We want to put the power in the hands of the par-

No vouchers

That part of it is what troubles state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, the most. Slavens said she hadn't combed through the entire 304-page document,

"I have huge concerns about changing our K-12 education into a voucher system," Slavens said. "It will take away local control. Public education should not be for profit. We should be investing in public education for all children, and not lining the pockets of private companies,

"It's going to allow people to send their children to any district they choose, but there's no transportation provided," Slavens added. "What does that say for families who can't move their children to other districts?

Heise said the gover-

nor would likely include more details in his State of the State address in January, and the House and Senate would obviously have to get involved in turning it into legislation.

He also said people should start "getting themselves informed" now in order to be prepared for the discussion that will come when bills eventually hit the ground, likely not until February or March.

"There is a difference between what the governor is proposing and what might be in a bill," Heise said. "How much of that is a 'wish list' and how much is really going to be put in any bill? We all have reason to be concerned about what is in this white paper. But it's a long time through the education process.

"It's way too soon to say the whole thing is flawed or the whole thing will be wonderful," he added. "I doubt either one will be true."

> bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899





Fundraiser benefits woman who lost both legs in accident



The fundraiser will help Livonia resident Marji Harkema, who lost both legs in a car accident, pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance.

A fundraiser is being held next week to benefit a Livonia woman who lost both legs in a car accident in January.

Marji Harkema is making remarkable strides in her recovery, said Laura DeChane, who's helping to organize the Ladies of Harley (LOH) Vendor Show from 7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland.

She is healing from a traumatic brain injury, learning how to walk all over again with prosthetic legs and learning how to drive again with hand controls.

"Marji is a remarkable person with a positive attitude and is an inspiration to all who know her," DeChane said. Harkema is a member of the Ladies of Harley.

Funds raised will help her with expenses that insurance does not cover, DeChane said. Admission is \$1 per person.

The vendor show will feature holiday gifts without the holiday hassle, food, cash bar, bake

sale, 50/50, raffles, a bottle drive and more.

Bring bottles to the fundraiser or email Wendy Smith at wendy. haworth@gmail.com to arrange for a pick up or drop off.

If you have items that you would like to make for the bake sale, contact DeChane at LOH@motorcityhog.com

Checks may be made payable to The Marji Harkema Fundraiser and mailed to c/o Laura DeChane, 30048 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154

For more information, contact Laura DeChane dechane05@twmi.rr.com or Debra Wright debrathunderroads@yahoo.com.

Folk society raises Goodfellow funds

For doing something for the first time, the Base-Line Folk Society proved to be pretty good at fund-

raising. The society conducted its first-ever fundraiser Saturday, with their open microphone performers and featured artists raising more than \$555 for the Plymouth Goodfel-

The special night, held at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, was dedicated to the Plymouth Goodfellows for the first time in BaseLine's modest, but successful, eight-year history.

We had a great night, and we're thankful to all the volunteers who helped make this night a giant success for all involved, but especially for the kids who are not forgotten this holiday season, thanks to the Plymouth Goodfellows," said John Delle-Monache, publicity chair for the BaseLine Folk Society.

Baseline Folk Society is a group of talented musicians promoting and preserving the fine art of "Traditional Acoustical Folk Music" and performs every third Saturday evening at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

BaseLine marks another first Saturday, Dec. 15, when they host a complete night of eclectic Open Mic performers from 7-9:30 p.m.

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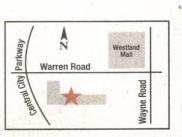
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AT-0E0879108

Canton couple makes donation in son's honor

After being rejected by insurance twice, Austin Zell was more than grateful to receive a motorized wheelchair from Action Thrift Store, an auxiliary of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

"We warehouse excellent donations like this until we can find the right person or agency in need," said Jean Schluckebier, the Frankenmuth resident who sits on the board of directors for ATS, which is always looking for donations of "better" highdemand, high-priced items for resale, which meet the needs of LSSM clients.

The wheelchair was one of four donated by Ray and Sandra Kotcher of Canton after their son, Darryl, died of brain can-

cer earlier this year. They also donated a Hoyer lift, a shower bench and a commode to ATS.

"Our son was a great inspiration to everyone," Ray Kotcher said. "He fought hard for almost 25 years and his motto was accept what is. He would have liked to see all of these items find the right home."

Schluckebier connect-

ed with Zell's family in October. Mike and Melissa Zell of DeWitt tried to get their daughter Austin, 21, who has Cerebral Palsy and lives independently at the Alison House facility in Lansing, but their insurance rejected requests twice for a motorized wheelchair, which would make grocery shopping, laundry and other tasks which

require a lot of lifting much easier for Austin.

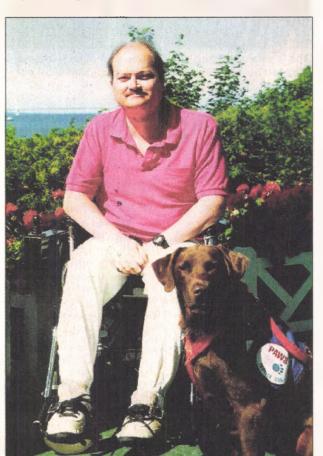
In today's market, the motorized wheelchair Zell received retails for \$8,000. Since Zell is an LSSM client, living in an LSSM facility, the Zells had to pay \$100 to transport the chair to Alison House

"It is such an honor to be able to serve the needs of individuals like Austin," said Schluckebier. "And to see the community come together in this way, where one family helps another, is so beautiful."

Established in 1934, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan spans the Lower Peninsula of Michigan with more than 70 programs in 44 cities. LSSM provides a wide variety of services for children and families, senior adults, refugees and persons with disabilities

For more information, visit www.lssm.org.





Ray and Sandra Kotcher donated a wheelchair in honor of their son Darryl, here with his dog Bugsy. Darryl died of brain cancer earlier this year. The Kotchers also donated a Hoyer lift, a shower bench and a commode to ATS.

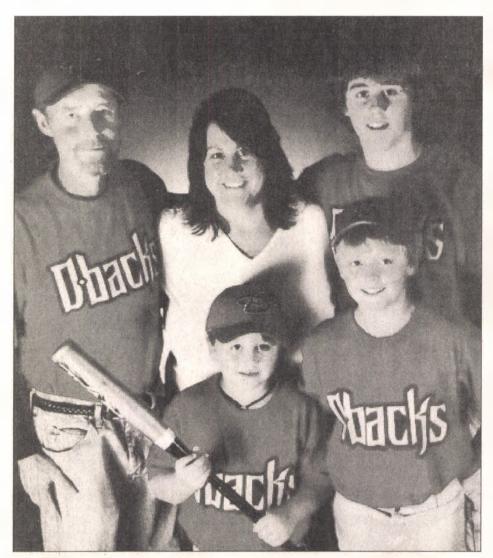


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RealBarBQ of Canton hosts a fundraiser to benefit Joanne Savage, a widow and mother of three sons Colin, Jack and Nolan, who was diagnosed with a rare cancer. Pat Savage, Joanne's husband and the father of their three boys, succumbed to esophageal cancer in November 2011.

Eatery's effort benefits local mom

Officials at RealBar-BQ of Canton said they're joining a variety of people and groups in the Plymouth-Canton community embracing and supporting one of their

Joanne Savage, a widow and mother of three sons Colin, Jack and Nolan, was diagnosed with a rare cancer called Peritonei Carcinoma. Pat Savage. Joanne's husband and the father of their three boys, succumbed to Esophageal Cancer in November 2011.

The death of a spouse is a dramatic event, emotionally and financial-

ly, but Joanne is staying extremely positive while she goes through continuous medical treatment knowing that she has so

officials said.

RealBarBQ of Canton support for Joanne Sav-Road (at Lilley) in Canton. Fifty percent of proceeds generated from all sales that day will go to the Savage family. This including patrons dining

A fund at Community Financial Credit Union and Sons Fund; Community Financial Credit Union. 500 S. Harvey Street, Post

For more information call (734) 667-3996 or visit

Best tablets, laptops, eReaders, convertibles

By Jon Gunnells Guest Columnist

nless you are an avid online gamer or a professional videographer, you're probably not in the market for a desktop computer. If you or someone on your holiday giftlist, however, is searching for a laptop, netbook or tablet, here are some suggestions on what to buy:

• iPad — One of the most expensive tablet options is expensive for good reason. Apple products have long been easy to use, durable and generally worry-free.

The iPad comes in a variety of models and storage sizes. The most expensive are the 2012 models that feature retina display. A 64GB model with WiFi connectivity costs \$699 and the same model with WiFi plus cellular connectivity (through a provider like Verizon) costs \$829. The 2012 iPad with retina display and the iPad 2 (from 2011) are available in white and black 16GB, 32GB and 64GB versions.

If you are suffering sticker shock already, consider the a 16GB iPad 2 with WiFi connectivity is \$399, or the all-new iPad mini.

• iPad Mini — The product-naming specialists at Apple got very creative with this one. The iPad Mini is smaller in stature, but not in storage. A 16GB version is \$329 with WiFi connectivity and \$459 if you want to surf the web courtesy of a data plan through Verizon, AT&T or Sprint. The

iPad Mini takes about two

Tech Savvy

weeks to ship directly from Apple. • Microsoft Sur-

soft's

face — Jon Gunnells Micro-

answer to the iPad line finally is available and quite impressive. Running the new Windows 8 operating system, this bright tablet is fast and powerful. A 32GB model costs \$499, or you can pay \$599 and get the same model with a cover and a keyboard. A 64GB model with cover and keyboard is \$699. The cover and keyboards are cool as well, coming in cyan, red or magenta.

The Microsoft Surface is perfect for someone who is a PC or Android user, because the devices are compatible and on the same operating system. The new tablet is also more cost-effective for the features and storage options.

• Dell XPS 12 Laptop Convertible — Wondering what kind of laptop is more than \$1,000 these days? Take this laptoptablet hybrid, for example, which offers a rotating-touch screen built within a traditional laptop. Dell and other laptop manufacturers offer a variety of convertible units, although I don't know that you can't get the same productivity out of a Surface Tablet or iPad with a nice keyboard. The tablets,

of course, are less costly, too.

• Kindle Fire — For users who are more interested in reading than gaming and apps, the Kindle Fire is a can't-miss at \$149. It has built-in WiFi connectivity and allows you access to unlimited cloud storage with Ama-

• Nook — For \$99 (and maybe even less on Black Friday) you can purchase a simple eReader such as the Barnes and Noble Nook Simple Touch.

• Other laptops — With many manufacturers and models, it is hard to distinguish the best laptops this holiday season. However, if you are buying a laptop, here is what to look for.

Make sure the unit has at least 2GB to 3GB of memory so the device can run programs adequately. Anything less will slow you down for computing. Beyond that, the rest of the choices are up to you. Laptops will be selling for a couple of thousand dollars for top models down to less than \$200 for more basic models.

Walmart is rumored to be selling a solid Compaq Presario laptop for \$179 on Black Friday. That's a good price if you are looking for a machine that can help you surf the web and partake in basic computing. Probably not worth lining up outside for, though.

Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroitbased advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan. gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society is holding a Relay Rally on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library. They are looking for people to help plan the Plymouth Relay for Life of 2013.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Abby Stonerook at 734-635-9015 or email Abigail. stonerook@cancer.org.

Bricks 4 Kidz

Parents can do their holiday shopping in a relaxed way because the Plymouth Recreation Department is having a "Bricks 4 Kidz Night Out" Nov. 30 from 6-9 p.m. They will take care of your kids and involve them with LEGO creations. The program is for kids ages 6-11 and is a fun, action packed evening full of building, challenges, games, food, and fun. Kids participate in LEGO free play, motorized build and creations, games and contests etc. They will provide pizza and drinks.

The cost is \$47 or \$32 for city of Plymouth residents.

After hours

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Northville Chamber of Commerce get together for a combined after-hours mixer 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28.

The Plymouth Community Chamber members will be joining our neighbors from the Northville Chamber for the November After Hours at CJ's Brewery. This event will provide the opportunity to expand a network of professionals from business people in the neighboring communities

many rallying behind her, including the Salem High School football team, for which her son Colin plays, RealBarBQ

officials want to show its age by holding a benefit fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 8. Doors at RealBarBQ will open at 11 a.m. The restaurant is located at 42452 Ford

applies to all orders, in or carrying out and meals delivered.

has also been set up where contributions can be made. Make contributions Attention: Savage Office Box 8050, Plymouth, MI 48170.

on RealBarBQ Canton, realbarbq.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hospital fundraiser

ACO recently opened its Children's Hospital Festival of Trees store in Plymouth. On hand to celebrate the ribbon cutting are ACO CEO Dick Snyder, ACO Vice President Janet Mahy, store manager Sheila Quigg, Theresa Diefenbach, director of Festival Of Trees, and assistant store manager Julie Davis. ACO is the major sponsor of the Festival Of Trees. The Festival of Trees is the largest special event annual fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. The ACO Plymouth Township store is located at 44441 W. Ann Arbor Road. Holiday store hours are Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The store phone number is (734) 453-1990. Visit ACO's website at www.acohardware.com for more information.

and with many chamber members at the same time.

There is no fee to attend this event. RSVP by noon Nov. 27 to teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. Members who attend will have the familiar green "Plymouth Rocks" guitar on their name tag to let everyone know which chamber they're from.

The event is sponsored by the Plymouth Whalers. CJ's Brewery is located inside Compuware Arena on Beck between M-14 and Five Mile in Plymouth.

Anniversary gala

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts a 40th anniversary gala 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the Traditions Condominium Asso-

ciation, 1315 Waterside. Wine tasting will be available courtesy Canton's Holiday Market.

Cost is \$15 per person. The event is sponsored by Atchinson Ford Sales, Molly Maid, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and Tammy Brown Agency -Farm Bureau Insurance.

Reservations are required, call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@ cantonchamber.com.

Health seminar

The University of Michigan Health System Women's Health Program and Dr. Samar Hassouneh and Dr. Gwen Zirngibl present a seminar about the HPV injection 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth.

For more information call the Women's Health Program at (734) 936-8886.

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OUR VIEWS

Saying thanks not for just one day Continue to express

your gratitude When the first day of school rolled around in September, did you let out a sigh and say, "thank heavens they're back in

How many times has someone turned to you - and how many times have you turned to someone else — in the last two weeks to say, "thank goodness the election

How long will you bite your tongue, after a Thanksgiving dinner guest tries to compliment you by saying that the mashed potatoes had fewer lumps than the gravy

this year, before you say, "gee, thanks?"

