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Downtown 'Dash'

Downtown Plymouth merchants are taking part Thursday in the annual "Dashing Through the Stores" promotion designed as a "ladies night out" to give women, organizers say, a chance to "do some holiday shopping in Plymouth's unique shops and fill out wish lists for yourselves."

Several of Plymouth's restaurants will offer special drinks and appetizers for shoppers.

Participating retailers this include Agio Spa; Bella Mia; Candy Trail; Creatopia; Dazzling Daniela; Dearborn Jewelers; Eclectic Attic; Genuine Toy Co.; Gigi's Mode; Hands on Leather; Haven, Home Sweet Home; Isabella's Copper Pot; Kemnitz Fine Candies; Kilwin's; Lolayan; Magnolia Fresh Flower Market, Old World Olive Press; Opndohr; R.S.V.P.; Simply the Best; Sun & Snow; TranquiliTea and Yogurt Palooza.

The event also serves as a donation drive for the Plymouth Community United Way, which needs new hats, mittens, scarves and gloves. Donations can be made at any participating store.

City's new recreation master plan takes broad approach

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Want more ballfields in Plymouth, a weight room at the Community Cultural Center or a public swimming pool?

The city's new recreation master plan has all that — and much more — covered.

The updated five-year master plan, approved by a unanimous City Commission vote last month, is a broad outline of local parks and recreation wants, and a plan for adding offerings, improving facilities and building the community partnerships that have benefited the city's sports and leisure programs thus far.

Other ideas include a skateboard park, new bleachers at the ice rink, an indoor walking track, racquetball courts, park upgrades and more exercise classes for senior citizens.

"In a perfect world, this is what we would like to do," said Recreation Director Steve Anderson, who authored the plan with Assistant Director Lauren Misuraca. "You have to look at the whole spectrum of recreation for your community."

Paying for things on the "wish list," however, might be a different story. But an updated recreation plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for communities to stay eligible for grants that might provide such funding, Anderson said.

"You don't know what's going to come down the pike from the federal or state government that will be a grant" that could benefit a specific demographic group, such as seniors or young people, he said. Therefore, as wide an outlook as possible is needed, he said.

The DNR uses the master plan as a "filtering device" and to judge local motivation when communities apply for such grants, he said.

"If a community doesn't have a master plan on file, the odds

Please see RECREATION, A2

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Young players take part in Hockey Night at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Santa letters

Dear Kids: Please don't forget Santa. He wants to hear from you in time for the holidays. He's expecting so many letters that he has asked the *Plymouth Observer* to help.

Please send your letter and a photo of yourself to the editor at bkadrich@hometownlife.com. You can also mail them attention of Brad Kadrich, *Plymouth Observer* editor, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The *Observer* will publish letters and photos before the holidays. That means we need to receive your letter by noon, Friday, Dec. 14.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Olivia Nasso purchased fruit to go along with her lunch brought from home.

Food program cooks up a success story

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

There was some hesitation a few years ago when the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education decided to bring its food service program back in-house, ditching the contract with a popular vendor in the process.

Based on the most recent numbers, the decision continues to prove to have been a good one.

The program saw a 2-percent increase in breakfast participation, a 9-percent hike at lunchtime and fed students more than 1.7 million meals in 2011-12, according to statistics provided by the district's director of food services, Kristen Hennessey.

The program brought in more than $5.3 million last year.

"This has been a raging success," board secretary Judy Mardigian said. "I'm in awe."

The program has grown in scope and numbers over the last few years. Last year, Plymouth-Canton entered a cooperative arrangement with Livonia Public Schools. Hennessey now runs that district's food service program as well, with more than 200 food service and nutrition professionals between the districts.

"Last year we took on the challenge of Livonia schools," Hennessey said. "There weren't always easy times, but we've made great strides there. And we did it with great support from a wonderful staff back here. I had a lot of managers step up and become mentors."

Please see FOOD, A4

Kettle drive needs ringers

12
2

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

More than 400 bell-ringers have already hit the sidewalks and strip malls, but additional volunteers are needed as the local Salvation Army's Red Kettle drive picks up steam.

Meanwhile, holiday-time requests for assistance in the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps service area, which includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township, are shaping up to be similar to last year, when about 550 families were helped, corps officials said.

The Plymouth Corps's Red Kettle drive as of early last week had raised just over $43,000, about 19 percent of the goal of $225,000, according to Sandy Kollinger, the charity's volunteer and special events coordinator. The Plymouth Corps's overall fundraising goal for the Christmas season is $315,000 — Red Kettle donations being a major share of that — and some $56,000, nearly 18 percent, had been collected as of Nov. 27.

Please see RINGERS, A3

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Volunteer Grace Stanczak rings for the Salvation Army kettle drive. The Plymouth resident will ring several times this season and says that she's happy to be able to give back to the community.

TAG time

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is now accepting nominations for students who wish to enroll in its TAG program for the 2013-14 school year. Nomination forms are available online at http://tag.pccs.k12.mi.us. All nominations must be submitted via completion of the online nomination form by 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14.

Help children have happy holiday season

Scoop the Newshound is asking Canton Township families to join the *O&E Media* toy drive to benefit youth served by Methodist Children's Home Society and Orchards Children's Services.

"Both organizations help protect abused and neglected children by providing housing, education and other services," said Choya Jordan, *O&E Media* marketing manager and project organizer. "Please consider donating a new unwrapped gift this year. Your gift will help brighten a youth's holiday season."

Donate a new unwrapped toy and you will receive a voucher for a free Buddy's four-square cheese pizza.

Drop off gifts at these *O&E Media* and partner locations:

• Plymouth Office and Distribution Center, 41304 Concept Drive (east of Haggerty between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads).

Please see HOLIDAY, A3

INDEX

Community Life B5
Crossword Puzzle C3
Education A4
Health B10
Homes C2
Jobs C1
Obituaries B10
Services C2
Sports B1
Wheels C3

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2013 Plymouth Ice Festival in the works

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

As the winter chill approaches, plans for the 2013 Plymouth Ice Festival are heating up.

The city's 31st ice festival is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 18-20 in Kellogg Park, The Gathering and on the streets of downtown Plymouth. Organizer Sam Walton said he is planning a bigger, more diverse show with more sculptures, more activities, and alternatives in case unseasonably warm temperatures make for short-lived ice carvings.

"It's all starting to happen and I'm looking forward not only to a great event but also some nice cold weather," said Walton, whose Signature Audio Group produces the show.

Walton noted that the festival was affected by above-freezing temperatures in two of the last three years.

For the next festival, Walton hopes to increase the winter sports activities to include ice skating and snowboarding as well as cross-country skiing, which was introduced in 2011.

He has tentative plans for an ice rink with synthetic ice — textured plastic panels treated with a nontoxic lubricant — in case of warmer weather. The popular cross-country skiing course will return, and a new snowboarding area is being planned. Walton introduced snowboarding for one recent festival, but said a better course is in the works.

Also being planned are an opening ceremony, live entertainment, collegiate ice-carving competitions and the Dueling Chainsaws speed-carving competition, expanded to eight carvers from four this year.

Walton said he also wants to improve the sheltered Hot Spot in The Gathering, where there will be refreshments, product demonstrations and a chance to meet with carvers and watch them at work.

Walton cleared a major hurdle last week when the remainder of the city's bill for the January 2012 festival was paid.

The bill, for city services such as cleanup and police protection, was paid in two installments, both in November, said City Manager Paul Sincock.

"We told them we weren't putting it on the agenda until" the bill was paid, Sincock said. The festival's permit request is on the City Commission's agenda for its next regular meeting on Monday.

Walton, who is seeking sponsorships to help pay for the ice festival, said he understands the city's position. He said the festival, since the Great Recession, has not benefited from some of the big corporate sponsorships it had in the past, but that he is working to restore its funding to that level.

"They have a reason to make sure their affairs are in order," Walton said of the city. "We want to work with the city to make sure the relationship continues to be amiable and positive for both of us."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Coaches lead players during 'Hockey Night' at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

RECREATION

Continued from page A1

of you getting a grant are virtually zero," Anderson said.

Research for the new master plan began early this year, when Anderson met with community groups and youth sports and recreation groups to seek their input. Many of the specific "wish list" items came from people active in those groups, which included youth sports leagues, the Plymouth Youth Advisory Commission and the Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

Anderson also took suggestions by phone from residents who weren't necessarily affiliated with any of the groups.

There are two other parts to the "wish list" — an outline of desired capital improvements to facilities and parks and a plan of action for the next five years. The action plan emphasizes community partnerships with other government entities and the private sector, improving facilities and programming, protecting natural resources, ensuring effective operations and seeking different funding sources.

Among the dozens of recreation wants listed, Anderson said, increasing the number of athletic fields would be the top priority.

"If you ask any sports organization what we need, that's going to be it," he said. Second on the list would be a public pool, he said.

The document also includes a demographic sketch of the community, a look at national recreation and leisure trends and an inventory of public parks and recreation facilities.

Mayor Dan Dwyer said he was impressed with the work.

"I think the most amazing part is the high quality of it when it's done internally by an already overworked staff," he said. The last recreation master plan was done with the help of an outside consultant; doing the latest one in-house saved an estimated $5,000 to $10,000.

Dwyer, who used to coach youth soccer and play basketball through a city recreation league, said he was struck by an estimate, in the demographics discussion, that the city's over-65 population will increase dramatically.

"We'd better get focused on leisure activities for an older crowd," Dwyer said.

The final version of Plymouth's parks and recreation master plan is expected to be posted on the city's website, www.ci.plymouth.mi.us, later this week. Click on the "Recreation & Parks" link.