And when you stumble into a coffee shop before dawn on Black Friday for some liquid gold before a shopping foray, what do you say as you finger the change the barista hands you? It may be almost subconscious, but like as not, you'll mumble a "thanks."

We say it all the time, not just on Thanksgiving. Whether it's because we got a knock on the head from our parents if we didn't say it as youngsters, or because we bought into the "please and thank you" lessons of Sesame Street and Capt. Kangaroo, saying thanks or thank you is arguably one of the most used phrases in the English language.

Maybe we use it too much. It is something to think about this Thanksgiving,

Consider that, when our children return to school in the fall, our thanks is better directed to their teachers than spoken as our sense of relief.

Likewise, win or lose, we are all glad that campaign ads have stopped running on TV. But if we thank anyone, it should be the writers of the Constitution who provided for democratic elections.

And face it, there is no way you mean anything close to thanks when you get a back-handed compliment on your Thanksgiving dinner cooking skills, nor is there really any meaning in that exchange at the coffee shop.

This holiday is a clue as to what the problem is: For 364 days a year, we say thank you. On only one day each year, the fourth Thursday in November, we give thanks. Talk, it seems, really is cheap. But it doesn't cost any more to put a little thought — and a little meaning — behind a pleasant exchange.

There is plenty to be thankful for, whether we recall our good fortune in a litany at the dinner table, or we keep tabs in a periodic inventory of our lives. More of us are working, though still less than the national average; home foreclosure rates have slowed. And didn't the Tigers give us a thrill this year, at least for awhile?

We all have to make our own lists of what to be thankful for, but giving thanks means more than lip service. It means pausing to look straight in someone's eye and smile, letting that person know you value them and the service they have performed. Isn't that what we do on Thanksgiving, by pausing to gather with family, letting them know we count them among our blessings?

But there are still many in our community who may not have the good fortune to share in our lengthy lists. For them, we should give more than a kind word or two. Instead, share a meal or maybe a special treat them may be unable to afford. Make an early gift of baby formula topped with a pair of mittens, or a gas card slipped inside a pair of gloves for an oldster.

There are as many ways to give thanks as there are reasons to do so, and they don't have to stop when the table is cleared after dinner and dessert.

So, when the relatives finally decide to leave on Thanksgiving, it's not a matter of what will you say to them, but how.

Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library and the Plymouth District Library.



"Obviously for my (helper) dog. She's allowed me to go places during the day and at night without having to worry. And of course I'm very thankful for my children and their success."

Dominique de Gery Plymouth Township



and being alive." Jennifer Hanna

Plymouth



"My salvation in Jesus Christ my Lord."

Beverly Smith



"My family."

Vicki Vega

LETTERS

No sense of community

I write in response to your article about the Canton Township decision to award the bid for management of Fellows Creek Golf Course to Billy Casper Golf, a Virginia corporation ("Golfers call 'fore' on course decision," Observer, Nov. 15).

According to the handout at the board meeting Nov. 13, the purpose for the action was to "maximize revenue potential," an obvious belief that Billy Casper will be able to make more money than the Dan Ross family, Canton residents who have managed the course for 35 years.

It is logical that the course income has declined in the last four years given our tough economic times. If one is out of work, he/she cannot afford to golf. Our community has not been alone. Kate Moore of the Michigan Golf Course Association estimates 30 Michigan courses have closed in the last four years under the economic strains.

Considering the whole situation, I find the township's thinking in this matter to be sad and

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. 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 edi-

anti-community. After many residents voiced their concern about ending the management contract with a Canton resident in order to hire an out-of-state corporation, one of the trustees' hostile response was evidence of the much greater concern for "maximizing revenues" than any concern for community connec-

According to Kate Moore, cities

generally don't run golf courses to make money. Generally it is done to add to a sense of community. Certainly hiring an out-ofstate company is not a sign of adding to a sense of community in this case.

I live at the Links of Fellows Creek, but do not overlook the course. I am writing solely as an avid golfer who plays at Fellows Creek probably seven or eight times a month. Although I do not know anyone in the Ross family, I love the course and appreciate the great people who work there. I will feel a sense of loss of community dealing with an out-ofstate corporation, rather than a local family.

I wonder what kind of community our residents want — one where the primary concern (maybe sole concern) is "maximizing revenues" or one that has an equally strong concern for maintaining or maximizing a sense of community for its residents. I did not sense any "balancing" at the

Mary Ellen MacDougall

GUEST COLUMN

Connecting with aging parents during the holidays

By Kathleen Kueppers **Guest Columnist**

he holidays, for many of us, are a chance to spend time with family members who we don't see as often as we would

Visits with aging parents can provide the ideal opportunity for us to observe how they are doing and have a conversation with



Kathleen Kueppers

them about their well-being. Are they safe living independently or do they need additional support to do so?

If you live a long distance away, or don't see your parents regularly, you may

be surprised by changes you notice in their physical appearance or mental condition. Be sure to take the time to talk with them and ask questions if you are concerned. Here are some tips to consider.

Look for warning signs in their

physical appearance. Weight loss may be a sign of illness or malnourishment. Are · they stable on their feet? Is there a change in their speech or ambulation? Are they able to take care of their activities of daily living, such as cook, dress, bathe, and clean their home? If any warning signs are evident, help schedule a visit with their physician and plan to go with them.

Look for changes in their mood or mental alertness.

Forgetfulness and confusion are not a normal part of aging. If your parents are repeating themselves frequently or appear more confused, look for other signs that may indicate they are in need additional help.

Are their bills being paid? Are they entering contests?

Are there checks in their checkbook to people you are not familiar with?

Are their prescriptions current? Is there nutritious food in the cupboard?

How is their mood? Do they engage in conversation? Do they laugh at funny stories? Do they cry often?

Are they drinking more alcohol? Are they irritable or get angry quickly?

Do they appear clean and dress like they always did?

Are they refusing to go with friends on outings, or to their church or synagogue?

Changes in their mood or mental alertness may be signs of depression, dementia or a declining health condition. Again, schedule an appointment with a physician and plan to go with them.

Be honest.

If you are concerned about a parent's well-being, don't be afraid to tell them. Express how you are feeling using "I." For example, "I am concerned about your diet, you've lost weight." Or "I noticed Dad's clothes are not clean today. Are you having trouble doing the laundry? What can I do to help?" Or "I noticed you call me often and forget that we talked. Are you concerned about

your memory? I am." Listen carefully and tell your parent/s that you respect their independence

When older adults complain about vague symptoms sometimes they are telling you that they are scared or lonely. Listen carefully. Reassure them that you respect their privacy but that you may need to know important information in order to help them if there is an emergency.

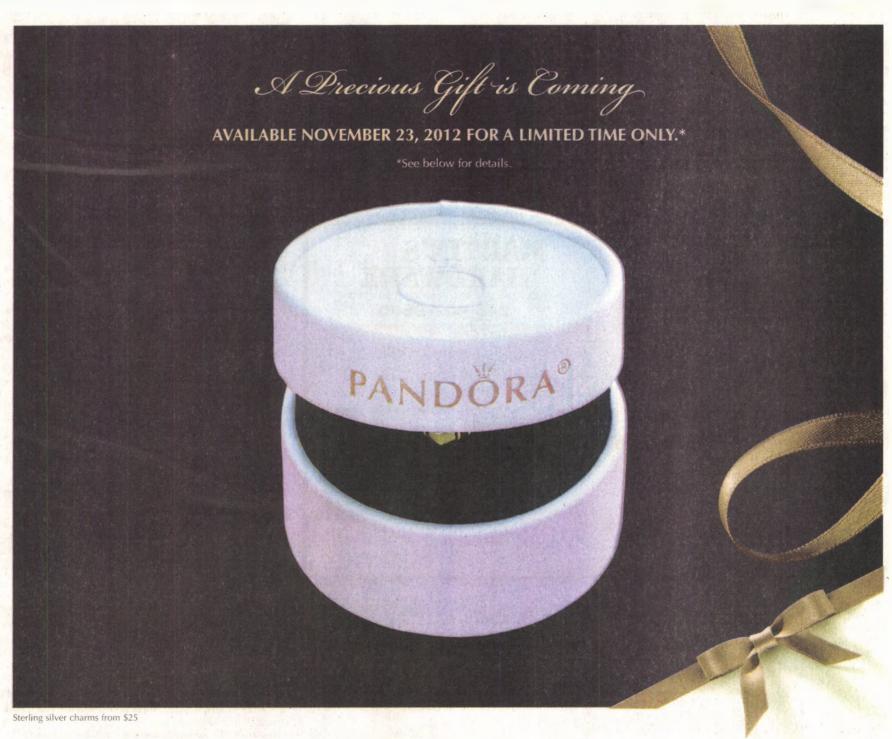
Where to turn for more resources and information.

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit organization that specializes in providing information, resources, and services to older adults, persons with disabilities, and their family caregivers, who live in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties. For information about respite relief services, housing, in-home services, home delivered meals, care management, legal assistance, counseling, transportation, Medicare, Medicaid and more, call the AAA 1-B Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 800-852-7795, or visit www.aaa1b.com.

Kathleen Kueppers is Director of Community Support Services for the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, a nonprofit organization that serves seniors, persons with disabilities and family caregivers in a six-county region in southeast Michigan. For more information, contact her at (248) 262-9225, or by e-mail at kkueppers@aaa1b.com.







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Oakwood Center dedicates new Kidz Cabin

The Oakwood Center for Exceptional Families now has a new play area where children of all abilities can get together and interact in a recreational setting.

The Kidz Cabin, a fully-inclusive play structure funded through a grant from Kelly's Kidz Foundation, was recently unveiled at the Dearborn-based facility. Built in the form of a log cabin, the structure incorporates several unique features designed for children with disabilities to

"This playground will bring a new dimension of service to thousands of families throughout metro Detroit," said Robert O. Kramer, chair of the Center for Exceptional Families board. "The Kidz Cabin will allow children of all abilities the opportunity to explore, learn, create and play together. It will support our quest for "inclusion," breaking down barriers to participation and belonging."

Kelly's Kidz Foundation, which has partnered with the Oakwood facility since 2008, provided \$50,000 in funding for the structure. Canton resident Kelly Hermann, co-founder of Kelly's Kidz, said it was a natural match for her organization's goal of improving



Brian Wallace (from left), Cathy Wallace, Margaret Demmer, John E. (Jack) Demmer, William Hermann, Sue Hermann, Kelly Hermann (of Canton), David Hermann, Laurie Hermann and Bill Hermann celebrate the arrival of a new play structure at Oakwood's Center for Exceptional Families in Dearborn.

the quality of life for children with special needs and their families.

Small step

"The Kidz Cabin will provide an amazing opportunity for all kids, regardless of disability, to play in a place that is not only safe, but allows them to interact with their peers and siblings," she said. "It is really important for these kids to be accepted for who they are and Kelly's Kidz is providing one more small step in helping them live the best life that they

The Kidz Cabin, which was the brainchild of Tammy Morris, Clinic Rehab Manager at the Center, will also serve as an alternative physical and recreational therapy location. It features a giant crawl through log, with sand at the bottom to provide a sensory experience-as well as a fun way to get into the sand pit; huge sloping sidewalks that allow wheelchairs and walkers to easily access the cabin. There are climbing ropes and different types of steps for children that are learning to

walk. It even has a pondless water feature that provides a soothing place

Dr. Susan Youngs, medical director at the Center, said the Kidz Cabin would

get plenty of use. "The Kidz Cabin will allow our special kids an opportunity to play with their peers, friends, brothers and sisters regardless of their abilities," she said. "It will help build the foundation for a happy, active childhood. It will build friendships and bring families closer together. It will be a place where imaginations run free, where a special needs child can be a kid - without limits."

Offsetting expenses

The Center for Exceptional Families is based in Dearborn, but serves more than 3,500 families with special needs children throughout Wayne County and beyond. Kelly's Kidz Foundation has provided nearly \$200,000 in grant funding to the center to help offset the expense of Children's Special Health Insurance, purchase new, specialized equipment, provide a driving program to help teens with special needs. become more self-sufficient and to fund scholarships to help teens earn graduate certificates or degrees.

"Our partnership with Oakwood's Center for Exceptional Families is really a perfect fit as both organizations have the same goal in mind: help the families with special needs kids make their lives a little bit more manageable," said Hermann, whose daughter, Maggie, was born with cerebral palsy. "Having a child with special needs really helped us realize how doing something even as little as providing a place for the all kids to play together will make a huge impact on providing some normalcy for the families; and that is what

it is all about is family." "We are truly appreciative of this gift and the generosity of so many donors who help us bring these vital services to the community," said Car-la O'Malley, executive director and president of the Oakwood Foundation. "We could not do it without their support."

For more information on the Center for Exceptional Families, visit www.oakwood.org/CEF. To learn more about the Kelly's Kidz, visit www. kellyskidz.net.



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Location: South Lyon High School Time: 10am-4pm

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South Lyon High School Eleven Mile & Pontiac Trial



Come meet a LIVE reindeer with a surprise visit from someone special... sponsored by South Lyon Cycle Time: 12:30pm-3:30pm

Location: South Lyon Cycle, 209 S. Lafayette

COUGAR CHRISTMAS CABARET

Come eat a delicious spaghetti dinner while enjoying musical entertainment by South Lyon East

Cougar Band. Time: 2pm-8pm

Costs: \$7 per person, \$30 family of 5 or more, in-

cludes dinner. \$2 person donation for the Musical Entertainment

(no dinner)

Please visit www.slebandboosters.hgsitebuilder.com for more info.

FAMILY FUN EVENT

Cookie decorating, many crafts, and treats will make this event fun for all ages. Location: First United Methodist Church Time: 3pm-5pm Cost: Free

LIGHTED HOLIDAY PARADE Enjoy a lighted parade on Lafayette (10 Mile Rd) though downtown South Lyon. Presented by South Lyon Chamber of Commerce

Time: 5:30pm - Parade Starts at Whipple Street 6:00pm - Parade Ends at Witches Hat (McHattle

QUATTO DOLCE

Time: 6:20pm

Time: 6:15pm

Enjoy fun-filled entertainment with a String and wind quartet presented by Dexter Community Orchestra Location: Witches Hat (McHattie Park) Times: 6:30pm Cost: Free

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXTRAVAGANZZA BAKE SALE Benefits the St. Louis Center for Mentally Disabled

Youth In Chelsea

Location: St. Joseph Parish, 830 S. Lafayette

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY Following the Parade, come enjoy the Tree Lighting while listening to holiday music **Location: McHattie Park**

Visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus Make sure to meet Santal! Location: Schoolhouse (McHattie Park)

Come and join the fun!

Make it easy for loved ones to find important papers

By Rick Bloom **Guest Columnist**

read about a woman who had passed away a few years ago and her loved ones were still searching for assets (life insurance policies and bank accounts) that they thought she had, but they could not locate. The woman had moved a few times near the end of her life

The story is a little more complex than that, however, the bottom line is how frustrated the family was when trying to locate her assets.

What struck me while reading the article was how common a problem this is, particularly in today's world, where people relocate many times during their lifetime. The problem of having loved ones and beneficiaries unable to locate assets upon death is easily solvable

When people do estate planning, they generally focus on wills, trusts and other types of legal documents. These documents are important and everyone needs to make sure that they have some sort of written estate plan so that their final wishes can be followed. That being said, I also think it's important that every adult, no matter how many assets they have, also has a document locator.

A document locator is



typically

not some-

thing

that an

attorney

draws up

for you.

nor is it

a docu-

ment that

you have

to have

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

signed and witnessed. Rather, it is a road map for your loved ones to follow. It is a listing of assets and

where they are located. In other words, if you have a Fidelity brokerage account, it's important to list it on the document locator. You don't necessarily have to list every investment within that account. It is sufficient that you include the account on your list. I also recommend listing the account number and, in many situations, it makes sense to include your password on that account.

On your document locator list all accounts, whether it is a brokerage account, bank account or any type of investment account. Every account should be listed along with its account number. In addition, list any liabilities you owe, such as a mortgage or any charge card accounts.

During our lifetimes, we deal with a variety of professionals that assist us when it comes to our

personal financial affairs. Whether it is a lawyer, financial adviser or an insurance agent, it's also a good idea to list these professionals on your document locator. Potentially, these individuals can provide a wealth of information to your loved ones that can assist them in handling your affairs.

I believe you should also list where your personal papers are located. For example, if you have a trust, you should state in the document locator where it is located. This also applies to things such as insurance policies and any other types of legal documents that you may have.

It's not sufficient to prepare a document locator and then forget about it. There are two additional steps needed to make sure the document stays relevant. The first is to occasionally update it. In other words, if you've decided to change your attorney, it's important to update your document

In addition, if you open a new brokerage account, the document locator needs to be updated. Just like it's important to occasionally review your wills, trusts and beneficiary designations, the same thing applies to your document locator.

It is also important that you let someone know

where you keep your document locator. After all, if your loved ones can't locate it, it's really not worth anything. My recommendation is that the person that you trust the most, the one that you've named in your power of attorney or to be the trustee of your trust, should know where this

document is located. Making a document locator is relatively simple and easy. You can either do it on the computer or you can do it the old-fashioned way by taking pencil to paper.

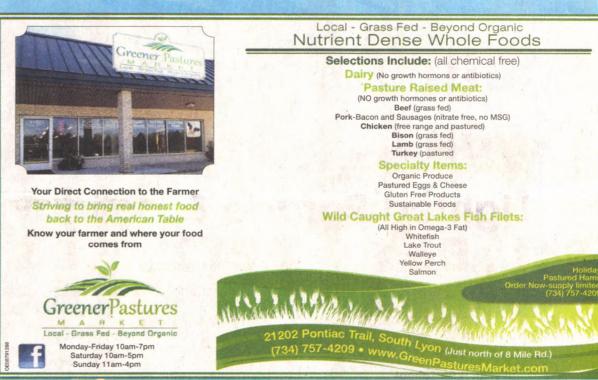
The bottom line is that it is important for everyone to make sure they have a listing of assets, legal documents and professional advisers so that when something happens, life can be as easy

as possible on your loved ones. After all, isn't that the real reason why we do any estate planning? Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.











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Her hobby leads to teaching belly dancing



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Abida Blaze teaches belly dancing at the Wayne Community Center.

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

When it came to exercise, Abida Blaze loved to run, but running became a problem after she was in a car accident.

"I suffered whiplash.
I was looking for something more gentle, not a lot of jumping and throwing yourself around," said Blaze, who decided to take a belly dancing class in 2002. "I joined purely out of curiosity."

It became more than a hobby. Since 2007, Blaze has taught belly dancing full-time, including current classes for the Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department.

"There is no typical student. I have high school students. My oldest student didn't tell me her age but was at least 70 years old," said Blaze, an Allen Park resident.

"I get all sorts of people who have injuries and want to regain strength or someone who has had a child and wants to get back in shape."

Some students are trained in other styles of dancing, such as ballet, and want to learn something different, she said.

"My students are mostly women. I get a few men and they are very welcome," said Blaze. "Men do belly dance in the Middle East — they just do it to different music."

There are different styles of belly dancing, she said, basically tribal or cabaret, the latter covering Greek, Arabic and Lebanese dancing styles.

"There are so many sub-styles, they are similar but you can see differences. The costumes can be different," said Blaze.

For beginning students, Blaze recommends an eight-week commitment.

"Over four to eight weeks, I hope people feel a little comfortable," she said. "Other people love it and practice every day, so they are good in a couple of weeks. It depends on physical ability and other dance you've had."

Along with the beginning class, Blaze also offers a level two classes for students based on her assessment of their skills.

For classes, she said students should wear comfortable clothes, such as T-shirts and tank tops.

Blaze encourages her students to join her in performing, normally at

benefits and fund-raisers.
"It lets them participate, more advanced students will do professional performances," she said.



Belly dancing instructor Abida Blaze.

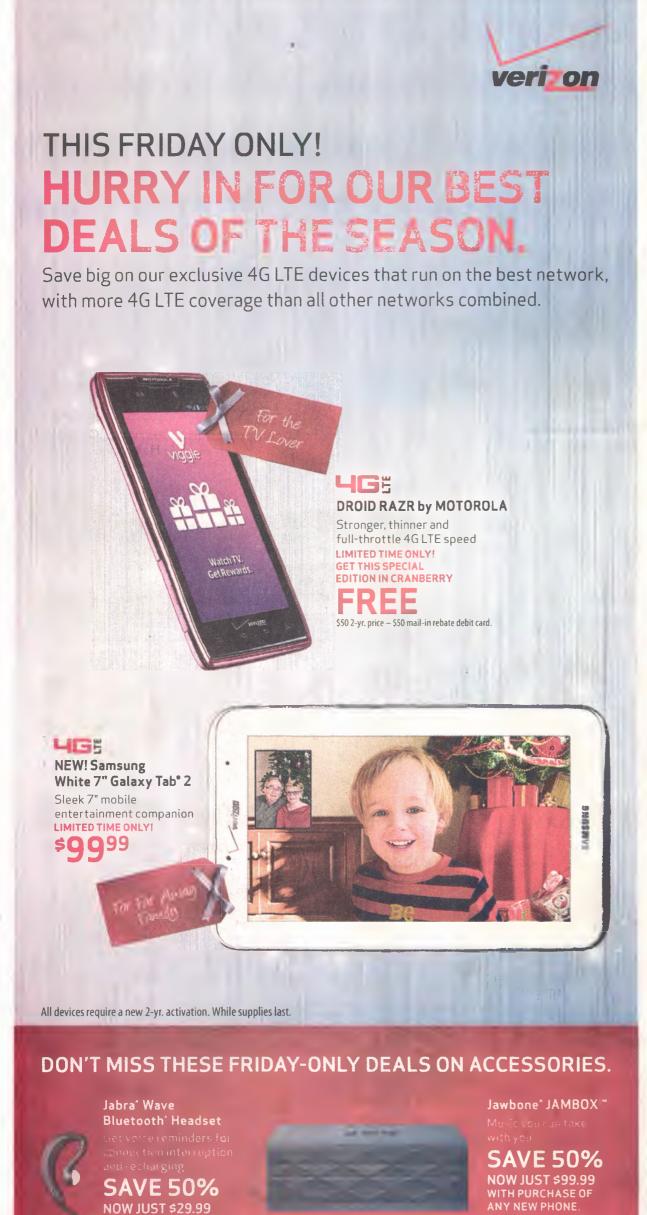
An upcoming benefit performance will be Saturday, Dec. 1, for Little Dresses for Africa to raise money for materials to make sun dresses for African girls. The performance is at the Royal Oak Women's Club.

For those who'd like to give belly dancing a try, Blaze is offering a free trial lesson at the Wayne Community Center on Monday, Dec. 17.

Along with teaching in Wayne and also Redford, Blaze will be teaching at the Center for Life Long Learning in Dearborn Heights, where she took her first belly dancing class.

For more information, visit www.blazingbelly-dance.com.

Irogers@hometownlife.com (313) 222-5428







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news 1

Get to know people, places & things to do in your community & more.

When Elaine Cash decided it was time to move to a senior community, she found what she was looking for in her own backyard at Abbey Park at Mill River. Born and raised on a farm just three miles away, Elaine watched the construction of Abbey Park and carefully considered the advantages offered by the community.

As the final stages of building were completed "It got me thinking," she said. "I decided, on my own, this was the answer."

Elaine knew it was time for a change; the family home that she and her husband, Jim, built in 1950 was no longer practical. The Cash Family has lived in

Lyon Township, a picturesque rural setting noted for the warmth of loving neighbors, for six generations. Moving into Abbey Park keeps Elaine close to friends and family and provides security, support and reassurance to loved ones concerned about her living alone.

While Elaine made the move to satisfy the concerns of her family, she is quick to acknowledge that she is very happy in her new home. "I am blessed to have made a best friend here," Elaine said. "I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here."

Just minutes from Ann Arbor, Novi and Brighton, Abbey Park's convenient location on Milford Road across from Coyote Golf Club and just minutes from I-96 – enjoys a beautiful countryside setting, with state of the art amenities in addition to quick access to three major hospitals.

My Very

PLEASANT

SURPRISE

Within just a few days of Abbey Park's opening in January 2009, Elaine and her three children enjoyed a lunch and tour of the facility. She was surprised and "very impressed," with her initial visit. Elaine appreciated the beautiful landscaping of the grounds and courtyards, an elegant lobby featuring fountains, fireplaces, and a grand piano

along with the

welcoming

smiles of a few old friends and some new neighbors.

With any move there are decisions to be made, and so after offering the family home to her granddaughter, Elaine's first step was to find the perfect apartment in her new community. With nine floor plans ranging from one bedroom/one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets, all apartment options at Abbey Park include

"I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here.

> Elaine Cash, **Abbey Park resident**

a balcony or patio. Monthly rental fees include heat, water, electricity in addition to 24-hour staffing, medical monitoring, daily housekeeping, weekly laundry service, delicious meals served in the beautiful Grand Dining Room, continental breakfast and over 45 activities - including two happy hour events and live entertainment - to enjoy each week.

There were additional surprises, too: the community was luxurious and elegant but also very affordable. The meals served in the elegant dining room by attentive staff and prepared on site, were delicious. "The food is like a nice restaurant," Elaine said, and said that the employees and residents are, "Like another large family." There's a calendar full of weekly shopping trips, monthly casino excursions, Bingo, ice cream socials and destination outings, such as trips



Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash enjoying the beautiful grounds of Abbey Park at their annual car show.

to Frankenmuth and holiday shopping trips. Within the community, there is a theater, library, computer center, fitness center, hair salon and physical therapists on site. Medicare-certified optional personal care services are also available.

THERE'S No Place Like My New Home

Elaine was quick to credit the leadership of the staff with the spirit of community and a calendar full of celebrations. "To me, [Administrator] Tamra Ward and [Hospitality Director] Charles Duty are 'Abbey Park,' plus of course, their wonderful, friendly, caring staff." Elaine's social calendar is full of parties and events. There's a champagne brunch

Left: Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash is surrounded by family at last year's Christmas party.

every Sunday, birthday parties, Grandkids Halloween Carnival, Grandparent's Day Luau, Oktoberfest and Abbey Park's Festival of Trees. There's a delicious menu for each holiday and celebration dinners are open to family and friends. Abbey Park at Mill River offers a Facebook page that is updated after each event for the enjoyment of the residents and their loved ones.

Soon after her move to Abbey Park at Mill River, Elaine met owners Dr. Benjamin Stein, Joe Norber and Edward Rosenbaum during one of their weekly site visits. "I told them how much I loved it here," Elaine said "I am a walking commercial for Abbey Park."

Elaine celebrated her third anniversary as a resident at Abbey Park in September and enjoys being part of the Abbey Park family. "I have loved every single day here," she said.

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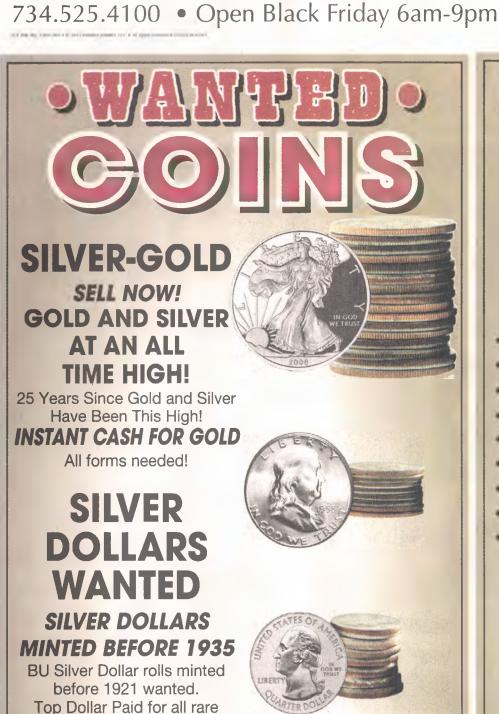
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SPORTS

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BOYS HOCKEY

Dearborn/GC debut a winner

By Ed Wright Observer Staff Writer

The Crestwood/Garden City unified boys hockey team opened its inaugural season in rousing fashion Saturday night by posting a 7-1 triumph over host Lutheran North.

The squad consists of student-athletes from Dearborn Heights Crestwood, Dearborn Heights Annapolis and Garden City high schools.

"For our first regular-season game, it certainly was an impressive win," said Chargers head coach Steve Popp. "We had relentless pressure offensively and never really let down.'

"It seems like everybody from the two schools is getting along really well. They were having a good time on the way back." **STEVE POPP** Chargers head coach

A reduction in one key statistic played a role in his team's robust offensive production, Popp said.