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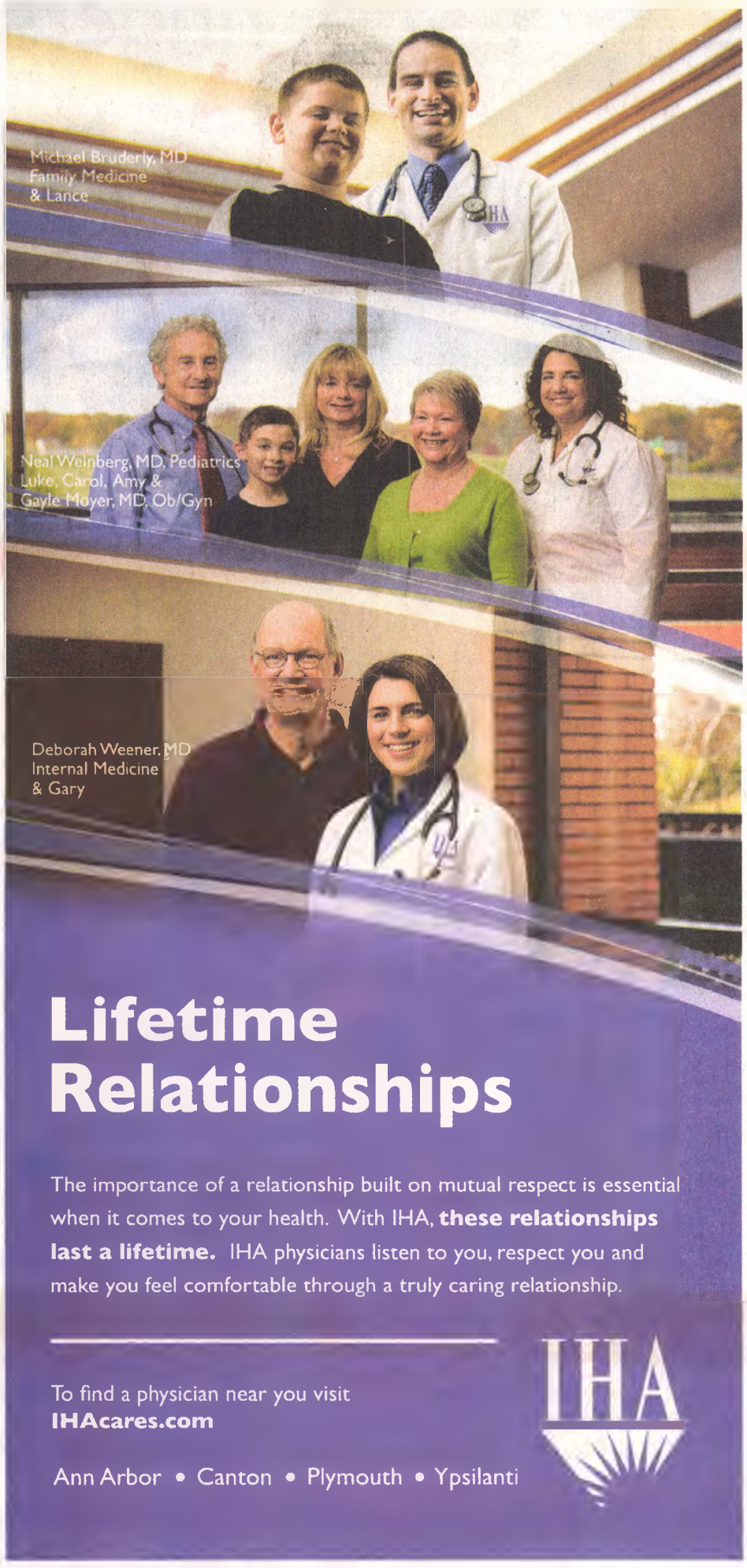
Tell us about your Christmas traditions

Got a favorite Christmas tradition? Maybe it's an annual caroling party or ethnic-inspired Christmas Eve supper, ornament-making with the kids or a cookie exchange with the neighbors. Perhaps you assist at a soup kitchen on Christmas day or volunteer at an animal shelter, head north to hit the slopes or south to bask in the sun. Whatever your holiday tradition is, we'd love to find out more.

Send us a few paragraphs about your Christmas tradition — include a photo if you'd like — and tell us why it's a mainstay in your holiday celebrating. We'll share it with readers in an upcoming *Observer* edition.

Include your name, phone number, email and city of residence. Emailed photos should be jpg attachments. Email to Sharon Dargay by Friday, Dec. 14, at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail them to her at 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226.



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Turkey Trot shatters fundraiser record

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton family's decade-old fight against epilepsy has shattered a one-day record by drawing more than 1,500 people to a 5K run that collected nearly $18,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

Canton father of three Michael Murray has released the record-breaking numbers from this year's 10th annual Turkey Trot for Epilepsy, an event initially started by Murray, his wife Terri and his cousin Dennis Murray, head cross country coach at Livonia's Ladywood High School.

In all, the event has now raised about $83,000 over the last decade.

Among the 1,500-plus people who attended this year, 1,288 either ran or walked the 5K path that started at Summit on the Park and wound through Heritage Park and Pheasant Run golf course. The event has steadily grown and receives support from groups such as Canton Leisure Services and the Madonna University women's varsity softball team.

"This year's attendance blew the (former) record by over 300," Michael Murray said.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who greeted crowds at the Summit, didn't seem surprised that Turkey Trot for Epilepsy continues to grow and draw runners and walkers from Canton and beyond.

"I think we have a lot of great, caring people," he said. "I think many people probably feel blessed with what they have and the good fortune and health they have had, and this is an opportunity to give back."

Michael Murray talks to the Turkey Trot crowd. Behind him are Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Trustee Pat Williams.

LaJoy commended runners and walkers of all ages and said he even saw families pushing baby strollers along the 5K path.

"It becomes a family event," he said. "It's fun, and it's a great lesson for the kids."

LaJoy commended the Murrays for starting the event.

The family started it after Michael and Terri Murray's son, Justin, started having epileptic seizures when he was only 4 years old. Now 15, Justin hasn't had seizures or taken medication since doctors at Cleveland Clinic removed a lesion from his brain.

Still, others, such as Michael Murray's first cousin, Bridget, who attended the Turkey Trot, continue to live with epilepsy, and the family now draws hundreds of supporters each year as they raise money to fight epilepsy, a chronic neurological condition that causes recurrent seizures.

For more information, go to www.epilepsymichigan.org or www.epilepsyfoundation.org.

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RINGERS

Continued from page A1

"We're just grateful to be living in such a generous community as Plymouth," said Maj. Keith Bailey, the Plymouth Corps director. Christmas time fundraising isn't just for assistance offered during the holidays, but accounts for between 30 percent and 40 percent of the annual budget, Bailey said.

Kettle locations

The Plymouth Corps has 25 Red Kettle locations in its service area; bell-ringers typically work two-hour shifts between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays up to Monday, Dec. 24.

Kollinger said that to have a bell-ringer at each kettle site, on a two-hour shift, during donation hours would require 125 people a day, or more than 4,000 for the entire season. Some bell-ringers work more than one shift during a season, however.

As of Friday, 397 individuals and groups had worked as bell-ringers. The number of people involved is actually higher, Kollinger said, as a church group volunteering for Red Kettle duty would be counted as one volunteer while perhaps bringing several individuals to the effort.

Kollinger expects Red Kettle donations, and the number of bell-ringers, to pick up as the season progresses.

"We usually get to the second week in December, we notice that our donations increase because we're getting closer to Christmas," and more volunteers step up as well, she said.

The Plymouth Corps also has countertop kettles inside two dozen businesses in its service area.

People interested in working as Red Kettle bell-ringers should call Kollinger at (734) 453-5464, ext. 24, or sign up through the website www.ringbell.org.

Gauging need

Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Corps's director of family and community ministries, said the corps has so far interviewed 375 families requesting Christmas time assistance. Applications are being taken through Friday.

Aren expects the number of families helped by the corps this season to be about the same as last season, when some 550 families in the area received Salvation Army assistance.

"I guess we're going to find out if the economy's really getting better," said Bailey, who is in his first Christmas season with the Plymouth Corps.

The corps increased reports from its clients of evictions and utility shutoffs, Aren said, and is also seeing increased need in the Plymouth area as compared to Canton or Belleville, which the corps also serves.

The corps this year was able to provide 275 area families with the ingredients for their Thanksgiving dinners.

Donations to the Plymouth Corps can be made at Red Kettle locations, through the website www.onlineredkettle.org/plymouth, or dropped off or mailed to The Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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HOLIDAY

Continued from page A1

• South Lyon Office, 101 N. Lafayette (corner of Pontiac Trail and Lafayette in downtown South Lyon).

• Southfield Chamber of Commerce, 24300 Southfield Road, Suite 101 (248) 557-6661 (from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays).

• The Birmingham Community House, 380 Bates Street, in downtown Birmingham (248) 644-5832 (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays).

All gifts must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7.

This is the second year the *O&E* has sponsored a toy drive to benefit these local organizations and help brighten the holidays for area children.

The Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford has been successfully helping children for 95 years, but right now foster children are in dire straits. The cost of caring for these children has increased, but state funding has not. In these hard economic times, these children need help now, more than ever.

Last year MCHS served more than 270 children through residential, foster care, adoption and literacy programs.

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For more information contact Choya Jordan via email at cbjordan@hometownlife.com.

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Sweep turns up no drugs at Park

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

The perception that drugs are a big problem at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park may have taken a hit this week after a sweep of some 1,200 cars in the Park's parking lots turned up no drugs.

The Wednesday sweep by Canton Police Department drug dogs turned up about a dozen "hits," where dogs alerted on vehicles, but subsequent searches produced no actual drugs, according to Erin MacGregor, the district's director of secondary education.

The only thing police found, according to MacGregor, was one piece of drug paraphernalia, for which the student to whom it was traced was suspended and ticketed by Canton police.

"I'm very encouraged by how well it went," MacGregor said. "Given the news your hear in the media about the prevalence of drugs with our teens, I was extremely encouraged and very proud of our students that we don't have drugs on campus."

The results would seem to fly in the face of attitudes about the Park. In a study conducted last year by EpicMRA, 17 percent of parents surveyed believed drug use to be "very" widespread, while another 39 percent thought it was "somewhat" widespread.

The percentage of students who thought that was 27 and 38 percent, respectively, while 8 percent of teachers thought it was "very" widespread, and 34 percent thought it was "somewhat" widespread.

MacGregor said the lack of drugs found in students' cars should help fight the perception drugs are a big problem at the Park.

"Any time you can put actual data behind a perception to possibly refute that perception, that is what satisfies me," MacGregor said. "Perception is reality in a lot of ways. But if you can conduct a process that gets you actual data that seems, in my opinion, to show it isn't as widespread."

MacGregor pointed out district officials aren't naive enough to believe drug use doesn't go on among Park students. But in addition to the sweeps, administrators are using other ways to battle it, including a partnership with Growth Works.

"It doesn't mean we don't have more work to be done, because we do have situations where students have either brought or used drugs, so there is work to do," he said. "We're going to continue to use the strategy to deter drugs being on campus and also educate the students in terms of why we cannot do this. If we find out a student is engaged in drug use, there are consequences, but we also engage that student in an educational piece."