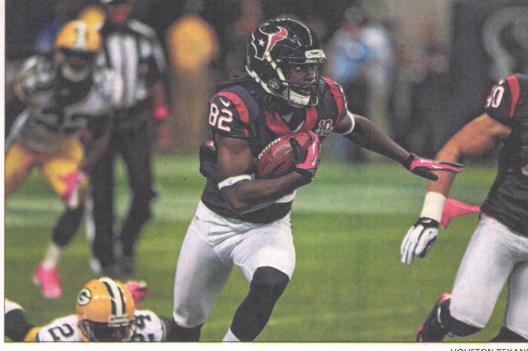
"We only had two penalties, which is something we've been stressing," Popp said. "Too many penalties gave us trouble last year. We were too undisciplined at times. We're emphasizing to the guys that if they play disciplined hock-

ey, they ii stay in the games.' Popp thinks Saturday's extended trip to Macomb Township helped forge the team's chemistry.

"Having a long road trip — it was probably close to an hour ride one-waywas good for us, especially early in the season like this," he said. "It seems like everybody from the two schools is getting along really well. They were having a good time on the way back."

The Chargers bolted to a 2-0 lead after one period before North answered with a goal early in the second stanza. However,

Please see ICERS, B4



HOUSTON TEXANS

Westland John Glenn grad Keshawn Martin (82), now a rookie wide receiver with the Houston Texans, looks for daylight in a game against Green Bay.

Many happy returns

Glenn grad Martin, a Texan, faces Lions

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Five years ago, Keshawn Martin was a high school senior in the midst of preseason basketball practice at Westland John Glenn High.

Fast forward to 2012 and Thanksgiving week as the wide receiver and kick returner for the 9-1 Houston Texans, owners of the best record in the NFL's AFC, plays Thursday at Detroit's Ford Field where he'll face the 4-6 Lions.

For the 5-foot-11, 190pound Martin, it's been a whirlwind since he committed - almost to the day in November of 2007 as an unheralded recruit for Michigan State.



Martin

by so fast," said Martin, who caught his first NFL touchdown in last Sunday's 43-37 overtime win over Jack-

"It just feels

sonville. "Five years ago I was in high school playing basketball and now I'm in the NFL basically living on my own, paying my own bills and stuff.

"Time definitely flew by, but that's how it is. You go to different stages in life and I'm blessed enough to be in the NFL."

The speedy and elusive Martin has proven to be a blessing as the Texans' fourth-round pick (121st

overall) from last year's NFL

The 22-year-old from Inkster, a former high school quarterback, has seven receptions for 72 yards and three carries for 36 yards as a lot receiver in Houston's high-powered offense.

But he's taken on an added role after the Texans, struggling on special teams, decided to cut kick and punt returner Trindon Holliday on Oct 10.

Since assuming the role, Martin has given the Texans a boost with 10 kickoff returns for 194 yards (19.4 average), while averaging 15.3 yards per punt return. On Sunday, Martin proved

Please see MARTIN, B2

town

Whalers in

Don't worry, hockey fans mourning the loss of the NHL. The Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers have just what you need.

Compuware Arena (Beck Road south of Five Mile) hosts two Whalers games sandwiched around Thanksgiving. At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Plymouth squares off against Windsor. Two nights later (also at 7 p.m.) the Whalers welcome Kingston.

For ticket information, go to www. plymouthwhalers.com or call the box office at (734) 453-8400. Individual game tickets are \$12 and \$16.

Alumni swim meet at FHS

The first Farmington-Harrison Phoenix alumni swim meet will take place 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, in the Farmington High School pool.

Twenty former swimmers are expected to compete against the current girls and boys teams. A monetary donation to the team would be appreciated in place of a set admission price.

GLIAC hoops lauds Taylor

Grand Valley State University senior forward Briauna Taylor (Livonia Franklin) was named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference North Division women's basketball Player of the Week (ending Nov.

The 5-foot-9 Taylor is averaging 19.5 points per game for the 3-0 Lakers.

She was named Firebird Classic MVP after recording double-doubles in both including 16 points and 10 rebounds against host school District of Columbia along with 23 points and 11 rebounds against Bowie State (Md.).

Taylor now owns 11 double-doubles in her career.

Touchdowns

DIVISION 1 GIRLS SWIM FINALS



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy junior Elliott Schinella is the state champion in the 100-yard backstroke.

Marlins finish second at Division 1 finals

By Dan O'Meara **Observer Staff Writer**

Here's a perspective on just how successful the Farmington Hills Mercy swimming and diving program has been in recent years - and continues to be!

The Marlins have done so well that being the second-best team in Division 1 might leave the impression they didn't meet expectations.

Mercy was the defending state champion and had sought to win a sixth straight title Saturday at Holland Aquatics Center. The first four were won in Division 2.

The Marlins were the runners-up this year and had their victory streak

broken by Holland West Ottawa in a close meet, 293.5-272. Saline, the 2010 state champion and 2011 runner-up, was a close third with 266.

"Expectations, outside of the swim team, are sometimes higher than within the group itself," Mercy coach Shannon Dunworth said. "Certainly, we've been fortunate to have a lot of good swimmers come through Mercy, and they achieved quite a bit.

"We didn't win the championship this year, but it does not diminish my satisfaction with the team; that's for sure."

He added the Marlins lost to the Panthers while making a great effort, and he can accept that as

opposed to losing with a poor effort.

"In swimming, you get to be measured whether those efforts are great or poor," he said. "Without a doubt, we lost in a great effort, and that's very fulfilling for me."

The scoring tally was close throughout the finals Saturday, but West Ottawa's performance in the prelims Friday set the stage for it to finish well, according to Dunworth.

"After the first day, the battle really was for second place," he said. "(The Panthers) were nervous; they had to follow suit and do what they did.

"For us and Saline, it was more a matter of

Please see FINALS, B3

Wildcats junior best in 500 free

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Sarah Dombkowski and the rest of Plymouth High School's contingent did itself proud at Holland Aquatic Center.

Dombkowski dominated the 500-yard freestyle race Saturday in the championship round of the Division 1 girls swimming and diving state finals.

The junior — an elite club swimmer in her first season with the Wildcats - became the school's first state champion in girls swimming with her time of 4:55.82.

"For the most part," recalled Plymouth head coach Doug Schade, "after about 300 yards

she was swimming one way and everybody else was swimming the other way. She got that far ahead.'

Dombkowski distanced herself from Holland West Ottawa's Elizabeth Fris (second, 5:01.93) and Farmington Hills Mercy's Kathleen McGee (third, 5:03.4).

Schade added that Dombkowski's performance also shattered the HAC record, previously held by a Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association swimmer.

"She broke the Holland Aquatic Center record there, which was pretty significant considering they hosted the

Please see SWIM, B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth's Sarah Dombkowski is a Division 1 state champion in the 500 freestyle.

by ex-Hawks For the first time this season, former Farmington Harrison teammates and true freshmen Devin Funchess and Aaron Burbridge caught touchdown passes on the same day for their respective Big Ten teams Saturday. Devin Gardner passed 29 yards to

Funchess in Michigan's 42-17 rout of lowa, and Burbridge caught a 15-yarder from Andrew Maxwell in Michigan State's 23-20 loss to Northwestern. It was the first col-

legiate TD catch by Burbridge, who had four receptions for 47 yards in the game. The TD grab was the lone catch of the day for Funchess.

For the season, Burbridge has 26 catches for 342 yards; Funchess has 14 for 230 yards and five touchdowns.

MARTIN

Continued from page B1

his worth with a 71-yard punt return and added a kickoff return for 54 more.

Those numbers are of no surprise for those who followed Martin in the collegiate ranks.

In 48 games, the fouryear letter winner finished his career ranked second in Michigan State history in punt return yards (659), fourth in punt returns (65), eighth in kick return yards (1,100) and kick returns (47), 10th in all-purpose yards (4,013), 11th in receptions (127), 16th in receiving yards (1,714)

and tied for 17th in touchdown receptions (10).

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 22, 2012

"It's a little bit more on my plate, but I can handle it," Martin said of his new duties as a return man. "I just try to make plays out there. I go out there every week, try to get better and make plays.

"It's a little different, but as far as catching the ball and reading the blocks, I felt like you should always been able to do that. The guys close down on you faster. People are faster, so you've really got to be on it."

As a rookie, Martin's transition to the NFL remains work in prog-

"I definitely felt like I learned something every week," Martin said. "Every week I'm just getting more comfortable just playing out there, making plays. Most of all, just having fun out there."

Martin specifically can't recall any specific Thanksgiving moment, but he was generally in front of the TV set.

"I used to watch the Lions on Thanksgiving, that's basically the only memory I have," Martin said. "I was a Lions fan. That's the home team, so you've got to have to have a little love for the home team. I watched the Lions growing up.

Martin is looking forward to Thanksgiving gathering. The majority will be Lions' fans, but he'll have his minority of supporters in the stands at Ford Field.

"Just going back home, just being back in Michigan and being in an envi-



HOUSTON TEXANS

Westland John Glenn grad Keshawn Martin (82), now a rookie wide receiver and kick returner for the Houston Texans, looks for running room in a game against Green Bay.

ronment, the opportunity to go out there and get another win, it definitely should be a good time," Martin said. "You've got a lot of family coming to the game and a lot of friends who want to come to the game, so I'll just do my best trying to get people to game. It should be a good environment, a good atmosphere. It should be exciting."

Martin hauled in a 9yard first-quarter pass last Sunday from quarterback Matt Schaub in the OT win over Jacksonville for his first NFL touchdown.

And the Texans' rookie admitted he didn't quite know how to celebrate.

It remains a blur. "I didn't know what to do, so I think I just spiked it," Martin said.

Another touchdown, along with a win this Thursday over the Lions would certainly be a Thanksgiving to remember for the Glenn grad a feast with all the stuffings and a piece of pumpkin pie for dessert.

> bemons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851





ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Super Steelers

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football team completed a 10-0 season on Sunday, Nov. 11, when it upended the Dearborn Heights Redskins, 22-6, at Saline High School. Isaac Emminger, Victor Reese and Dylan Stackhouse scored touchdowns for the Steelers.



Madonna slams way into NAIA round of 24

By Ed Wright Observer Staff Writer

Propelled by a "secret weapon", an impeccable setter and a balanced attack that was terminating points from every angle imaginable, the Madonna University women's volleyball team advanced to the NAIA Volleyball Championship's round of 24 on Saturday for the first time since 2008 by dispatching visiting St. Xavier (Ill.) University, 25-18, 25-15, 23-25, 25-16.

With Saturday's opening-round tournament ers earned a trip to Sioux will compete for a nation-

When asked to name his team's MVP following Saturday's match, Madonna coach Jerry Abraham deferred - and for good reason. Three Crusaders - Samantha Geile, Taylor Dziewit and Emilie Freeman (Lutheran Westland) — registered doubledigit kills thanks to the pin-point setting of Evia

Prieditis. "I thought it was a COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

great team effort today," Abraham said. "Once we established the middle attack, it opened up our outsides, and we have some really good outside hitters. I'm not sure if (St. Xavier) knew where we'd be coming from at any

"We've been playing really fast lately and connecting on all cylinders attacking the ball from antenna to antenna. That was a very good team over there — they were 18-1 in their league — so we didn't want to let them get back into it."

Strong up front

Freeman (11 kills and five block assists) was a force in the middle, while Geile (16 kills) and Dziewit (13 kills) did their work on the court's

"We call Taylor our 'secret weapon," Abraham said of the left-handed swinging Dziewit. "She's not real big (5foot-9), but she has a nice

The trek to Iowa will be a first for every member

of this year's contingent.

"This feels amazing," said Freeman. "We're all really excited. We knew we had to come out and do exactly what we've been doing throughout the season. We knew we had to put the ball down hard because they have a very scrappy team."

Madonna set the tone early in the first two sets when it jumped out to 7-3 and 7-2 leads, respectively, and never fell behind.

"Getting out to the early leads was huge for us," Freeman said. "We were pumped right from the start. We were communicating well and screaming after every point. We knew if we didn't come out with a lot of energy, they would take advantage.

After trailing for most of the third set, the Crusaders surged ahead late, 22-20, following a Geile kill and Stacey Catalano's ace. However, the Cougars proved resilient when they outpointed their hosts 5-1 down the stretch — with the final point coming on an emphatic throw-down by Kayla Mullaney — to

force a fourth stanza. The final set was close for a while — MU led just 10-9 a little less than midway through - but a four-point run that was triggered by two kills and a block from Nastija Baranovska seemed to take the air out of the Cougars' comeback plans.

"Volleyball is a crazy game — it's a game of momentum and runs," Abraham said. "We told the kids before the game started that we were going to be up sometimes, we were going to be down sometimes, we were going to grab some leads and we were going to blow some leads. We've played a lot of tough fourgame matches this season."

MU's defense was tight across the board as five players registered at least nine digs. Prieditis led the way with 12, one more than Amanda Obrvcki.

"We've tried to stress to the girls that this is what they've worked so hard for all season; it's something they're never going to forget," Abraham said of the pending trip to Iowa.

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MU men's cagers trip Indiana Tech

Bobby Naubert did yeoman's work Saturday logging 39 minutes and scoring a game-high 27 points as Madonna University men's basketball team beat visiting Indiana Tech, 75-61, in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

Naubert, a 5-foot-10 junior point-guard from Livonia Stevenson, made 10-of-16 shots from the floor and made 6-of-7 free throws while dishing out five assists and grabbing a team-high eight rebounds as the Crusaders improved to 4-1 overall and 1-0 in the WHAC.

Junior guard Travis Schuba and junior forward Fred Williams chipped in with 13 and 12 points, respectively, as MU pulled away late in the second half after leading 38-35 at intermission.

MU shot 27-of-53 from floor (50.9 percent) and hit 14-of-17 free throws (82.4 percent).

COLLEGE HOOPS

Indiana Tech (5-2, 0-1), ranked No. 25 in the latest NAIA Division II poll, got 11 points apiece from Jordan Hickman and Antonio

Cannon.
INDIANA TECH 82, MU
(WOMEN) 79: Senior
guard Shantelle Herring poured in a game-high 29 points, but it wasn't enough as Madonna University (1-2, 0-1) fell Saturday to visiting Indiana Tech (1-4, 0-1) in the WHAC women's opener. Herring made 10-of-17 shots from the floor, includ-

ing 5-of-8 from three-point

Senior center Kaylee Mc-Grath (Livonia Stevenson) added 18 points and 13

rebounds, while Michelle

Lindsey and Rachel Melcher

33-27 at halftime, trailed by

MU shot 40.6 percent from the floor (26-of-64) and only 18-of-32 from the foul

Ulyssia Richmond and Ra-

chael Kruse paced the Warriors with 27 and 21 points, respectively. Kaneisha Bass

as many as nine and never

got closer than three the rest of the way.

chipped in with 12 and 10

points, respectively. The Crusaders, who trailed

line (56.3 percent).

triumph, the Crusad-City, Iowa, where they al championship with 23 other qualifiers from Nov. 27 through Dec. 1.

FINALS

Continued from page B1

them making mistakes, which they didn't. It's not like (the point difference) was insurmountable. Nonetheless, they put themselves in a better position than we did after Friday."

Dunworth, who is always focused on individual improvement and preparing for the next competition, isn't going to lament or reflect on the end of Mercy's championship run.

"When you don't keep track of streaks, you don't care when they come to an end," he said. "My only concern is what's in front of me, and it's that sim-

"The only one that matters is the one you just



lost or won. I'm just not into that other stuff."

Schinella

Mercy's great effort produced a pair of state champions Saturday. Sophomore Maddy Loniewski won the 200yard individual medley, and junior Elliott Schinella is the best in the 100 backstroke.

"It was very special for Maddy," Dunworth said. "Her older sister (Mara) was a state champion, and now she's in that catfound before, and she handled them amazingly well.

"Elly's (victory) is special just because she's a very coachable girl and is extremely competitive. I've watched her mature emotionally and athletically every year, so it's a lot of fun to see her growing dedication really pay

Many contributed

Ten of the 13 girls the Marlins sent to the meet scored, the others being Annie Valentine, Kathleen McGee, Jordan Ewald, Roxanne Griffore, Erica Allor, Ellyse Conn, Emma Michalzuk and Michaela Bargardi.

"In the past, we've taken a lot of kids who were happy to be there," Dunworth said. "Every kid we took I thought had a legitimate shot at scoring and, even if they did fall short,

they didn't fall very far short."

Valentine is the only senior in the group that went to state, and she's just one of four on the entire Mercy team. Thus, the Marlins will most likely have an impact on the 2013 meet, too.

"We look good sitting here in November, but a lot can change between now and next season," Dunworth said. "All that really matters is the next nine months.

"We always have a core group of kids willing to sacrifice and pay the price. That core is going to have to get bigger. It's not big enough right now.

"Those kids you want to win with are the kids who want the challenge, the kids who take the sport seriously. I'm sure we'll have a few more join the ranks."

GIRLS STATE MEET RESULTS

MHSAA GIRLS SWIM DIVISION 1 SWIM FINALS Nov. 16-17 at Holland **TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Holland**

West Ottawa, 293.5 points; 2. Farmington Hills Mercy, 272; 3. Saline, 266; 4. Zeeland, 150; 5. South Lyon Unified, 142; 6. Rockford, 139; 7. Hudsonville, 125; 8. Novi, 101; 9. Clarkston, 89; 10. Salem, 81; 13. Plymouth, 63; 25. Livonia Stevenson, 15; 28 Canton, 8; 34. Livonia Churchill, 3 (34 schools)

FINAL RESULTS 200-yard medley relay: 1. West Ottawa, 1:45.14; 4. Mercy (Elliott Schinella, Maddy Loniewski, Ellyse Conn, Roxanne Griffore), 1:45.75; 8. Salem (Abby Aumiller, Linda Zhang, Lisa Zhang, Julia Suriano), 1:49.08; 12. Stevenson (Brenna Gabriel son, Julia Hurley, Sara Stemen, Brenna Erickson), 1:51.55; 13. Canton (Emily Meier, Hannah Jenkins, Delaney Adams, Destinee Barmore-Hicks), 1:51.84. 200 freestyle: 1. Maddie Wright (Waterford Kettering) 1:48.01; 2. Sarah Dombkowski (Ply.), 1:52.02; 3. Kathleen Mc-Gee (Mercy), 1:52.34; prelims:

24. Madeline Madison (Canton),

1:58.33; 25. Sarah Cauzillo (Stevenson), 1:59.05; 26. Aumiller (Salem), 1:59.68. 200 individual medley: 1 Loniewski (Mercy), 2:05.09; 3. Linda Zhang (Salem), 2:06.0; 4 Lisa Zhang (Salem), 2:06.72; 6. Emily Toro (Ply.), 2:07.94; 11. Jordan Ewald (Mercy), 2:10.08; 12. Annie Valentine (Mercy), 2:10.63; 14. Alexa Earls (Ply.), 2:11.04; prelims: 20. Michaela Bargardi (Mercy), 2:12.62; 21. Hannah Jenkins (Canton). 2:12.65; 23. Delaney Adams (Canton), 2:12.67; 24. Rachel Arceri (Stevenson), 2:12.92; 29. Caitlin Orr (Canton), 2:14.51; 39. Claire Green (Canton), 2:17.4. 50 freestyle: 1. Danielle Freeman (Hudsonville), 22.96; 5. Schinella (Mercy), 24.04; 8. Grif-

fore (Mercy), 24.28; prelims: 22. Barmore-Hicks (Canton), 24.84. 1-meter diving: 1. Dani VanderZwaag (West Ottawa), 425.45 points; 12. Erica Allor

(Mercy), 359.00 100 butterfly: 1. Wright (Kettering), 54.13; 8. Valentine (Mercy), 57.66; 10. Conn (Mercy), 57.16; 13. Toro (Ply.), 58.3; prelims: 18. Hannah Schmidt (Mercy), 59.71; 19. Hannah Knoop (Mercy), 59.77; 23. Stemen (Stevenson), 1:00.02; 26. Adams (Canton), 1:00.42; 28. Linda Erickson (Ply.), 1:00.67. 100 freestyle: 1. Freeman (Hudsonville), 50.76; 4. Griffore (Mercy), 52.41; 14. Amanda Washko (Churchill), 53.43;

prelims: 17. Christine Edwards (Mercy), 54.2; 28. Barmore-Hicks (Canton), 55.35.

500 freestyle: 1. Dombkowski (Ply.), 4:55.82; 3. McGee (Mercy), 5:03.4; 15. Emma Michalzuk (Mercy), 5:13.35; **prelims:** 17. Suriano (Salem), 5:15.37; 18. Green (Canton), 5:15.41; 23. Earls (Ply.), 5:17.04; 27. Merrill Froney (Stevenson), 5:20.67. 200 freestyle relay: 1. West Ottawa, 1:35.58; 5. Mercy (Griffore, McGee, Valentine, Edwards), 1:37.83; 16. Plymouth (Toro, Linda Erickson, Earls, Dombkowski), 1:41.15, prelims: 21. Stevenson (Cauzillo, Arceri, Andrea D'Amour, Brenna Erickson), 1:42.25; 24. Canton (Meier, Abby Madison, M. Madison, Barmore-Hicks), 1:42.98. 100 backstroke: 1. Schinella (Mercy), 54.91; 6. Conn (Mercy),

57.51; 10. Ewald (Mercy), 57.95; 12. Gabrielson (Stevenson), 59.14; 14. Michaela Bargardi (Mercy), 59.64; 16. Aumiller (Salem), 1:100.18; prelims: 17.

Edwards (Mercy), 59.66; 22 Washko (Churchill), 1:00.39; 23. Orr (Canton), 1:00.42; 30. Stephanie Solterman (Salem), 1:01.42; 31. Suriano (Salem), 1:01.59; 32. Meier (Canton), 1:02.59.

100 breaststroke: 1. Catherine Cui (Northville), 1:03.71; 6. Loniewski (Mercy), 1:05.34; 7. Linda Zhang (Salem), 1:05.39; **prelims:** 19. Knoop (Mercy), 1:08.19; 21. Jenkins (Canton), 1:08.61. 400 freestyle relay: 1. Saline,

3:29.13; 4. Mercy (McGee, Conn, Valentine, Loniewski), 3:30.9; 15 Plymouth (Toro, Erickson, Earls, Domkowski), 3:39.59; prelims: 17. Stevenson (Cauzillo, Gabrielson, Stemen, Arceri), 3:39.21; 18. Salem (Lisa Zhang, Suriano, Linda Zhang, Aumiller), 3:39.08; 22. Canton (Adams, Orr, M. Madison, Jenkins), 3:43.85.

MHSAA GIRLS SWIM

DIVISION 2 SWIM FINALS Nov. 16-17 at Oakland U. TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Holland. 311; 2. Ann Arbor Skyline, 255.5; 3. Grosse Pointe South, 190; 4. Portage Central, 154; Birmingham Groves, 152; 6. Rochester Adams, 142.5; 7. Bloomfield Hills Marian, 142; 8. Birmingham Seaholm, 140; 9. East Grand Rapids, 124; 10. Mid-

Harrison, 40; 27. Farmington, 10 (32 schools).

FINAL RESULTS 200-yard medley relay: 1. Holland, 1:44.20; 15. Harrison (Paige Kondek, Mikayla Doepker, Miranda Shelly, Katie Romero),

land Dow, 89: 17. Farmington

1:53.25; prelims: 24. North Farmington (Emma Bradley, Emma Gell, Annika Gidley, Lindsay McDonald),

200 freestyle: 1. Mollie Pulte (Marian), 1:50.27; 14. Lauren Folkert (Farmington), 1:56.46; 15. Emily Brunett (Harrison),

1:56.06.

1:58.03. 200 IM: 1. Ashleigh Shanley (Skyline), 2:03.84; 16. Shelly (Harrison), 2:15.19; prelims: 33. Doepker (Harrison), 2:18.02; 34. Yurika Ueda (Farmington),

2:18.54. 50 freestyle: 1. Katie DeLoof (GP South), 23.66; prelims: 25. Romero (Harrison), 25.33; 30. Ellen Leever (Harrison), 25.64. **Diving:** 1. Allie Murphy (Walled Lake Western), 442.80 points;

prelims: 20. Molly Miller (Harrison), 229.30. 100 butterfly: 1. Taylor Garcia (Holland), 54.72; 4. Shelly (Harrison), 58.12; 12. Brunett (Harrison), 59.13; prelims: 27. Emma

Sutherland (Harrison), 1:02.04: 28. Gidley (North Farmington), 1:02.11; 31. Ueda (Farmington), 1:02.62. 100 freestyle: 1. Holly Morren

(Holland), 50.74. 500 freestyle: 1. Cassie Misie-

wicz (Holland), 4:59.45; prelims: Sutherland (Harrison), 5:26.32. 200 freestyle relay: 1. Holland, 1:35.89; 11. Harrison (Brunett Leever, Doepker, Kondek), 1:40.64; prelims: 21. Farmington (Kate Capozzoli, Kayla Hamilton, Ueda, Folkert), 1:43.59; 25. North Farmington (Gidley, McDonald, Nicole Tini, Gell), 100 backstroke: 1. Garcia

(Holland), 53.81; 10. Folkert (Farmington), 59.51; prelims: 27. Kondek (Harrison), 1:02.02. 100 breaststroke: 1. Shanley (Skyline), 1:03.22; prelims: 28. Doepker (Harrison), 1:10.63; 34. Gell (North Farmington), 1:11.27. 3:28.64: 16. Harrison (Brunett. Leever, Sutherland, Shelly), (Folkert, Hamilton, Capoz-

400 freestyle relay: 1. Holland, 3:45.50; prelims: 22. Farmington zoli, Ueda), 3:47.81; 29. North Farmington (Gidley, McDonald, Bradley, Gell), 3:52.98.



Continued from page B1

MIAA meet for a good 10

years," he said. Dombkowski also was an all-stater in the 200 free (second, 1:52.02) to

help the Wildcats tally 63 points for 13th place overall. Also an all-stater for the 'Cats was senior Emily Toro, capping an out-

standing prep career. She finished sixth in the 200 IM with a mark of 2:07.94 "Emily Toro had a great weekend," Schade said. "She ended up being all-

state in the IM which is just incredible. "She set five school records the first day (Friday's preliminaries), so that was a great day for

Zhangs pace Rocks

Salem's total of 81 points earned the Rocks 10th place out of 34 teams - the second-best standing among Observerland squads (behind runner-up Mercy).

"We were hoping to be in the top-10," Salem head coach Chuck Olson said. "So that was pretty good."

The Rocks did boast several all-state entries, led by freshman twins Linda and Lisa Zhang. Both were on the 200-

yard medley relay team that finished eighth with a time of 1:49.08. Joining them on the relay were Abby Aumill-





Plymouth junior Sarah Dombkowski stands on the top step of the podium after winning the 500 freestyle at the D1 finals. She is flanked by runner-up Elizabeth Fris of Holland West Ottawa and Farmington Hills Mercy's Kathleen McGee (third place).



er and Julia Suriano. Linda Zhang finished third in the 200 individual medley (2:06.0) and seventh in the 100 breast2011 dual meet, earned all-state honors at last weekend's D1 state finals in Holland.

Plymouth

senior Em-

ily Toro,

shown

from a

Schade noted that

Plymouth sophomore

Alexa Earls advanced

from the preliminaries

stroke (1:05.39).

in the 200 IM. She wound up in 14th with a time of 2:11.04. Also, Toro, Linda Erick-

to Saturday's main event

son, Earls and Dombkowski "made it back" from Friday to Saturday in the 200-free relay and finished 16th (1:41.15). Meanwhile, other Observerland schools

had disappointing showings. Livonia Stevenson placed 25th with 15 points, followed by Canton (28th, eight points)

and Livonia Churchill

(34th, three points).

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 22, 2012

The first-place dodgeball team consisted of (from left) JC Cummings, Steven Gazley, Tyler Ouellette, Jaylin Smith, Wade Natho, Courtney Gagnon and Jim Cooke.

RU dodgeball tourney raises fun and funds

By Ed Wright Observer Staff Writer

What did Redford Union's wildly successful 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament do for an encore Friday night in the school's gymnasium?

It raised approximately \$600 for the Blue & Gold Club - and provided an entertaining night of ducking, dodging and gym ball-launching for 170 paying spectators.

The money raised will be deposited into the booster club's general fund, which helps pay for scholarships and other worthwhile school-related endeavors.

"We had 14 teams this year, which was two more than last year," said Blue & Gold Club president Frann Gustafson. "It's something the kids really look forward to now. Teachers and alumni also participate."

Ninety-three participants registered for this year's tournament. The players were separated into six- or seven-player teams.

"We tried to divide the teams up evenly based on the year in school the players were in," she said. "It was a great night and everyone enjoyed the event."

The winning team's

roster consisted of JC Cummings, Steven Gazley, Tyler Ouellette, Jaylin Smith, Wade Natho, Courtney Gagnon and Jim Cooke.

"One of the nice things about this event is that our only cost is the Tshirts we purchase for each of the players," Gustafson said.

"Our attendance was down a little bit compared to last year because it was the opening of deer-hunting season, so we're going to try and move it up a week next year."

ewright@hometownlife.com

Hockey teams fill the net with good deeds

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

High school hockey is in full gear and so are efforts by teams to help those who might need some holiday cheer.