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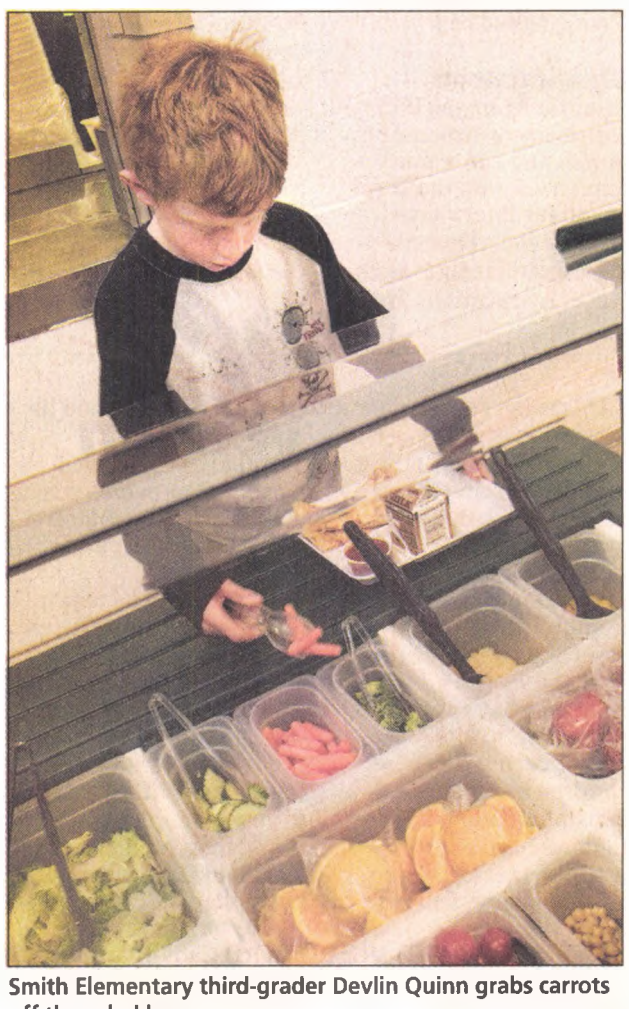

Smith Elementary third-grader Devlin Quinn grabs carrots off the salad bar.

FOOD

Continued from page A1

All 16 of Plymouth-Canton's elementary schools have now achieved success in the Healthier U.S. School Challenge, the district got a $2,000 grant for the breakfast program at Field Elementary, and finished the first year of a collaborative arrangement with Our Lady of Good Counsel school.

The department is not only feeding students at the schools, but it's catering business has also picked up. With increases to outside groups such as the MEA and other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park groups, plus a hike in a la carte sales, the district's "other revenue" numbers went up 13 percent.

The program's performance is allowing administrators to pour money back into the program, rather than having to take it out of the district's general fund. For instance, Hennessey spent some $40,000 to replace equipment at Eriksson, Allen and Hulsing elementaries, as well as both Salem and Canton high schools.

"One of the smart things we're doing is putting our fund balance back into equipment," Hennessey said.

Trustee Mark Horvath pointed out that most of what Hennessey reported related right back to the kids the program feeds.

"The measures of success are customer-focused," Horvath said. "You've got great people, and if you give them great training they can really stay focused on the customer. I think the staff is doing great things for us."

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Yes, that is pizza on Charlie Hunley's plate, but it's a healthier version with whole grain crust, low-salt sauce and lower-fat cheese. Behind Charlie is Isabel Rosenberg. They are both fifth-graders at Smith Elementary School.

Fourth-grader Dakota Miller shows a kid can still get chocolate milk, but it's fat-free.

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www.Waltonwood.com

'Warming Hearts' uses technology to help needy

Area residents are invited to use cell phone technology and social media to help make a difference this holiday season during Community Financial Credit Union's "Warming Hearts & Homes" program.

Community Financial announced the program today, which will contribute $30,000 to local nonprofit organizations that help people in need stay warm through the winter.

The program, running from December 3 through December 21, encourages people to:

• Like Community Financial on Facebook at www.LikeCFCU.org

• Tweet Community Financial using "#CFCUWarms" or

• Text "CFCUwarms" to 70 000 on their cell phone.

Each week, Community Financial will donate $25 for every Like, Tweet or Text, to The Heat And Warmth Fund (THAW), local food pantries or the Salvation Army's Coats For Kids Program, up to $10,000 each.

For more information on Warming Hearts & Homes and other Community Financial information, visit www.cfcu.org.

'Motor City Shakedown' author to speak at Madonna

Two-time Michigan Notable Author D. E. Johnson will present his book *Motor City Shakedown* at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Madonna University Library, as part of the school's "Meet the Author" series.

Set in Detroit in 1911, Motor City Shakedown is a tale involving crime, mystery, and history. The sequel to Johnson's first Michigan Notable Book, *The Detroit Electric Scheme*, this novel follows protagonist Will Anderson as he deals with the murder of his best friend; placing him in the center of Detroit's criminal world of corruption and mobsters.

Johnson, a graduate of Central Michigan University, has been writing fiction for the majority of his life, but he didn't publish his first novel until 2010. His books have been recognized by the Library of Michigan, Booklist, and the House of Crime and Mystery.

The third and most recent book of the series is also earning positive reviews. Detroit Breakdown takes the characters to the Eloise Insane Asylum located near Detroit.

"Meet the Author" events at Madonna are free and open to the public. Contact the Madonna University Library at (734) 432-5703 or visit http://library.madonna.edu/ for more information.

Slashing suspect to face trial

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton defendant accused of slashing another man with a knife outside the Sam's Club store on Ford Road has been scheduled for a jury trial starting Feb. 26 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Because he is charged as a habitual offender, 44-year-old Harry Robinson Jr. could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted of assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder) and felonious assault.

The charges followed allegations Robinson attacked 41-year-old Theodore Sheets of Saline and cut him with a knife during a dispute outside the Sam's Club. Sheets had an injury that required at least 20 stitches near his left wrist.

Robinson

In ordering Robinson in October to stand trial, even 35th District Judge James Plakas called the situation "bizarre" and indicated he believes there was more to the situation than what was said during Robinson's preliminary examination.

Robinson is free on bond as he awaits the outcome of his case.

Sheets accused Robinson of spitting in his direction, and Sheets testified during the earlier hearing that he asked Robinson if there was a problem.

A surveillance video showed the two men outside the store, with Sheets near the building and Robinson on the parking-lot side of a two-lane driveway. In the video, Sheets crosses the driveway and the two are close for a couple of seconds — at which point Sheets testified he was cut.

Even before the hearing, defense attorney Marc Lakin had said Robinson was defending himself. Lakin alleged Robinson "was victimized, harassed, spit on, name-called and then threatened" by a man much larger than he is.

Sheets wasn't charged.

Staff Writer Matt Jachman contributed to this story.

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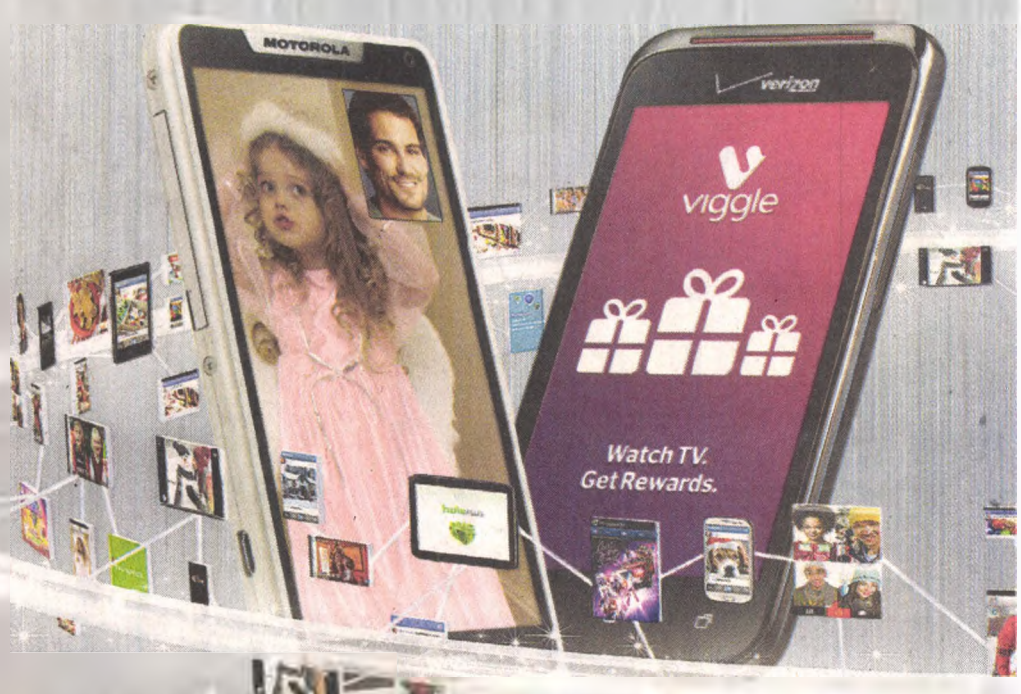

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Volunteers needed to help with TSA's Bank Day

Volunteers are needed to help sell cards that will put a hot meal on the table of home-bound seniors on Christmas Day.

Each year The Senior Alliance holds Bank Day in which volunteers sell $5 holiday cards at banks around the area. The $5 represents the cost for delivering a holiday meal to a home-bound senior, and the card, signed by the donor, is included with the holiday meal.

This year The Senior Alliance will hold Bank Day on Friday, Dec. 14.

The seniors receive food through the Meals on Wheels program which provides a hot meal Monday through Friday. However, the program does not operate on holidays. The Senior Alliance Holiday Meals Program was created to provide hot, delivered meals to home-bound seniors on four holidays out of the year, including Christmas.

The Holiday Meals Program is financed entirely through private donations, as well as various fund-raising activities, such as Holiday Card Program, Bank Day and The Senior Alliance's Annual Golf Classic.

To volunteer on Bank Day, or to make a donation to SAHM, contact Heather Pinage at hpinage@tsalink.org or (734) 727-2063.

The Senior Alliance (TSA) is a 501(c)(3) organization. Its mission is to help older adults remain as independent as possible within the community of their choice. TSA provides services free of charge to thousands of senior citizens and caregivers across southern and western Wayne County, including the home delivered meals, holiday meals to home-bound seniors, care management, information and assistance.

The Senior Alliance, with offices at 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne, provides services to western Wayne County, including the communities of Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Livonia, Redford and Northville. For more information, call (800) 815-1112.

The cast of Barefoot Productions brings Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" to the stage Dec. 8-9.

Barefoot brings Dickens classic to the stage

Barefoot Productions of Plymouth presents its fourth annual performance of "A Christmas Carol, a Narrative."

Four years ago, artistic director and founder Craig A. Hane sat down with the Dickens classic and scripted it to be performed as a reading of the original prose. The scripting, or voicing, was originally determined by Hane, knowing the specific actors of Barefoot Productions that would be performing the piece.

"Knowing who I would be working with, helped in phrasing and scripting the different characters represented in the story as well as the narrative," Hane said. "I personally cast the show with actors I had directed on the stage in the past. It became a very personal project."

Something must have worked out right, for now members of the original cast return four years later to pick up their scripts again and read. Education seems to be the general theme threading through the "A Christmas Carol" cast. Returning cast members include David Alexander of Redford as Scrooge. Alexander has been a teacher of theater/instrumental music and literature for 17 years and presently teaches at Fordson High School in Dearborn.