All three boys teams based out of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park have plenty of good deeds on the docket.

It all starts with Wednesday's "Toys for Tots" game (6:30 p.m. at Arctic Edge Arena on Michigan Avenue near Belleville/Canton Center Road) between the Canton Chiefs and Plymouth Wildcats.

Fans are invited to bring a new toy to the game and will receive a \$10 discount off an oil change at Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth. (The lone caveat is that stuffed animals will not be accepted.)

"What a great experience for these kids to help out those less fortunate at this time of year," said Chiefs' head coach Jeremy Majszak, adding this is the second year the team is collecting for Toys for Tots.

Other highlights of the evening will include a raffle (with proceeds benefiting PCEP hockey programs) and Dick

'The teams have become more involved in the community and that's important. We have three teams and together we can really make an impact '

RYAN OSSENMACHER salem hockey coach

Scott-hosted "Score-O!" between periods.

With the latter, participants will be trying to score from center ice and win a 2013 Dodge Dart from Dick Scott in the process.

Holiday food drive

Salem's charitable efforts begin with Saturday's annual endeavor to collect food for Canton's Open Door Ministry.

The Rocks host Canton at 8:30 p.m. at Plymouth Cultural Center. Spectators are asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item to the rink. Those items will be donated to Open Door Ministry.

In return fans will receive a ticket for a special drawing. 'This is something

that's evolved the last few years," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "The teams have become more involved in the community and that's important.

online at hometownlife.com

"We have three teams and together we can really make an impact.'

Salem players will also volunteer their time distributing food to those in need during December or January.

Black vs. Blue

And so will Plymouth's icers, embarking on a Gleaners Food Bank Drive with the goal to collect more than 1,000 cans by Dec. 21.

Then, on Friday, Dec. 21, fans attending on "Black vs. Blue Night" at Plymouth Cultural Center can bring more canned goods for Gleaners.

The event is a tripleheader between Plymouth (black) and Salem (blue) with a JV game at 5:30 p.m. followed by varsity alums at 7 p.m. and the current varsity squads at 8:30 p.m.

"You're here to represent your team, your community, all those things," Ossenmacher

> tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

(734) 578-2767

Salem euchre tourney

Salem Wrestling Boosters are holding the annual Fall Euchre Tournament, slated for Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with games starting at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per player and participants must be at least 21 years

Awards will be given to the top three players with the highest scores. There also will be raffles

and prizes. Complimentary food and a cash bar also will be available. Walk-ins are welcome, but seating

is limited. For more information, call (734) 981-7913 or (313) 706-3282 or send an e-mail to rkddox@aol.

Salem girls track coaching spot

Salem varsity girls track and field coach Dave Gerlach announced he is looking to hire an assistant coach for the

2013 season.

The coach should specialize in sprints and

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Gerlach can be reached at (734) 416-7774 or via e-mail at Rockcoachxc@wowway.

Plymouth girls lax meeting

For anyone interested in playing Plymouth girls lacrosse in the spring, there will be a mandatory parent and player meeting 7 p.m. Nov. 28.

It will take place at Salem High School in the Salem Presentation Room (No. 2112).

Parents are asked to park near the main Salem entrance off of Joy Road near the flag-

Livonia wrestling

The Livonia Wrestling Club, a unified wrestling club serving Livonia and surrounding communities for grades K-8, will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 27 through March 28, at the Franklin High

School wrestling room. All coaches and volunteers will be under direct supervision of the Franklin coaching staff.

Registration can be done at the first practice or throughout the season. The cost is \$100 (includes T-shirt and registration into My-Way).

For more information, call Dave Chiola at (248) 752-2340; or e-mail chiola44@yahoo.com.

MU softball camp

Madonna University will hold a series of winter softball camps (ages 7-18) including:

Hitting - 9-11:30 a.m. (Session I) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (Session II), both on Saturday, Dec. 22 at the MU Activities Center. (The cost is \$30.) Fundamentals (Camp

I) - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and

Fundamentals (Camp II) - noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. (Cost for each is \$125 by Dec. 1; or \$150).

For more information, visit www.Madonna Crusaders.com.

ICERS

Continued from page B1

the visitors took charge from there, posting five unanswered lamp-lighters - three in the second period and two in the second - to coast home with the win.

GC's Johnny Segasser

popped home a pair of goals. Matt Sandberg, Scott Bleim, Joey Testane, Justin Sims and Corey Hahn added one goal a

Matt Kirunchyk was the winners' top player-maker as he netted four assists. Steve Bennett, Bleim, Segasser, Sims and Will Teodorescu chipped in

with one helper each.

"Our hard wok in practice all week paid off in the win," Popp said. "I am looking forward to (Wednesday's) match-up against Allen Park Cabri-

The Chargers split with Lutheran North last sea-

> ewright@hometownlife.com (734) 578-2767

Irvine hat trick lifts Spartans to 8-0 win

Tyler Irvine's natural hat trick propelled Livonia Stevenson to a convincing 8-0 boys hockey victory Saturday over Farmington in the Metro Invitational at Novi Ice Arena.

The Spartans outshot the Falcons 37-14 and ended the game with 4:35 left in the third period on Devin Kelly's second goal of the afternoon from Dominic Lutz and Irvine.

"It was a good win for us," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team improved to 2-0 overall. "We played hard and shared the puck, which was nice to see. But we need to get right back at it as we have some big games coming up ... we're focused on taking them one at a time and getting better every time out."

The Spartans led 2-0 after one period as Irvine, a junior, opened the scoring 54 seconds into the game off assists from Lutz and Devin Kelly.

Irvine then converted a penalty shot with 6:58 left after being hauled down on a breakaway.

Irvine added his third of the afternoon and fourth of the season with 8:11 to go in the second period from Devin Kelly and Lutz followed by Dante Seychel's first of the year coming off a nice feed from Ben Kowalske off two-on-one break. Mick Sinclair also drew an assist with 2:28 to go.

Jake Kierdorf then scored 32 seconds later from Stephen Olschanski and Alex Hunt as the Spartans increased their lead to 5-0 after two peri-

In the final period, Tim Kelly tallied a power play

goal from Ryan Frazer and Kierdorf with 10:47 remaining followed by Devin Kelly's first goal of two goals from Lutz and Chris Catalano just 22 seconds later.

Connor Humitz when all but 10 minutes in goal to combine on the shutout with Andrew Rozenbaum. John Lethemon had 29 saves for the Falcons (0-2).

NORTH-HARRISON 2,

SOUTH LYON 1: North Farmington-Harrison (1-1) erased a 1-0 deficit after two periods Saturday in the Metro Invitational at Novi Ice Arena with third-period goals by Matt Goldin and Austin Bottrell to beat the Lions (0-3). Sean Devlin and TJ Zak as-

sisted on the first goal, and Bottrell scored the game-winner with 4:30 remaining with an assist from Reede Burnett. South Lyon scored in the second period on a penalty shot by Cory Haas.

Goalie Hunter Myers made 25 saves for the Flyers.

Tavierne added a pair of The Plymouth varsity hockey team improved goals. to 3-0 on the new sea-The Wildcats scored son after winning a pair three unanswered goals of games last weekend in the second period to in the Metro High School build a 4-1 lead on a pow-

YMCA Lightning win division

The Livonia YMCA Lightning, an under-12 select soccer team, recently captured first place in their division with a 6-0-2 record. Team members include (back to front): Miranda McIntosh, Emily Halkey, Rachel Glovatsky, Addison Mussen, Alex Thomas, Abby Daoust, Caroline Bimberg, Theresa Sommers, Sydney Boyce, Sydney Millis, Niki Berridge, Lauren Wilson, Rachael Morgan. The coaching staff includes Dana Millis and Sarah Daoust, Gene Boyce and Mike Daoust.

'Cats win twice at Novi invite

Invitational, an early season showcase at the Novi Ice Arena featuring 10 teams.

"It was a nice way to start the season," said Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento. "The key now is to make sure we build upon this, opposed to hang our hats on it."

Despite having four players out of the lineup with injuries, the Wildcats topped Lake Orion on Saturday, 6-2, led by a hat trick from junior center Michael Schultz. Junior winger Zack

er-play tally by Tavierne, and even-strength goals by Schultz and junior

A power-play goal by Lake Orion's Drew Casey halfway through the third period briefly narrowed the gap, but Schultz answered with a score less than two minutes later. He scored his third goal of the game with 3:28

defenseman Kyle Bauer.

remaining. Sophomore goalie Eric VandenBosch made 24 saves for his second win of the season. Plymouth outshot the Dragons 3426, and killed off six of seven Lake Orion power play chances.

"Because of injuries, a lot of players were thrown into the fire and they responded," Vento said.

PLYMOUTH 4, FARMINGTON 3: On Friday, sophomore winger Josh Smith scored twice and added an assist, while Schultz added a goal

and two assists.
The Wildcats held a 3-2 lead in the third period when Tavierne added an insurance goal with 8:02 left in the game. Plymouth would need that goal as the Falcons narrowed the gap with a goal by Drake Cole with 2:27 left.

Sophomore netminder Jared Maddock, in his high school debut, made 25 saves to earn the victory. The Falcons outshot the Wildcats 28-19. Plymouth converted on two of five power play chances.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.

November

BOOK SIGNING

Time/Date: Noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24

Location: A. Mateja Church Supply, 30762 Ford Road, Garden City

Details: Pro-life activist Monica Migliorino Miller will sign her book, "Abandoned." The book is a firsthand account of the pro-life movement and includes stories of victory and defeat in sidewalk counseling, a look at the inner-workings of abortion facilities, and more. The book will be available for \$22, a discounted price

Contact: (734) 513-2950

CLOTHING BANK Time/Date: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 24 Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley

and Haggerty, Canton

Details: Free clothing and shoes to anyone in need Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

CONCERT:

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday,

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, located at Woodward Ave., and Albany, south of Nine Mile, in Ferndale

Details: Twelfth Night Singers, an a capella choral group, will present its Christmas concert. The singers, under the direction of Mimi Gass, will perform secular and sacred works, including several celebrating the joy and cheer of the Christmas season. A freewill offering will be taken. The group, now numbering 39 voices, was founded in 1980. Members perform in Renaissance costume at churches, for service agencies and institutions

Contact: (248) 544-4631 **THANKSGIVING SER-**

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, located at 12 Mile and Farmington

Road in Farmington Hills **Details:** The church invites the community to attend this Thanksgiving Day eve service

Contact: (248) 553-3380 THANKSGIVING SER-

Sue Mance, (right) Twelfth Night Singers' alto and costume maker, checks costumes of the group's three new members, from left, Allen Hyland of Berkley, and Tom Lapadat and Brent Walker, both of Windsor, Ontario. The group, which also includes Judy and David Caddy of South Lyon and James Roach of Novi, will sing Sunday, Nov. 25, in

VICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The Rev. Gregory Gibbons will preach on the theme "Pray, Praise and Give Thanks

Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

THANKSGIVING SER-VICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Nov. 21 Location: St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 12 Mile,

Details: Anyone interested in joining the mass choir that will sing during this interfaith service, should arrive no later than 6 p.m. Food and financial offerings will be collected for Forgotten Harvest

Contact: (248) 557-5430; www.liftupsouthfield.org

December

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 9 Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 31st annual concert featuring the St. Aidan Adult and Children's Choirs, and the St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble. Minimum donation is \$5, along with two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go toward food baskets for the needy

Contact: (734) 425-5950

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for seniors and students, 12 and over, free for children under 12

Contact: www.detroitlutheransingers.com

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8

Location: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Birmingham

Details: Bernard Woma Ensemble performs on African percussion instruments, bridging Western orchestral music with the rhythms of African dance. Admission is a suggested donation of \$20 and will include the concert, followed by desserts, wine and conversation with the performers

Contact: (248) 647-2380

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 **Location:** Faith Covenant

Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills **Details:** Detroit Lutheran Singers perform. Tickets are

\$10 general admission, \$7

for seniors and students, 12 and over, free for children under 12 Contact: www.detroitlu-

theransingers.com

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday,

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia Details: Jan Krist will

perform. The church is partnering with the Detroit Area Diaper Bank for the performance and is encouraging guests to bring infant or adult diapers to the concert for donation to the Bank. Admission is a suggested \$10 donation at

Contact: (734) 425-2800; www.trinitychurchoflivonia.

COOKIE WALK

the door.

Time/Date: Doors open at 10 a.m. with an early bird

sale starting at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 15

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: 6th annual cookie walk will offer cookies at \$7.50 per pound, along with other baked goods. Early bird admission is \$2

Contact: (734) 427-2290 **GRIEF SUPPORT**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3

Location: Room C-319 of

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, just west of Haggerty, in Northville; park in the "C" parking lot

Details: "Hope for the Holidays" seminar is for adults who are grieving and for those who would like to help them. The seminar will include a "Time of Remembrance" candle lighting

ceremony Contact: New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

DOMINICK, **JOSEPHINE**

Age 88, November 18, 2012. Beloved mother of Patricia (Bill) Jordan, Marlene (Bob) Smith, Sandy (Dave) Woodruff, Kathy (Steve) Kent, and Cheryl Roberts. Loving Grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of 11. She was deeply loved and will be dearly missed. Visitation Friday 2-8 pm with a 7pm Rosary. Funeral services Saturday 10 am at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (Between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to Angela Hospice.

www.santeiufuneralhome.com

KIELING, **PATRICIA** A long-time resident of Livonia died on November 15, 2012 at the age of 46. Patti is the loving wife of Max and the beloved mother of Melani Elizabeth, Mikala Elayne and Madilynn Emma. She is also survived by her parents Donald and Emma, brother Donald Jr., sister Cassandra and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Friends may visit Patti's family during a visitation in her honor on Friday November 23, 2012 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile in Livonia, Michigan 48152. Visitation will be from 1 pm until 4 pm in the afternoon, then 5 pm until 8 pm that same evening. Her funeral ceremony will be on Saturday November 24, 2012 at 11 am at the funeral home with visitation starting at 10 am. Harry J. Will is located on the north side of W. Six Mile Road, east of I-275 and Newburgh Road. Patti's family asks that attendees of her visitation and funeral service wear something with pink on it. Her family kindly suggests that MI, 48150. Interment to be private for family members, at memorials be made in her honor to the Michigan Cancer Research Great Lakes National Cemetery Fund. For more information, or in Holly, MI at a later date. Famto share a memory with Patti's ily requests all donations please family, please visit: be made to: D.A.V. Chapter 114, www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia,

LOWELL G. Age 84, of Livonia,

McKEEHAN,

passed away November 19th, 2012. Born Feb. 13th, 1928. in Rockholds, Whitley County. KY. Husband of Mary M. McKeehan, beloved father of Brenda (Harold) Todd, McKeehan, (Donna) McKeehan, and was predeceased by youngest son Raymond "Ray" McKeehan in 2004. Survived by sisters by sisters Azalene (Elmer - dec.) Teague of Chattanooga, TN, Wilma (Harold) Faulkner of Williamsburg, KY, and Joy (James - dec.) McCormick of Hendersonville, TN. Predeceased by brother William "Bill" McKeehan (Freddie Mae - dec.) of Detroit, in 2008. Also survived by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Mr. McKeehan proudly served his country in the Korean War, and received the Purple Heart military award for injuries sustained. He was a lifelong mem-ber of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Masons. His very active D.A.V. affiliation included serving as the Michigan State Commander for the term 1992-1993, National Executive Committeeman for the 10th District (Michigan) 1994-1996, and as a National Service Officer. Mr. McKeehan also served as a Board Member on the Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund for several honorary Kentucky Colonel by the Governor and Secretary of State of Kentucky, and also enjoyed membership with the Kentuckians of Michigan social organization for many, many years. Memorial service to be held Sunday, 11-25-2012, at 1:00 P.M., at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 114 Hall, 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia,

WILKIE, **DAVID SEATTER**

Age 66, November 18, 2012 Beloved husband of Linda. Loving father of David (Amy Jo) and Michael (Julie). Dear grandfather of Jacob, Nicholas, Jessica, Wyatt and future granddaughter Libby Lou. Dear brother of Leonard (Maureen) and Irene (Donald) McDougall. David was a U.S. Navy Vietnam Veteran and 30 year veteran of the Livonia Police Department. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Tuesday from 1 p.m. until Funeral Service at 7 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to DAV. Please share a memory of David at:

www.rggrharris.com.