Also returning are Michael Corliss of Livonia, Jonothan Wennstrom of Canton, Elizabeth Whitcomb of Livonia and Nathan Corliss of Canton and Christine Steves of Woodhaven, a founding member of Barefoot Productions and the resident costume designer.

This year's performance will introduce a new narrator, Maureen Paraventi of Canton, to the cast.

"The cast's performance and voices meld together as one voice. We want to give the impression that we are reading a bed-time story to the audience," Hane said.

To extend the comfort of the atmosphere there, as always, will be mulled wines from the Vintner's Canton Winery, teas from TranquiliTea, and pastries and cookies for the audience.

Barefoot Productions' "A Christmas Carol, a Narrative," takes place 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Ticket prices have been cut in half this year to $16 general/$14 students and seniors. Tickets are available by calling the Barefoot Box Office at (734) 560-1493 or visiting their website at www.justgobarefoot.com.

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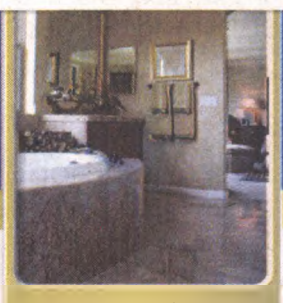
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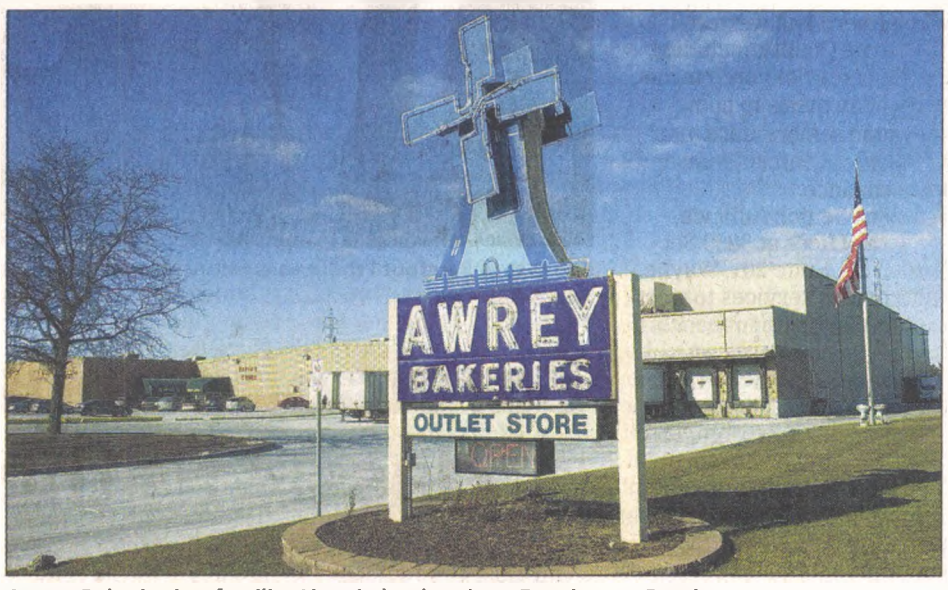
'Pray for us,' says 33-year Awrey worker

Company seeks buyer, investor to prevent shutdown

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer



Awrey Bakeries is a familiar Livonia landmark on Farmington Road.

Brian Corrigan, a union steward at Awrey Bakeries, is taking things one day at a time as the 100-year-old Livonia company seeks to find a buyer or investor to prevent a permanent closing early next year.

"The last year's been rough," said Corrigan, a Garden City resident who has worked there for 33 years washing pans and doing general cleaning.

A letter was delivered to United Distributive Workers, Council 30, Thursday by certified mail giving written notice that Awrey could lay off about 150 workers — and possibly shut down — due to economic conditions unless a buyer or investor is found, according to published news reports.

By federal law, Awrey must give workers — or their union representatives — at least 60 days' notice.

Joe Silva, president of United Distributive Workers, Council 30, could not be reached for comment Friday. Awrey CEO Bob Wallace did not return a reporter's call Friday.

The company has 157 union employees and 46 non-union workers, according to the notice signed by Wallace, and will "fully and permanently close" during a 14-day period between Jan. 27 and Feb. 9 unless a buyer or investor is found, the news reports said.

Corrigan said the plant was quiet Friday as employees went about doing their jobs. "No one's doing anything stupid," he said.

Corrigan, who has two grown sons and whose wife works at a group home, said he doesn't know what he will do if the plant closes. "It's too early to tell," he said.

Corrigan said he was laid off for a week once before by Awrey, but this is different. "You're talking about closing a facility down. You've got a lot of people working here. Pray for us."

On Wednesday, hi-lo driver Tim Gallagher told the *Observer* the plant was told by management the previous day that employees can expect to receive a written notice soon.

"They met with our top committee, who then came down and told us," said Gallagher. "They said that if the company could not find another buyer or investor, that the business is closing."

Council 30 agreed to a wage cut in late May to help keep the company from closing its doors. The union voted to accept a $1 cut in members' hourly wage at that time and a second 85-cent cut in September. The 160-member union voted to accept the wage cuts in a 97-38 vote.

Gallagher doesn't understand why the company is facing continued financial problems.

"We already gave them $2 ($1.85) in May, and $3 an hour several years ago when the company was sold," Gallagher said.

Awrey moved to Livonia from Detroit in 1967. It got its start in 1910 in the home of Fletcher and Elizabeth Awrey, who were living in Detroit, after moving there from Canada.

The Awrey family no longer owns the company, It was sold in 2005 to Hilco Equity of Chicago and Monomoy Capital to help the company emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy. In June 2009, Awrey's purchased Athens Elegant Dessert in Noblesville, Ind., which specializes in the company's cheesecake and high-end desserts.

ksmith@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2098

Christmas caroling will be part of the festivities at lighting of Nankin Mills Saturday, Dec. 8.

Friends invite families to annual mill lighting

Wayne County Parks and the Friends of Nankin Mills are inviting families to the 25th annual Family Holiday Fest and Mill Lighting at Nankin Mills on Saturday, Dec. 8.

From 4 to 5:15 p.m., there will be several holiday crafts, games, prizes and refreshments in the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center. Immediately following, there will be a short outdoor ceremony with the mill lighting and sing-a-long, ending at 6 p.m.

Throughout the program, children will have the opportunity to visit Santa.

There is no charge for the mill lighting and Santa visit; however, there is a cost of $6 per child and $2 per adult to participate in crafts and games. Space is limited, and preregistration is required. Call Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990.

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is located at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

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RSVP by December 2.

Christmas in Connecticut Feature Film
Friday, December 28
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
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WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:35
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Delay Social Security if you have other options

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Q: Dear Rick: I've been reading your columns for a few years now and I've also attended a few of your seminars. I agree with your philosophy about investing and I hope you can help me. I am 63 years old and when I retire at the beginning of next year, I figure I will need about $3,000 to $3,500 a month to live. I don't have a pension. However, I did get divorced about seven years ago and still receive alimony from my ex-husband.

Currently, I'm receiving $4,200 a month and that has another 4 1/2 years to go. When I got divorced, I received a property settlement of a little over $300,000. I used some of that money to pay cash for a home. In addition, I have a little over $150,000 between my 401(k) and my IRA. When I received my divorce settlement, I got talked into investing into an annuity, which has not done very well. The penalty on the annuity ends in a couple of months. Should I take Social Security now or should I delay it? My friends tell me I should take Social Security now, because no one knows if it will be around in a few years.

What should I do with the money from my 401(k) and IRA, and any ideas what I should do with the annuity? The annuity salesman has been bugging me to re-up in a new annuity.

A: My advice is don't take Social Security at this point. I believe it makes sense to delay Social Security until your alimony has ended. The amount that you're receiving as alimony should pretty much cover your living expenses. If you run short, you can tap into your other money to cover the short fall.

In reaching this conclusion, I considered a number of different factors, including income tax and the need for a rising income throughout your life. By delaying Social Security, you will receive a substantially higher monthly amount down the road. You also will have lower tax consequences when you do collect Social Security.

With regards to your friends' assumption that Social Security will not be around, I don't agree. There is no doubt that Social Security has its problems and that people who are below 50 will see major changes, however, I don't think that you have anything to worry about. Any adjustment that they're talking about to Social Security would not affect you.

As to your investment money, I would recommend that you transfer your 401(k) plan into an IRA. This will give you total control of that money. My strategy would be that once your alimony ends, you would take your Social Security and then supplement your income with your retirement accounts. This will allow your non-retirement accounts to be the growth portion of your portfolio. After all, you're going to be around many years from now and the key is to make sure you have a rising income.

With regard to the overall allocation of the portfolio, considering that you have mentioned that you want to stay conservative, my recommendation is to keep about 55 percent of your money in stock mutual funds and about 45 percent in fixed-income investments such as government bonds, mortgage-backed securities and corporate bonds. Because of tax issues, I would keep most of your fixed-income exposure in your retirement accounts and the stock portions in the non-retirement accounts. My reasoning is based upon taxes. Your stock funds should allow you to receive capital gain treatments, which are generally taxed at a much lower rate than your ordinary income.

With regard to your annuity, I would cash it out when the penalty ends and use that money as part of your overall allocation. You should also have an emergency fund of money. In your situation, I recommend $15,000 to $20,000. That money should be kept in short-term CDs (certificate of deposit) or a money market account.

On the whole, you are in very good financial shape and following the overall strategy of delaying Social Security until alimony runs out will allow you to have a rising income throughout your lifetime. Good luck!

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

Canton set to light holiday tree

Final preparations are being made for Canton's 34th annual tree-lighting event, which will be held 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Celebrate the season starting at 6 p.m. outside the Summit, where visitors can enjoy holiday carols performed by the Madrigals, watch Santa's arrival - courtesy of the Canton Fire Department - and countdown to the official Tree Lighting with Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy.

Special festive activities will also be held indoors, including refreshments and seasonal entertainment. The cost for the indoor activities is $5 per family, which includes cookie decorating, face painting by D& M Art Studio, two holiday crafts, and a visit with Santa. Free seasonal entertainment will also be available indoors, including performances by Dancin' Feet and Spotlight on Youth.

For additional information about the 34th Annual Tree Lighting Event, please call (734) 394-5460 or visit Cantonfun.org.

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Central City Dance presents its ninth annual holiday show Dec. 20-23 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Dance spectacular returns for ninth year

Audiences can see an explosive holiday show when a cast of 125 dancers, singers and gymnasts from Canton and surrounding communities perform a holiday tradition in the ninth annual Central City Christmas Spectacular.

The show is produced and choreographed by Tim and Tamara Smola and Erin Kearney of Central City Dance.

"This year's script has changed and will definitely have the audience laughing," Tamara Smola said. "It's a show for the entire family, young and old, and one you don't want to miss."

The Brudzinski family has been part of the show for the past nine years. While daughter Sara has held many dance parts including lead ballerina doll, father Jim has assisted with curtains and props and mom Karen helps the girls get ready backstage for the performance.

"The show is fun and exciting, and gets everyone into the holiday spirit," Karen said.

Sara Brudzinski is in her last year of performing for the production.

"The show is about everyone being together, like family, big and little," she said. "I will miss the wonderful people I have worked with on the show."

The spectacular is scheduled for six performances at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton, on Thursday, Dec. 20, through Sunday, Dec. 23. Shows are held at 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday evenings, or at noon or 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are $22 and can be purchased through Dec. 8 at Central City Dance Center, 6700 Canton Center Road in Canton. Tickets are reserved seating and cannot be purchased the day of the show.

For more information, visit Central City Dance at www.centralcitydance.com, or call them at (734) 459-0400.

Wayne County judge shifts residency, owes back property taxes

By Jay M. Grossman
Staff Writer

Before Dana Hathaway takes the bench on the Wayne County Circuit Court, she might want to get her house in order.

Two homes, actually.

Hathaway owes Birmingham Schools approximately $6,500 in additional taxes, plus penalties and interest to Oakland County and the city of Birmingham after she rescinded a house at 174 Catalpa as her principal residence for the past three years.

Birmingham Billing Manager Janet Laing said Hathaway purchased the house in 2010 and had been paying taxes at the principal residence rate. She came into Birmingham City Hall on Nov. 5 with an affidavit declaring the Catalpa Street house as a non-principal residence.

Laing said Hathaway has to pay the additional taxes because in Michigan, a property owner is not allowed to declare two homes as their primary residence.

Hathaway was elected in November to serve a six-year term on the Wayne County Third Circuit Court. She's the daughter of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway, who's being investigated by the FBI over allegations of mortgage fraud.

Hathaway

Dana Hathaway declined to comment on this story. She's listing a house in Grosse Pointe Farms as her principal residence, a necessary move since she ran for office in Wayne County.

According to real estate records, she and her husband purchased the house in March 2010 for about $310,000. It was placed into foreclosure by the previous owner. The 3,657-square-foot house was built in 2000.

It's now back on the back on the market with a listed selling price of $560,000.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting December 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing uponw seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street; Plymouth, MI
734-453-0750 X217

Publish: December 2, 2012 AT8791796 - 2X3

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Write on ...

Authors tackle NaNoWriMo's 50,000-word challenge

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Somewhere in Redford Friday, budding writers gathered for a "one last push party" and champagne toast at midnight to say farewell to the month of novel writing.

At 11:59:59 Friday, National Novel Writing Month, a "fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to novel writing" event ended. While how many of the hundreds of thousands of people who logged on for NaNoWriMo finished remains to be seen, Cheryl Vatcher Martin already knew she was a winner on Thursday.

"That was my goal, I had to win early this month," said the Canton resident who was at the William P. Faust Public Library Thursday evening for the final NaNoWriMo write-in. "I hit 50,752 words and became a winner on Nov. 25."

Joining her was Terry Sample of Westland who needed less than 1,000 to hit the 50,000-word count required by NaNoWriMo.

"In 2011, I signed up, registered and never typed a word," said Sample. "I'm very bad with procrastination and a lack of self-discipline. I had 49,019 words when I walked in here tonight. My daughter was very instrumental in keeping me online."

Cheryl Vatcher Martin of Canton talks to Terry Sample of Westland about writing during the final National Novel Writing Month drop-in at the William P. Faust Library Thursday evening.

Keeping track

NaNoWriMo, which got its start in 1999 with 21 writers, requires participants write a 50,000-word, or approximately 175-page novel, by 11:59:59 Nov. 30. It's website helps participants track where they are and counts the words in their completed manuscript. Those who meet the word count are declared winners, but there's nothing attached to that other than a feeling of accomplishment.

Last year, 256,618 participants sign up for NaNoWriMo and 36,843 of them crossed the 50-word finish line by the midnight deadline.

Andy Schuck, head of library programs and adult services, started NaNoWriMo at the Westland library three years ago. Fellow librarian Marilyn Kwik had listened to a program about it and suggested he check out. He did and introduced NaNoWriMo to patrons.

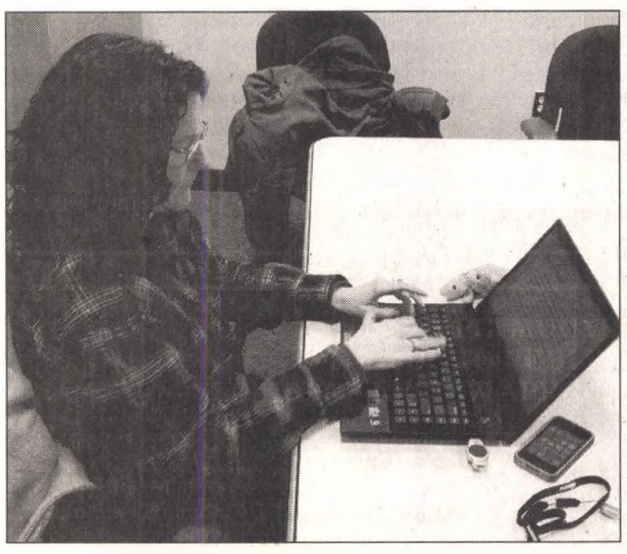
"We like to open cultural doors for people, this one has seemed to stick," he said. "We have people ask about it, it's almost like a cult. They say about 10 percent of the people who enlist get to 50,000 words. It's more about the journey than getting to the finish line."

Schuck isn't certain how many of the 12 writers who showed up for the NaNoWriMo kick-off event, were still doing it. The Thursday evening write-ins have been drop-in programs.

"It's a daunting task, and people need to do their writing where they feel comfortable," he said. "For some, that's the library."

Vatcher, a published author, understands that. She started doing NaNoWriMo in 2004, but didn't meet the word count for the first time until 2006. She was on track to have this year's submission done by Nov. 14, but her computer died and she had to start over.

"I don't think any of us are frustrated writers, we all just love to write," said Vatcher who runs the writer's club at the library.



Snuflet and Fin keep Diana Hirsch of Canton company as she works on her novel.

"We're all writers and have stories in our heads and without this we wouldn't write them," added Diana Hirsch of Canton, who was almost 10,000 words short of finishing her novel by the deadline.

Requirements

Writers need to type at least 1,667 words a day to hit 50,000 by the deadlines. The NaNoWriMo website tracks participants' work online and lets them know what their word count is.

"The website says that on Day 29, I should be at 48,333 words," Hirsch said. "I need to do 5,815 words a day to finish. Last year I actually wrote 50,000 plus words, I know I can do that this year."

Each of the three NaNoWriMo participants had a different topic for their novels. Hirsch was writing about a woman who struggles with weight loss her whole life and how factors in her childhood affected that. Martin was writing a science fiction piece about time travel back to the Civil War. Sample was doing a murder mystery.

They all admitted that they started writing at a young age. Martin started at age 8, while Hirsch remembers doing a picture book about Noah's Arc when she was four. Sample used his father's manual typewriter to write a play for his kindergarten class.

They helped each other as much as they spent writing during the final two-hour write-in. Hirsch shared her idea of not using contractions in her story.

Pointers

"Someone told me last year not to use contractions. Don't is one word, but do not is two," said Hirsch who has two stuffed NaNo pals - Snuflet and Fin - who keep her company when she writes. "My husband gave them to me to motivate me."

Martin pointed out the need to write more than the required 50,000 words. The counter she said isn't accurate. Hirsch agreed. Last year, the counter added 33 words to her total.

Martin already sees this year's NaNoWriMo novel becoming a trilogy, and Sample plans to start writing his second novel in this month. The subject is the "White Hurricane," a massive storm that hit the Great Lakes in 1913.

"It'll be a big tragedy with a fictional love story as the backdrop, like what John Cameron did with *Titanic*," he said.

And even though she needed to write more than 10,000 words in the closing hours, Hirsch was confident of finishing in time.

"I've been doing a lot of writing the last few days, it's easier to write 5,000 a day at the end," she said. "I've told enough people about it, I have to do this. I wrote about it on Facebook and my blog."

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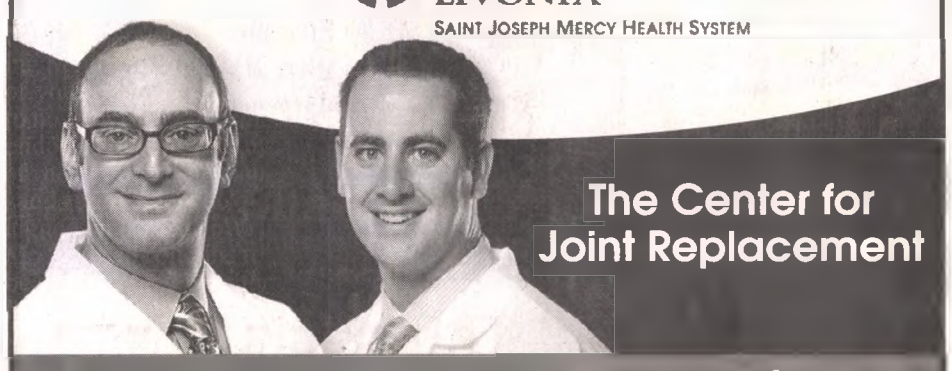

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LEGAL NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
2012 WINTER TAXES

Winter Taxes are due **December 1, 2012** and payable through **February 14, 2013** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **at the Treasurer's Office.** After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The **Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2012 from 8:00am to 2:00pm.**

RON EDWARDS
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 481710

Publish: December 2, 2012 AT8791377 3X3

CITY OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE TO PUBLIC
BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Linda Langmesser, Clerk of the City of Plymouth, County of Wayne, State of Michigan to all residents of the City of Plymouth the December Board of Review will be held in the Plymouth City Hall on the 2nd floor, at 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

The following is the schedule for December Board of Review.

Tuesday, December 11, 2012 Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the December Board of Review, you may call Courtney Dugger at (734) 453-1234 Ext. 253.

LINDA LANGMESSER, CLERK
City of Plymouth

Publish: December 2, 2012 AT8791425 3x3

"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.

FINANCIAL SEMINAR

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth District Library presents "Generating Income and Managing Inflation: Keys for a Successful Retirement," with guest speaker Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management. While inflation has been rather dormant in the past few years, the potential for it to cut into one's retirement portfolio in the future is still a real concern for those saving for or in retirement. In addition, low interest rates on fixed investments have many investors worried they will not be able to generate enough income from their portfolio during retirement. At this seminar, financial expert and attorney Rick Bloom will discuss strategies to minimize the potential risks of future inflation while generating both income and growth from your portfolio so you can live comfortably without running out of money during retirement.