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PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. · Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia · South of Six Mile Road

Nursery provided · www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

For Information

regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247

or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

ENTERTAINMENT



Wayne County Lightfest features a drive-through light show in Westland.

Mark your calendar for these holiday activities

It's time to get into the holiday spirit. Here's a sampling of local displays and shows:

Community

• See more than 70 Christmas trees through Jan. 2, 2013 at the Walk of Trees in Kellogg Park, in downtown Plymouth. Gingerbread houses will be on display at local businesses from Nov. 23-Dec. 23. Vote for your favorite house and be entered into a drawing for gift certificates. www. plymouthmich.org.

• Northville's Winter Market will run noon-8 p.m. Dec. 1 and noon-4 p.m. Dec. 2, in downtown Northville. The event will feature a carousel, ice carvings, greens market, fine art and craft booths, visits with Santa, and more. For more information visit www. downtownnorthville.com.



Jim Moll (left) and Keith Firstenburg, both of Farmington Hills, rehearse "1940's Radio Hour" at the Farmington Players Barn.

• Holly Days runs 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1 in downtown Farmington. A greens and gifts market will be held at the Sundquist Pavilion. See free movies at the Civic Theater and watch a tree lighting at the Warner Mansion. See Santa, ice carving, make holiday crafts and more. www. downtownfarmington.org.

Historical

 Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village in Dearborn runs 6:30-10 p.m. Dec. 1, 7-8, 14-16, 18-23 and 26-27, at the Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Historical buildings and houses will be decorated for the holidays. The event also features ice skating, carousel rides, live entertainment, horse-drawn carriages and Model T cars, along with Santa and his reindeer. Tickets are \$17 for adult members and \$12.75 for youth members; \$20 for non-member adults and \$15 for non-member youth. Get tickets by calling (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenry-

ford.org.
• Plymouth Historical Museum is all decked out for a "A Dickens of a Christmas," 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 22, at the Museum, 155 S. Main,

Plymouth. The exhibit celebrates the life of Charles Dickens. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, 6-17. An open house, with craft and bake sales, runs 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 with free admission. Call (734) 455-8940 for more information.

Lights

• Wayne County Lightfest runs 7-10 p.m. everyday (except Dec. 25) through Dec. 31. See holiday light displays along Hines Drive in Westland. Cost is \$5 per vehicle. Enter Lightfest at 7651 Merriman, in Westland. (734) 261-1990

Music

• The Livonia Symphony presents "Holiday Happenings" 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at Clarenceville High School, located on Middlebelt, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile in Livonia. The show will feature dancers from Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance, the Livonia Civic Chorus and members of the Livonia Youth Symphony. Tickets are \$20 and \$10 for students. www.livoniasymphony.org.

• The Madrigal Chorale (formerly the Madrigal Chorale of Southfield) will present its holiday concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1 at Old St. Mary's Church, 646 Monroe, at St. Antoine in Greektown, Detroit. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$25 for reserved seating. Tickets are \$10 for student groups of 10 or more. For tickets, call (248) 804-1377; e-mail to yourmcs@yahoo.com; visit mscnotes.org.

• The Fort Street Chorale will perform Handel's Messiah, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, in historic Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort, at Third, in downtown Detroit. Tickets are \$20 for general admission. Group rates and patron seating also are available. Free, secure parking. Call (313) 961-4533 or go to www.fortstreet.

org.
• Canton Concert Band's annual Christmas show will be 7 p.m.
Dec. 9, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. Tickets are \$10. Buy online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater.

• Farmington Community Band performs its holiday concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at Harrison High School, 29995 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Admission is free. Visit www.fcbmusic.org.

• BeckRidge Chorale will present its 40th annual holiday concert, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. Tickets are \$16. For tickets visit www. beckridgechorale.org or call (888) 459-4887.

Accessible opera

New theater company stages holiday show

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Noelle Jacquez wants to make opera accessible and appealing to all ages.

"I'd say if you've gone to opera before and didn't have the best experience, try again. Hopefully you'll find you do like it."

The Plymouth woman says opera can seem "magical" with just the right mix of costume, set, song and story — and she knows just where to find it.

A little more than six months after founding the Main Street Opera Theatre, Jacquez and her cast and crew will stage their first opera, Gian Carlo Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors for one day, Saturday, Nov. 24, on the Village Theater stage in Canton.

Jacquez will sing the part of Amahl's mother. Francisco Fiori of Ann Arbor, a member of the Ann Arbor Boy Choir, will play Amahl. Other performers include professional singers, university students and graduates, a teacher, choir members and a few high school students. Jacquez' father, Albert Jacquez of Plymouth, a former member of the 1960s-era rock band, Savage Grace, takes on the role of the Page.

Jacquez began auditioning singers for her new theater in September, after securing the Village Theater at Cherry Hill for the upcoming show.

"Jennifer Tobin (Canton arts coordinator) was so helpful and excited about an opera company in our area. Our mission was different than any other company she had worked with."

Jacquez said Amahl and the Night Visitors is an "excellent choice" for the theater's debut because it's a one-act opera sung in English. It's also just 50 minutes long.

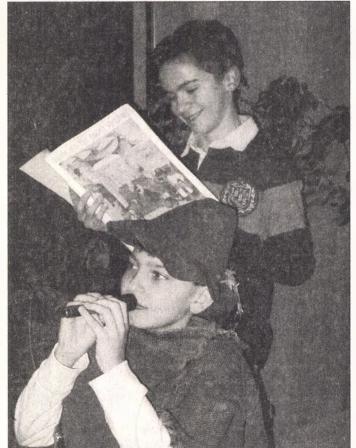
"Adults definitely will enjoy this show. Seniors also," she said. "All of our children's shows will be in English. I don't think we'd ever do a show that is not accessible to the entire family. That's our goal, it's accessible to everyone."

Opera student

Jacquez began singing opera while in high school at Interlochen. She initially planned to study musical theater, but the program was filled. She switched to the opera program, received a scholarship and "from that point on it was opera."

She earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. and took graduate classes in voice performance from Indiana University. She returned to Michigan in 2007, completed graduate degree requirements in foreign language — French, German and Italian — and attained her master's degree in voice performance last year from Indiana U.

She teaches private voice and piano lessons and performs at the Eagle Tavern during Greenfield Village's annual Holiday Nights program. She sang last year



Francisco Fiori, (foreground), a singer with the Ann Arbor Boy Choir, plays Amahl and John Paul Boudreaux is his understudy, in the Main Street Opera Theatre production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Boudreaux also sings with the Old St. Patrick's Boy Choir.



The cast of the opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," rehearses for two performances, Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill in Canton.

with the Michigan Opera Theatre and has worked backstage at the Arbor Opera Theatre. She also sings in the choir and participates in shows at Northridge Church in Plymouth.

Community

"It's been a long time coming, thinking about it and wondering what path to take to be a singer," she said, describing her journey from student to opera theater founder. "I still have a strong community connection. As an opera singer you travel a lot. It's hard to have a family and a connection to the community."

Her path became clear after an airplane crash in 2006 killed several music students she knew while at Indiana University. The tragedy showed how "short and unexpected life can be."

"That's when I moved home and decided how to incorporate opera into my life. It was clear to me I wanted to have a family and be more connected to family. I had always thought about having my own company to do shows that I feel passionate about, and to work with kids...having them experience how fun opera can be."

She hopes to stage another opera in the summer and

MAIN STREET OPERA THEATRE

What: A new opera company in Plymouth will present "Amahl and the Night Visitors" for one day only When: 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24

Where: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

Details: The one-act opera tells the story of Amahl, a poor, handicapped boy, who lives with his mother in a village on the road to Bethlehem. When the three kings following the star in the East seek shelter for the night, the lives of Amahl and his mother are changed forever. The show is 50 minutes and is aimed at all ages Tickets: \$12 for youth, \$17 for seniors and \$20 for adults. They've available at (734) 394-5300, ext. 3 and at http://www.canton-mi.org/

involve high school students as interns in the program.

villagetheater/performance_

glance.aspx

"One of our big goals is to get young people involved in all aspects."

For more information about Main Street Opera Theatre, visit www.mainstreetoperatheatre.org

Two Muses Theatre presents "Greetings!" Nov. 23-Dec. 16 at the Barnes & Noble theater space in West Bloomfield. The cast includes Angela Kay Miller, (left, top row) and Stephen Blackwell; Jan Cartwright, (left, middle row) and Henry Nelson and Richard Payton, (front row).

Will he win?



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY-ABC

Steve Carpenter, a 2004 Livonia Stevenson High School graduate, appears with Meredith Vieira in an episode of the game show, "Who Wants to Be a Mil ionaire." The show will be broadcast locally at noon, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, on WWJ (CBS). Carpenter, the son of David and Linda Carpenter of Livonia, is a 2007 Michigan State University graduate who teaches Spanish at Simeon Career Academy in Chicago, III. He also volunteered for two years in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua. If he wirs big on the show, he plans to get contact lenses, visit the dentist, travel to Spanish-speaking countries and buy his parents a motor home. For more about the show, visit www.million-

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Overnight Breakfast Casserole

1/4 cup butter, melted 1 cup (4 ounces) cheddar cheese, shredded

1 cup (4 ounces) mozzarella cheese, shredded

½ cup onion, chopped

1/2 cup red pepper, chopped

2 cups milk

Pepper to taste

1/4 cup bacon bits

¹/₄-inch pieces. In greased 13-inch by 9-inch baking dish, layer half the English muffin cubes and half the cooked sausage. Repeat layers. Drizzle with

salt and pepper. Pour over casse-

refrigerate overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Uncover and bake at 350°F for 45 to 50 minutes, or until knife inserted into

Let stand 5 minutes.

Sweet & Savory Bruschetta

Makes: 16 pieces Serves: 6 to 8

2 ripe tomatoes, diced

½ cup diced sweet pineapple

1/4 cup julienned fresh basil leaves, (about 4 large leaves)

1/4 cup julienned fresh mint leaves,

(or 1/2 teaspoon dried)

3 tablespoons pure maple syrup 1 12-ounce package Johnsonville Original Breakfast Sausage Patties

who like to graze throughout the morning.

Serves: 12

2 packages (12 ounces each) Johnsonville Original Breakfast Sausage Links

6 English muffins, cut into 1-inch cubes

12 large eggs

1/4 teaspoon salt

Cook sausage according to package directions. Cool slightly; cut into butter and top with cheese, onion and

In large bowl, combine eggs, milk, role. Sprinkle with bacon. Cover and center comes out clean.

4 ripe strawberries, stemmed and diced

Amazing Breakfast Muffin Cups



Overnight Breakfast Casserole

1 thin baquette, sliced

1/3 cup olive oil 8 slices fresh mozzarella, cut in half

Make bruschetta topping: In bowl, mix together tomatoes, pineapple, strawberries, basil, mint and maple syrup. Stir to combine. Cover and set aside.

Divide each of the 8 sausage patties in two and pinch edges to shape into smaller patties. Cook according to package directions, set aside. Cover to keep warm.

Place oven rack in top-third section of oven and set oven to broil. Slice baguette into 16 slices (about 1/2-inch

thick) and brush one side with olive oil. Place baguette slices, oiled side down, on a cookie sheet and broil for 1 to 2 minutes, or until golden. Watch carefully — they can go from not-quite-golden, to burned, in 15 seconds. Using tongs, flip slices over so oiled sides are up. Add 1 slice of mozzarella to each slice; broil 1 minute longer until cheese is melted and edges of baguette slices are beginning to look toasted.

Transfer to a serving platter or individual plates. Top each with 1 small sausage patty. Spoon bruschetta topping over each, allowing some to spill over. Serve immediately.

Breakfast Pizza

Makes: 12 to 16 pieces Serves: 6 to 8

1 package (12 ounces) Johnsonville

Maple Syrup Breakfast Sausage Links

1 tube (8 ounces) refrigerated crescent rolls 1 cup refrigerated or frozen

hash brown potatoes, thawed 1 cup (4 ounces) cheddar cheese, shredded

4 large eggs

1/4 cup milk 1/4 teaspoon dried basil

1 dash cayenne pepper

½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated Place sausage on a 15 by 10- by 1inch baking pan. Bake at 375°F for 15 to 20 minutes or until sausage is **no** longer pink, turning once; drain and

slice into 1/2-inch coins. Unroll crescent roll dough; separate into eight triangles. Arrange on an ungreased 12-inch pizza pan, placing points to the center. Press seams together and press over the bottom and up the sides of pan to form a

Top with hash browns, sausage and cheddar cheese.

Combine eggs, milk and spices; pour over cheese. Sprinkle with Par-

mesan cheese. Bake at 375°F for 20 to 25 minutes, or until a knife inserted near center comes out clean.