Bloom

Contact: Register by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

AAUW PARTY

Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women hosts its holiday party. Our speaker will be Tina Parce who is a nutritionist and will discuss current trends in nutrition. Please bring a pound of something to share, such as coffee, flour, cookies, etc. and put it in holiday wrapping. Everyone will have a chance to bid on it with proceeds going to the AAUW Legal Advocacy fund. There will also be a collection of men and women's toiletry items for Freedom House in Detroit. Appetizers and desserts will be served. Please come and join us!

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

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT EREADER

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 8, 4-5 p.m.

Location: Canton Public Library

Details: Ready to make the leap into the world of eBooks, but not sure how to choose the right one for you? Join us on Saturday, December 8th from 4:00-5:00 PM to learn more about the current world of eBooks and eReaders. Explore which features are common in today's eReader market, and the difference between popular models and brands. We'll also talk a bit about how the Library can help you make the most of your eReader.

COOKIE WALK

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to noon

Location: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh, in Westland.

Details: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church will hold a cookie walk/bake sale. Holiday cookies, spinach pies, sweet Greek bread and Greek pastries will be available.

COLORING CONTEST

Date/Time: Now through Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8:30-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Location: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, 40875 Plymouth Road

Details: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet will be holding a coloring contest. The age groups are 0-3, 4-6 and 7-9. The winner from each age group will be awarded a $50 Toys R US gift card. One entry permitted per child. While you are here, take a picture with Nick from the Chevrolet commercials.

Contact: Call 734-453-4600 for more information.

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 11:30 a.m. The cost is $16 and includes beverage, dessert and tip. You can pay at the door.

Contact: For more information contact Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or e-mail chknlit@wideopenwest.com, Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or e-mail fightingirish316@global.net or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

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

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

RUTH A. MALHALAB

I was in the Parade

Casey Wooley of Canton was in the 86th annual America's Thanksgiving Parade, along Woodward, in Detroit. He walked along the Art Van Float bringing a happy spirit to hundreds of thousands of people who lined the street. Wooley said he "really enjoyed being in the Parade, and hopes to inspire others to volunteer with the Parade Company."

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.

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth

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

DIABETES SUPPORT

Date/Time: 2nd Thursday of the month, 2-3:30 p.m.

Location: Plymouth,District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.

Contact: Call Fern Vining at (734) 454-0859.

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Madonna enrolling now for select programs

Registration begins Monday for medical certificate and Michigan court Spanish interpreting training programs offered through Madonna University's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies.

"These short-term programs are perfect for people who want a new career path, but don't want to enroll in a two- or four-year degree program," said Joan Stephens, director of Continuing Education at Madonna. "The Court Interpreter program is geared toward those who have a demonstrated fluency or a bachelor's degree in Spanish," said Stephens. "It has received great reviews from students, which I attribute to the fact that the instructor, Evelyn Villarruel, has been a court interpreter since 1994 so she brings a wealth of knowledge to the program."

Certificate training programs include: Pharmacy Technician Certificate ($1,499), Medical Coding Certificate ($1,995), and Medical Administrative Assistant Certificate ($1,024). Under Madonna's new payment plan, students can pay 50 percent of their tuition at registration, and the remainder within 30 days. Prep Course for Michigan Court Interpreter Test – Spanish ($499) must be paid in full at time of registration.

To register, visit www.madonna.edu (click on Continuing Education in the bottom right corner) or call the Office of Continuing Education at (734) 432-5804. The semester begins in January with classes starting weekly.

Walsh bill cracking down on arson clears House

Walsh

The state House on Wednesday approved a bill introduced by state Rep. John Walsh that stiffens penalties for arson-related crimes.

House Bill 5692 is part of a four-bill package that provides law enforcement, prosecutors and judges with more tools and establishes different degrees of arson crimes. Penalties for arson would range from 93 days in jail for a misdemeanor to life in prison for the deliberate burning of a multi-unit dwelling or a fire that results in physical injury to a person.

"Michigan was hit hard in the foreclosure process and there are a great number of abandoned homes and other buildings throughout the state, which are targets of arsonists," said Walsh, R-Livonia.

Under the legislation, penalties for arson would be:

• First-degree arson involves willful damage by a fire or explosive to a multi-unit dwelling, a mine, or any building if the fire results in physical injury. This carries a penalty of life in prison and a fine of not more than $20,000;

• Second-degree arson would result in a 20-year, $20,000 fine for someone who willfully or maliciously burns or damages a dwelling by fire; and

• Third-degree arson involves a prison term of 10 years and $20,000 fine for anyone who burns or destroys personal property with a value of $20,000 or more, or a value of $1,000 if the arsonist is a repeat offender.

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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Couple adopts son, seeks support for other orphaned kids

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Julian Zendejas is thrilled to be dad to young Alexander, adopted from Russia. Alexander's mom, Tiffany, is conducting a drive for clothing and such needed items as diaper cream at her store, Sincerely Yours, in downtown Northville.

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Tiffany and Julian Zendejas of Canton returned from Russia this past June with Alexander, their newly adopted son. Alexander's now 19 months old.

Tiffany Zendejas, who owns Sincerely Yours, a stationery and gift store in downtown Northville, and her husband started the process of adopting Alexander in July 2011.

"We went three times," she said of their trips to Russia. "The first time was in December." The couple returned in April for court, and then in mid-May made their final trip for two weeks to pick him up.

"He's an amazing little boy. He's really loving and affectionate," his mom said. He's doubled his weight, and just about caught up to the U.S. standard, also having grown 6-7 inches in five months.

"It's been a 10-year process for us," Zendejas said, starting with infertility issues. They started adoption in China and the U.S. "Honestly, it's the best thing ever. It's amazing," she said of being a parent.

She's 38 and Julian, who works at Skyway Precision in Livonia and Plymouth as a quality control analyst, is 41.

'Over the moon'

"He's totally over the moon," Zendejas said. "He comes from a really big family of seven children." They've had a lot of family support, especially from her mom and her husband's family.

"Alexander was in a baby home, which is similar to an orphanage," she said. Typically, babies stay there in Russia until age 1.

"I think that the workers do the best they can but they're greatly underfunded. I think they give them just enough (food) to sustain them." Those women care, Zendejas said, but can only do so much with limited resources.

The couple got involved with Orphans at Play, information on which can be found online at www.orphansatplay.org.

"They truly have nobody to stand up for the kids," she said of the orphans. A lot of big companies help needy kids here, she said, and there are U.S. government-funded school breakfasts and lunches.

The Canton family wanted to help the kids left behind. "I couldn't afford to adopt them all, obviously," said Zendejas.

At 16, Russian youth without homes are released if not adopted or adoptable, such as when birth parents haven't signed the forms. "They really have no job skill training," Zendejas said of the teens. "They're given a very small amount of money and they're on their own."

Religious organizations, mostly in her son's regions, will take suitcases and distribute contents to those young people in need.

"Whatever we can get, we send," she said.

Local effort

At Sincerely Yours, she's offering a 20-percent coupon at any time for those who make donation "to kind of jump-start the holiday season and thank them for helping such a great cause." The 20 percent off is for all who donate any item of winter wear, infant through teen.

The store website is www.sincerelyyoursinc.com. The telephone at Sincerely Yours is (248) 449-9020.

She and her husband hope to finish the adoption in China if they can. It's harder to adopt in the U.S., they have found. "We're open to that if the opportunity arose too," she said.

Many days, they were able to visit their son in the baby home in Russia. They were never witness to poor living conditions, but know the need is great.

Such facilities funded by the government, but the money never covers their true needs, she said. Just in the region their son is from, Primorsky Krai, there are 26 orphanages and baby homes/hospitals. Many of the children do not have shoes that fit or warm clothes.

Russia has the highest rate of children in the sex trade as well as the highest suicide rate, in part due to their high percent of children that are orphaned, Zendejas said.

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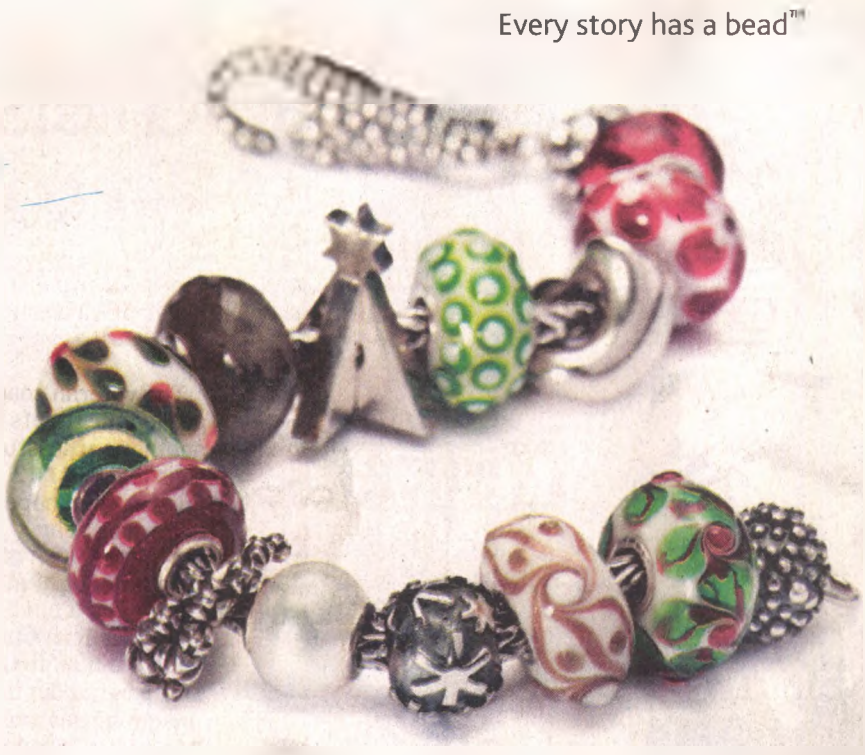

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SECTION B . (CP)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2012
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SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR
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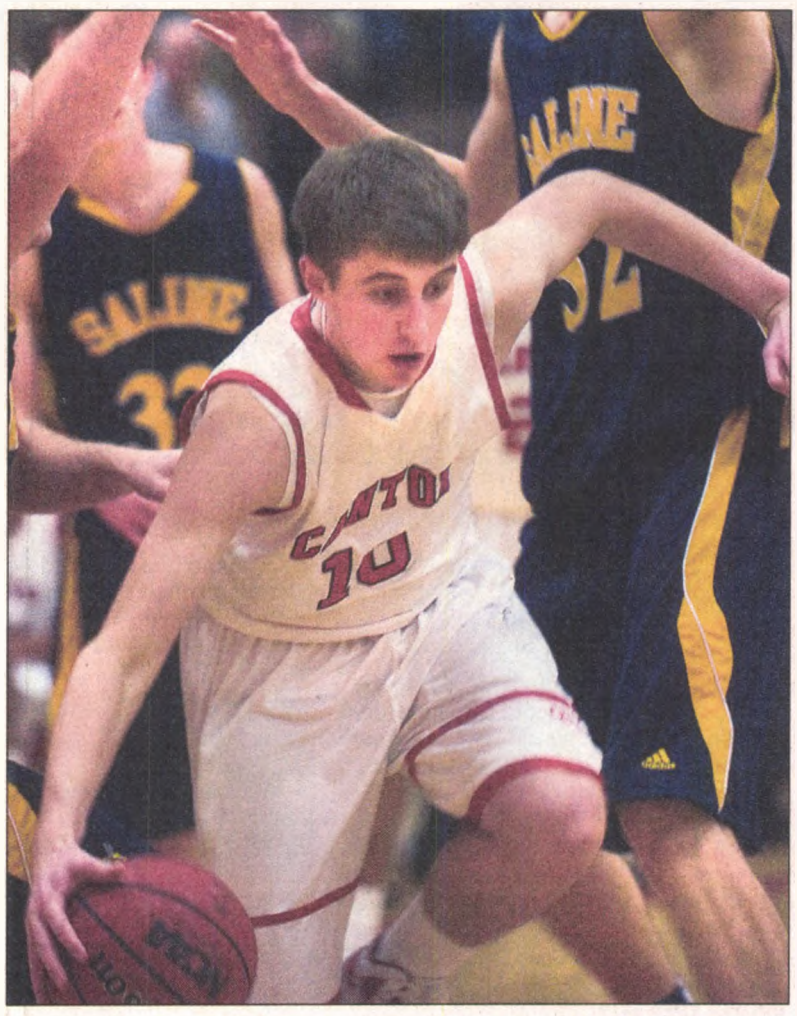
BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW — PT. 1



Canton forward Scott Gring (No. 10), shown in a file photo from last season, is one of six returning seniors for the Chiefs.

Balancing act

Chiefs will spread the wealth on offense

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

For the first time in Jimmy Reddy's four-year career as the head coach of Canton's varsity boys basketball team, there won't be a big gun expected to do all the damage against KLAA opponents

Point guard Dietrich Lever and center Paul Baumgart have moved on to the collegiate ranks over the past two years. But Reddy sees a deep roster of players that can more than compensate during the 2012-13 season.

"The last three years we've always had a guy we knew could get 15 or 20 (points) a night," Reddy said. "I'm not sure we necessarily have that.

"But I think we have more guys that can score on any given night than we've had in the past."

Besides the loss of Baumgart, gone from the 2011-12 team (16-6 overall, 8-2 in the KLAA South Division) are key players Kyle Adams and Miles Felton.

Senior leaders

Having six top returning players back will help the team make a seamless transition. Leading the way will be senior co-captains Josh Mayberry and Scott Gring.

"I think we've got solid seniors," Reddy said. "Josh Mayberry, a three-year guy, is a captain for us. And Scott Gring is also a three-year varsity guy and he's a captain this year.

"I think both of those guys will provide that (leadership). And we've got some young returning guys that are showing really good signs of leadership, too."

They'll have the chance to lead on the court, too, beginning with Wednesday's 7 p.m. season open-

Please see CANTON, B3

Canton icers falter

Canton's boys hockey team remained winless for the season following Friday's 7-1 loss at Novi.

The Chiefs (0-5) trailed 4-1 after two periods, with their goal scored by Christian Flack on the power play with assists going to Kurt Snow and Ian Fagan.

Novi then turned the game into a rout with three goals in the third. Goalie Justin Kolbicz was relieved midway through the second period after Novi's fourth goal. Finishing up was Jacob Dugan.

Head coach Jeremy Majszak lamented the number of goals his team is letting in. "We're getting better game-by-game, but it's unfortunate pucks are going in our net."

Canton lost 8-6 Wednesday at Farmington, letting a 5-4 lead slip away. Netting two goals in that game was Fagan, with Flack and Bradley Cece collecting multiple points.

Next up for the Chiefs is a game 6 p.m. Wednesday against Livonia Stevenson at Eddie Edgar Arena.

It's full-speed ahead for hard-driving Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Just like last season, Plymouth's varsity boys basketball team will leave it all out on the court.

Where things might be different, at least if Wildcats' fourth-year coach Mike Soukup had his way, would be for some of the tough losses of a year ago to slide over to the win column in 2012-13.

Soukup's 2011-12 team might have been among the hardest working in the KLAA South Division.

But numerous games where the Wildcats fell just short resulted in a record of 6-15 overall and 4-6 in the division.

"We were in every game we played," Soukup said. "We were never blown out outside of (Westland) John Glenn twice. Some of our losses could have been blamed on inexperience in some of those situations.

"I'm hoping that this year with the experience we have returning, we'll fare better in some of those games."

Beginning 7 p.m. Tuesday at Walled Lake Western, it will be more of the same, blue-collar style of basketball from the Wildcats.

"We're going to defend you, execute what we execute and run it well," he stressed. "You're in for a dog fight. We're going to have to grind out people by rebound-

Please see PLYMOUTH, B3

Plymouth's Sid Acharya (No. 22), shown from last season, is a player the Wildcats are looking to for offense and strong work on the boards in 2012-13.

Salem surges to win

After falling behind 2-0 after one period Friday at Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, the Salem Rocks boys hockey team came out re-energized in the second, scoring four

Please see SALEM, B2

WRESTLING PREVIEWS

'Cats primed for record year

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Individually and collectively, Plymouth's varsity wrestling team could be in for quite a season.

And head coach Quinn Guernsey can't wait for it to unfold.

The Wildcats, who nearly reached the Division 1 regional team final last year, open the 2012-13 season 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at home in a quad meet including Salem, Belleville and Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

"This team has the potential to be the best in school history and should be able to rival almost any team in the area when it comes to top end talent," noted Guernsey in a recent e-mail to the Observer.

Hot off a year when Said Youssef (2012 graduate) and Chase Kallil became the school's first all-staters, the Wildcats could challenge in the KLAA and beyond.

They'll be spearheaded by two returning Division 1 state qualifiers (sophomore Brandon Harris, 2012; senior Alec Breckenridge, 2011) and six others who qualified for last season's D1 regionals.

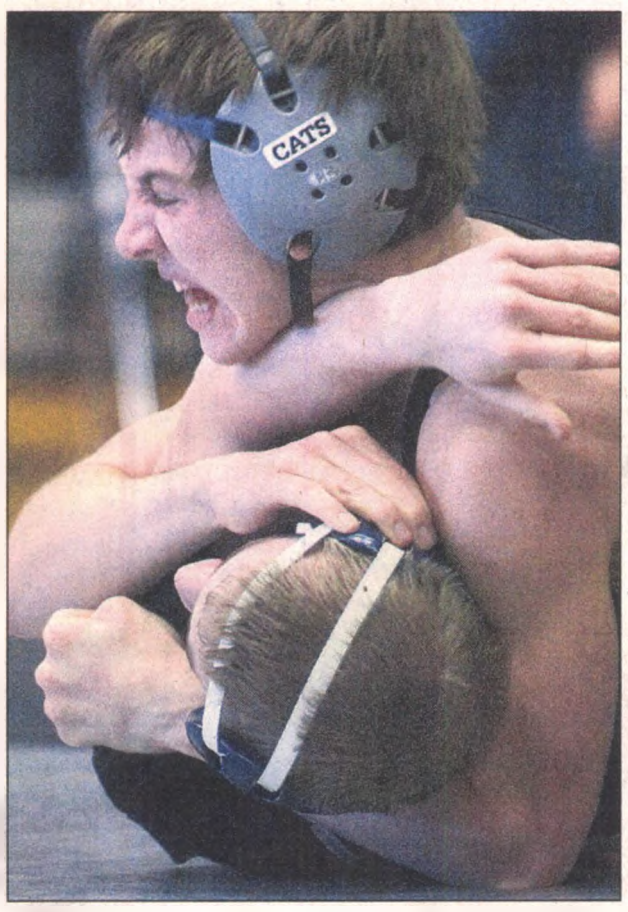
"We're already picked as a potential dark horse regional champ," Guernsey continued. "If the team performs as well as projected it will be a great year to cheer for the Wildcats."

Kallil leads a roster of wrestlers already having tasted success. He has a firm grasp on the 130-pound class.

In addition to Kallil and Harris (112), the others who qualified for regionals include Breckenridge (140), junior Jon Conn (135), senior Trey Berry (125) and junior Mohamad Youssef (103).

Several others in the lineup might enjoy similar success.

Please see WILDCATS, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alec Breckenridge of Plymouth (top), shown from a bout at 130 in last season's Division 1 individual regionals, is among an impressive list of returnees for the Wildcats.

Top vets to lead Chiefs

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

One step at a time would be just fine as far as Cory Mancuso and his Canton wrestling team are concerned.

Pantaleo

Griffin

The veteran coach guided the Chiefs to another successful season in 2011-12 and has high hopes again this year.

"There is a lot of excitement around this year's team," noted Mancuso, in a recent e-mail to the Observer about the upcoming season. "And I am certainly looking forward to seeing how things unfold."

The Chiefs,

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WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

Guernsey said he has "high expectations" for sophomore Hussein Youssef at 145, senior John Rubio (160), senior heavyweight Adam Dulong and junior 171-pounder Joey Shaver "who each worked very hard in the offseason to fill out the lineup."

Projected for the remaining weight classes are juniors Daniel Ahearn (119), Tarek Tamimi (152), Mario Guitierrez (215) and freshman Ronnie Dancer at 189.

Rounding out the roster are freshmen Colin Reed, Dylan Dwyer, Spencer Schifter and Sterling Schifter.

"Each will be called on to fill in on varsity many times," Guernsey added.

With 12 of the 14 starters earning "significant experience in varsity matches" last season, the coach is very optimistic about Plymouth's chances this time around.

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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

expected to again be a contender in the KLAA South Division and Kensington Conference, open the season 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at a quad meet hosted by Walled Lake Northern.

Last year, the Chiefs made team history when two wrestlers (Alec Pantaleo, Ben Griffin) were Division 1 finalists: Pantaleo prevailed.

Both are back. Pantaleo, a junior who will be a thorn in the side of opponents in the 145-pound class, is gunning for another individual championship while Griffin (a 125-pound junior) will bid to go from runner-up to champion.

Both dominated last year in lighter weight classes. Pantaleo was 53-3 at 135 while Griffin compiled a 47-7 mark at 112.

"Last year they made history for our program by giving us two finalists in the same year," Mancuso said. "And this year their goal is to give us two state champions in the same year."