Amazing Breakfast Muffin Cups

Makes: 12 muffin cups Serves: 12

3 cups hash browns, thawed

3 tablespoons melted butter

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper 12 links Johnsonville Original breakfast sausage

6 eggs

2 cups (8 ounces) shredded

4-cheese Mexican blend cheese 1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper

Fresh chives or green onions, chopped

In bowl, combine hash browns, butter, salt and pepper. Press mixture onto bottom and up sides of 12 greased muffin cups. Bake at 400°F for 12 minutes or until lightly browned.

Meanwhile, cook sausage according to package directions; cut into ½-inch pieces. Divide sausage among muffin cups. Combine eggs, cheese and bell pepper. Spoon over sausage. Sprinkle with chives. Bake for 13 to 15 minutes or until set.

Option: This recipe can be doubled to make Jumbo Breakfast Muffin Cups. Press hash brown mixture into 12 greased jumbo muffin cups. Bake crust for 12 minutes. Fill cups and bake 22 to 24 minutes or until set.

Courtesy of Family Features

Realtor of the Year 'flattered, humbled' by industry honor

By Julie Brown O&E Staff Writer

Sara Lipnitz of SKBK Sotheby's International Realty, Birmingham, has been named Realtor of the Year by the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors. She joined SKBK in early 2002.

"It wasn't even on my radar. It wasn't even something that was in my conscience," she said of the Realtor of the Year kudos. She described herself as having respect for others who get awards in the field. Like many, she became active in the field

alongside others. "And then somehow along the journey you have this huge shift in your job," Lipnitz said. "It just becomes who you've become, and it's an interesting transformation."

She's honored to be tapped.

"It's lovely. I'm flattered, I was humbled."

She's been in the real estate field since part-time work in high school and at Michigan State University. "I have been involved in the industry since the early '90s. People. I like people," she said of her interest in real estate.

She does residential sales and rentals for Oakland County, especially the Birmingham-Bloomfield Woodward corridor

She's been married 11 years to Doug and the couple has son who's 3. They live in Birmingham.

"I think it's an exceptional community. There's an old-time sensibility of neighborhood," she said. "It offers the best of both worlds." She likes the nightlife and the arts/cultural attractions.

There are lots of things to get involved in." Lipnitz is active in her profession, including: 2012-13 president of Birmingham-Bloomfield Women's Council of Realtors; Michigan Association of Realtors vice chair for RPAC (Political Action Committee) Trustees; on the MAR Public Policy Committee; and on the GMAR Professional Standards Committee, as well as the Diversity Committee.

Next year, she has plans for additional involvement. She's a founder of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Realtors Network, and also does charitable work.

"I try to do some of that very quietly."

Lipnitz agrees with others in her profession that the housing market is showing encouraging signs.

"I think that inventory is low, which means prices are coming

\$162,000



Sara Lipnitz of Birmingham is this year's Realtor of the Year for the **Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors.**

to rise. Supply and demand," she said.

Lipnitz was praised for her dedication and professionalism by colleague Gary Reggish, broker/owner of Remerica United Realty of Novi.

"It's a big honor to win Realtor of the Year," Livonia resident Reggish said. "She always finds ways to carve out time for the Realtor cause and the Realtor initiative.'

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 13-17, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
4144 Berkeley Ave	\$75,000
6676 Brookshire Dr	\$155,000
45153 Fair Oaks Dr	\$157,000
2009 Liberty St N	\$307,000

2134 Preserve Cir W

327 Robert Ct 49600 Shenandoah Cir
7284 Wadebridge Dr
GARDEN CITY
28458 Bock St
31994 Cambridge St
28025 Warren Rd
LIVONIA
14013 Blackburn St
19014 Flamingo Blvd
18997 Gary Ln
14120 Golfview St
14070 Katie Ln
39214 Lapham Dr
18425 Melvin St

19758 Norwich Rd

\$238,00	0
\$310,00 \$314,00	
\$33,00 \$64,00 \$48,00	0
\$175,00 \$100,00 \$300,00 \$95,00 \$210,00 \$125,00 \$155,00 \$245,00	0 0 0 0 0

39355 Richland St	\$80,000
30764 Westfield St NORTHVILLE	\$143,000
16287 Brookwood Ct	\$225,000
16447 Horseshoe Dr	\$454,000
17871 Maple Hill Dr	\$263,000
49133 Parkshore Ct	\$880,000
46639 Pinehurst Cir	\$690,000
47216 Red Oak Dr	\$490,000
18080 Ridgeview Dr	\$565,000
48899 Running Trout Ln	\$433,000
44420 White Pine Cir W PLYMOUTH	\$580,000
550 Byron St	\$161,000
1658 Cassady Place Dr	\$168,000
1694 Cassady Place Dr	\$160,000

21610 River Ridge Ct \$180,000

1367 Elm St	\$370,000
950 Hartsough Ct	\$175,000
9118 Marc Trl	\$160,000
REDFORD	
17220 Ryland	\$30,000
19354 Seminole	\$10,000
WESTLAND	4 ,
8702 August Ave	\$67,000
30350 Avon Pl	\$100,000
32825 Merritt Dr	\$66,000
30833 Middlebury St	\$32,000
140 N Bryar St	\$23,000
1026 S Dowling St	\$103,000
38313 S Rickham Ct	\$61,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 30 to Aug. 3, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS 16155 Beverly Rd 21637 Riverview Dr	\$207,000 \$210,000
1573 Ashford Ln 1696 Hazel St 1748 Hazel St	\$500,000 \$147,000 \$205,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave \$299,000	Unit
897 Westchester Way BLOOMFIELD HILLS	\$650,000
2635 Rambling Way 2033 Eagle Pointe	\$176,000 \$157,000
4033 Fox Lake Dr 1877 Hickory Bark Ln	\$410,000 \$215,000
2401 Hickory Glen Dr 3011 Middlebury Ln	\$355,000 \$455,000
1162 Peveril Rd 1747 Saint Johns Ct BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	\$147,000 \$138,000
2566 Bloomfield Crossing 2887 Chestnut Run Dr	\$445,000 \$745,000
4041 Cranbrook Ct 4945 Dryden Ln	\$410,000 \$700,000
3750 Lakecrest Dr	\$910,000

5532 Lane Lake Rd 1843 Long Pointe Dr 2901 Masefield Dr 4867 Old Post Ct 2625 Pendleton Dr 1650 Trailwood Path 2048 W Maple Rd 645 Wilshire Dr 5159 Woodlands Ln COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	\$675,000 \$453,000 \$360,000 \$539,000 \$165,000 \$93,000 \$225,000 \$203,000
8298 Cascade St 4251 Charms Ct 4630 Cooley Lake Rd 5451 Huron Hills Dr 4458 Ravinewood Dr 8309 Tamarron Dr 1945 Tiley Cir 5056 Wavewood Dr 4755 White Tail Ct FARMINGTON	\$190,000 \$175,000 \$157,000 \$330,000 \$210,000 \$245,000 \$127,000 \$399,000 \$210,000
34201 Conroy Ct 32040 Grand River Ave U \$35,000 33740 Oakland St 22735 Power Rd	\$160,000 Jnit 4 \$340,000 \$133,000
FARMINGTON HILLS 28888 Appleblossom Ln 28801 Bella Vista Dr 30312 Essex Dr 38249 French Pond 21846 Gill Rd 22772 Glenmoor Hts	\$281,000 \$90,000 \$180,000 \$270,000 \$75,000

32194 Hull Ave

38680 Lancaster Dr

21535 Riverwalk Ct 32953 Thorndyke Ct 29850 W 12 Mile Rd # 509 28418 W Eight Mile Rd FRANKLIN	\$258,000 \$245,000 \$28,000 \$13,000	•
25080 Franklin Park Dr 32696 Ravine Dr MILFORD	\$350,000 \$268,000	
720 E Liberty St 2772 Katie Ln 708 Manor Dr 1605 Rowe Rd NOVI	\$83,000 \$214,000 \$68,000 \$173,000	
51171 Brompton 23025 Brookforest 50693 Chesapeake Dr 23005 Ennishore 44472 Gwinnett Loop 44476 Gwinnett Loop 28077 Hewes Ln 28101 Hewes Ln 27106 Ladbroke St 40592 Lenox Park Dr 26223 Mandalay Cir 51230 Mayfair Ter 21881 Meridian Ln 44471 Midway Dr 1740 Paramount St 25530 Portico Ln 24278 Saybrook Ct 27308 Sloan St 23525 Stonehenge Blvd 24727 Upland Hl	\$229,000 \$140,000 \$668,000 \$1202,000 \$149,000 \$155,000 \$155,000 \$230,000 \$230,000 \$215,000 \$215,000 \$216,000 \$290,000 \$119,000 \$115,000 \$234,000 \$234,000 \$234,000 \$234,000 \$234,000 \$234,000 \$200,000	\

28276 Wolcott Dr SOUTH LYON 22318 Brookfield Dr 1374 Chaise Ct 23830 Copperwood Dr W 53711 Edgewood Dr 53746 Edgewood Dr 53746 Edgewood Dr 57598 Hidden Timbers Dr 57797 International Dr 61131 Ladbrooke Dr 61131 Ladbrooke Dr 61141 Ladbrooke Dr 61160 Ladbrooke Dr 61191 Ladbrooke Dr 61191 Ladbrooke Dr 24837 Purlin Ct 61120 Saddlecreek Dr 52744 Trailwood Dr 52743 Lexington Pkwy 19201 Magnolia Pkwy 21034 Mahon Dr 27375 Red Leaf Ln 22511 S Bellwood Dr 25640 Southwood Dr WHITE LAKE 9377 Gale Rd 8973 Lakeview Dr 9145 Mandon Rd 164 Wildrose Dr 8215 Wildwood Ln \$169,000 \$320,000 \$25,000		
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WHITE LAKE 9377 Gale Rd 8973 Lakeview Dr 9145 Mandon Rd 164 Wildrose Dr \$280,000	SOUTHFIELD 27530 Abington St 28259 Evergreen Rd 27283 Lexington Pkwy 19201 Magnolia Pkwy 21034 Mahon Dr 27375 Red Leaf Ln 22511 S Bellwood Dr	\$133,000 \$29,000 \$68,000 \$31,000 \$35,000 \$45,000
	WHITE LAKE 9377 Gale Rd 8973 Lakeview Dr 9145 Mandon Rd 164 Wildrose Dr	\$65,000 \$20,000 \$35,000 \$280,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

\$30,000

Yule party

The Re.E.I.A. (Real Estate Investors Association) third annual Christmas party will be 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St., Southgate. Tickets are \$35 a person and checks should be mailed to c/o R.E.I.A., 2962 Fort St., Lincoln Park, MI 48146. Elections will also be held. For more, see the website, reiawaynecounty.org. The party will feature dinner and hors d'oeuvres.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures and what it takes to get started. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved. Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate is the presenter. It will

be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at (248) 782-7130 or e-mail june.quantum@ gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livo-

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. each first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Christmas party will replace the regular December meeting.

Any questions or concerns, call Wayde Koehler at (313) 277-4168.

Law may provide some relief

By Robert Meisner Guest Columnist

Q: My contract required the seller to build a three-family dwelling on my parcel and I was to obtain a mortgage commitment within 60 days of the signing of the contract. Either party could terminate the contract on the failure to obtain financing. Unfortunately, although the closing was set for four months hence, nothing was done for more than three years, that is, my dwelling was not built and the mortgage commitment was not obtained. The builder conveyed the property to an affiliated corporation and later notified me that the contract was terminated and returned the down payment. I want to sue for damages, claiming anticipatory repudiation by the seller based upon what my lawyer said. Do you think my lawyer is



Robert Meisner

Although that is a tough factual issue, in a similar case out of New York, the court ruled that

correct?

while a nonrepudiating party need not actually tender performance, he must be ready, willing and able to perform. The court believed that such a rule made common sense and that damages are not recoverable when they are not actually caused by either party's breach. That is, when the transaction would have failed and the damage would have been suffered, even if no breach had occurred. Of course, each case has to be decided on its facts and the particular case law in that particular state.

Q: Our board is considering implementing an "In-Unit Service Program" where unit owners can use association staff and materials for unit maintenance, repairs and services; there is a one-time fee to join. Do you think that this is a good idea?

A: In checking with other attorneys around the country, it is my view that several have indicated that this may well be a good idea, although, there are issues, of course. For example, if your association prices it to at least recover costs, it is potentially a great convenience and service to the owners. However, you should establish parameters in a board resolution, address liability issues and limit the services to the competencies of the staff. Also, depending upon your community, the people who do in-unit service should be separate from regular staff, so that the program does not interfere with the staff's regular duties. Moreover, in the end, it may be worth the effort and encourages preventative maintenance in areas such as HVAC units, hot water heaters, washing machine hoses and other high risk items. Also, it is a good idea to get a legal opinion from counsel because of the particular circumstances in your particular project which may vary from other's.

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

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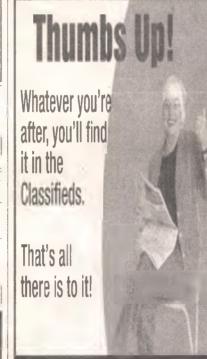
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Tangle
- Big horn
- 48 Dainty swallows
- 12 "Shogun'
- apparel 13 Fossey's
- friends 14 Pointed arch
- 15 Strings players 17 Kinks' tune of
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57 DEA operative

59 Lantern-jawed

- 1 Soft shoes 2 Help with a heist
 - 3 Mah-jongg piece Custom-make
 - 5 Raises a bet 6 — noire 7 Mineral
 - analysis 8 Long-faced
- OBIES LURCH VIANEE YDS TREK 10-24-11 © 2011 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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- biology 29 Truck mfr.
- 30 Mauna 31 911 responder
- 34 Pixie 37 Ball of fire
- 38 The Mustangs
- 40 Drill through 41 Eddie, in "Beverly Hills
- Cop" 43 Insurance
- giant 45 Indigo dye 46 Cast a ballot
- 47 Fifty-fifty 48 Smack a mosquito
- 50 Truckers' trucks No future -
- 52 Like breakfast dishes 55 Umbrage

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle

N Υ

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WORDS

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MOVES **CHECKERS** NUMBERS **PIECES** CLUE PLAY CONTAIN POWER PRETEND COUNTING CROSSWORD PUZZLE CRYPTOGRAM RECREATION DICE SCORE DIGITAL SCRAMBLE SEARCH DOWN SOLUTION **SPORTS** STRATEGY SUDOKU VIDEO WINNER

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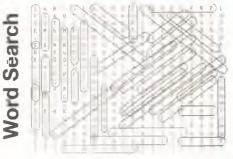
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