That would be a team first. If Pantaleo makes it back-to-back titles that also would be one for the Canton record books.

By no means are the Chiefs a two-man team, however.

Strong work ethic

"We have a core group of seniors that have been together for awhile now and our young wrestlers will look for them for leadership throughout the season," Mancuso said.

"We don't have the most experienced team, but we do have a team that is willing to work hard and make the necessary sacrifices to become champions.

"That is what excites me most of all about this year's team."

The senior nucleus includes Richard DeMarois (119), Ryan Siegler (130), Marc Przybylski (140) and Matt Suppelsa, who is in the 189-pound class.

Juniors in the lineup, besides Pantaleo and Griffin, are Dylan DeClue (160), Jevon Hill (171) and KJ Wooley at 285.

Several youngsters will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience as part of the starting lineup.

Those include sophomores Jacob Thornton (135), Adam Armesto (215) and freshmen Harrison Samoy (103), Ryan Apley (112) and Jacob Lorenz at 152.

Mancuso also has team depth, with seven reserves ready and willing to chip in.

Senior Allan Beckman (189), junior Nathan Samoy (152), sophomores Paul Tacy (140), Ty Jasman (145) and Drake Wanshon (189), and freshmen Sam Orr (103) and Maxwell Wilkinson (189) comprise that group.

"I really don't know what to expect from some of the new guys," Mancuso said. "But the willingness they have shown to learn and to work hard makes me think by the end of the year we will be a solid team."

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SALEM

Continued from page B1

unanswered goals in the frame and earning a 5-3 victory.

"It was a long road trip, it took us an hour and 20 minutes to get there," Rocks head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "It was just a matter of getting their legs under them."

Junior forward Jason Newel paced Salem's attack with a hat trick. Chipping in with a goal and an assist each were senior forward Alec Zultowski and junior forward Jake Sealy. Salem (2-1) will visit Clarkston on Thursday.

Wildcats suffer first loss

Plymouth battled the defending Division 1 state champions for two periods Wednesday, but the Brighton pulled away with a five-goal third period to win 6-1 at the Arctic Edge Arena.

Through the first two periods of a tight-checking game, the teams combined for a total of 18 shots on goal and scored once each. Plymouth center Mike Schultz opened the scoring 6:23 into the middle period. He was set up by forward Josh Smith who battled behind the net to feed Schultz at the top of the crease for his sixth goal of the season.

Brighton responded nearly four minutes later with a goal by defenseman Michael Gessler to send the game into the second intermission tied at 1-1.

The Bulldogs scored on the opening shift of the third period to ignite a four-goal rally in a span of 5:20. The rally began and ended on goals by forward Joe Borst. Forward Michael Yahasz, who also tallied a pair of goals, closed the scoring later in the period.

MICHELLE BAUER

Chasing down the puck Wednesday against defending Division 1 champion Brighton is Plymouth's Mitch Claggett (No. 10).

Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento praised the play of sophomore goalie Eric VandenBosch for keeping the game close early.

"We played two solid periods of hockey and got some great goaltending from Eric to put us in a position to win," Vento said. "Unfortunately we had a five-minute letdown in the third, and with a team with the skill level of Brighton, they made us pay."

Brighton outshot the Wildcats 20-9. Both teams were unsuccessful on three power-play chances.

After winning the first four games of the season, Wednesday's game was Plymouth's first loss of the season.

"While the score wasn't pretty," Vento added, "I really thought we battled hard and learned some lessons from this game."

Bantam B Tourney champs!

The Great White Sharks, of the Plymouth Canton Hockey Association recently won the Dearborn Ice Skating Center's 2012 Thanksgiving Tournament - Bantam "B" Division. The team went 4-0-1 in the tournament and defeated the Livonia Flyers 4-3 in a tight battle to take the championship. Shown in this team photo are the following: (front row, from left) Zachary Clark, Matthew Asher, Charlie Doenitz, Donald Jardine, Phillip Conrad, Brandon Wagstaff, Vinnie Jean, Matthew Kelly; (back row, from left) assistant coach Shawn Rowley, Jack Snyder, Michael Buckley, assistant coach TJ Frader, Nolan Kerwin, head coach Tim Frader, Garrett Willacker, assistant coach Phil Jean, John Sloan, Nico Mancini and assistant coach Vince Mancini. Not pictured is Ernest Travick.

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PLYMOUTH

Continued from page B1

ing by committee and executing our stuff (to) perfection."

Setting the tone will be senior shooting guard Brendan Swanson, one of five seniors who will share captain's duties. He averaged eight points per contest last season and led the Wildcats in rebounds with six per game.

"Brendan certainly plays as hard as just about anybody I've come across in my career here," Soukup said. "(2011 grad) Brennen Beyer played hard and (Swanson) plays just as hard, he's just not as big.

"But he's always on the floor, he guards the best guy on the other team. ... He has a nose for the ball."

Also in the backcourt will be senior co-captain and point guard Jake Divens and — as soon as he recovers from an injury — senior Josh Priebe (12 points per game last year and another co-captain).

"He (Priebe) was our leading scorer last year and I hope he can carry the load again for us this year as well," Soukup continued.

Filling in for Priebe over the first portion of the schedule will be either Matt Carravallah or Tyler Gamblin, both 6-2 seniors.

Soukup said Carravallah "really has a nose for the ball" while Gamblin "will provide some outside scoring off the bench."

Making progress

Soukup is looking forward to seeing Divens quarterback the offense.

"He (Divens) has made great progress from last year," the coach said. "I hope for him to jump-start some offense from that position."

Backing up Divens is sophomore Randall Aikens.

Plymouth's other starters figure to be senior forwards Brian Schmid (6-2) and Sid Acharya (6-4), also co-captains.

"Both of them will have to provide us with garbage points," Soukup said. "They'll have to defend very well at that position. They'll have to outrun people for baskets."

Of the two, Schmid will play the high post while Acharya fits the mold of a center.

Another player who will be called upon to help out in the paint is 6-5 senior Shane Clark.

"Shane will have to stick to what he does best," Soukup said. "That's getting offensive rebounds, putbacks. Running the floor harder than the other guy.

"He's a tremendous athlete and he'll help us on both ends."

One newcomer to watch could be 6-2 sophomore forward Deji Adebiyi."

"He's very long, can get timely rebounds and is an excellent passer," Soukup said. "I've been really impressed with him."

One player with potential to fire up the offense is senior guard Ryan Karr, who will help out on the perimeter.

"Sometimes Ryan is too unselfish, he turns down too many shots," Soukup stressed. "Hopefully, we convince him to shoot more."

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CANTON

Continued from page B1

er against Detroit Renaissance.

Mayberry (10 ppg, 4 assists), will handle point guard duties.

In addition to looking to thread passes to teammates, he can fill the basket from long range when needed (47 percent in 3-balls in 2011-12).

"Josh has a lot of experience," Reddy noted. "I think playing with Dietrich two years ago when he was a sophomore has helped him, going up against him every day at practice.

"He's a much better defender on the ball this year, which he needs to do. He's doing a much better job of taking care of the ball and valuing the ball. And again, he shot a high percentage last year so we know he can shoot the basketball."

Another three-year player is the 6-4 Gring, a 3-4 combo player (stationed either on the wing or in the high post).

"Scott's a guy that can step out on the perimeter and shoot a three, rebound the ball or guard a low post player for us," Reddy said.

Young vet

Sophomore Greg Williams will be the other starting guard, bringing a wealth of experience gained in the 17 games he started as a freshman.

"I love his leadership so far," Reddy continued. "As a sophomore he's very vocal. He's a two-way player for us.

"We're looking more for him to attack the rim this year, to score and get to the free-throw line. We already know he can shoot the ball."

Reddy will pencil 6-8 junior Jordan Nobles into his starting lineup, as another 3-4 player.

"He's tall and long and we're looking for big things," Reddy said. "His ability to shoot the ball on the perimeter and inside is going to be big for us this year."

Canton's effectiveness in the paint will be linked to how well players such as Nobles — a varsity reserve last year — perform.

"He's a big-time shot blocker and he'll have to rebound for us if we're going to be any good," Reddy said.

Augmenting Nobles around the bucket could be 6-5 junior Davon Taylor (JV last year), who as of last week had not nailed down the low post spot.

"We're looking for him to fill a role," the coach added.

If Reddy decides to go in a different direction with his lineup, he might opt to start 6-2 senior guard Ryan Planey (a reserve last season).

"We've got a starting position up in the air still," he said. "It's between a few guys, and Ryan's got a chance to start for us.

"... He's going to play meaningful minutes. He's a good catch-and-shoot guy and he can create off the dribble as well."

They'll be key

Seniors Adnan Bayz and Matt McKoy likely will need to make big contributions for the Chiefs to have another winning season.

Bayz is described as a "big 5-9" who can go up against bigger players and also nail long jumpers from the perimeter.

"He's got a chance to start and he'll definitely be part of the rotation," Reddy said.

As for 6-1 combo player McKoy, who missed last season, Reddy emphasized he is catching up to speed.

"After a year off he's been taking some time to figure out everything we're doing," Reddy stressed. "But I expect him to help us, especially defensively and in rebounding. Hopefully, he's in our rotation off the bench."

Another facet that McKoy brings to the team is a football mentality; he excelled for Canton on the gridiron as did Gring.

"I think those guys stick their nose in and get more loose balls, more 50-50 balls that are up in the air," Reddy said.

Junior forwards Jaffer Ahmad (6-3), Shaine Keyandwy (6-4) and senior guard Chase Winningham round out the roster. All were on the junior varsity last season and will help out off the bench as needed.

Ahmad is a dead-eye shooter who coaches are helping refine his rebounding and defense.

"He's starting to figure it out," Reddy said. "I think today (Monday) was probably his best practice. That's a good thing that he's gotten better over the last seven or eight practices."

Keyandwy is "long and athletic" and someone who could muscle down low for blocked shots.

The 5-8 Winningham is showing "good leadership" for a newcomer.

"We're going to be competitive," Reddy emphasized. "We've built a solid foundation the last few years. Our ability to spread the floor and shoot the ball is one of our strengths this year.

"... If we can defend and rebound like we've done in the past we'll be competitive."

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Plymouth victimized by turnovers in opener

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The effort was there but so were the opening night jitters, as host Plymouth lost 46-36 Friday night to Dexter.

Plymouth (0-1) shot poorly and made 21 turnovers, compared to just four by the Dreadnaughs, who led virtually all night.

"In the first half we had trouble matching up in transition," Wildcats' head coach Bob de Bear said. "That's something we got to work at."

Dexter got out to a quick 7-2 lead and built a 22-19 halftime lead with the help of senior guard Riley McDonald, who nailed three straight treys and scored 11 points in the half.

Glimmer of hope

Plymouth rallied for a while, shutting McDonald down without a second-half point and briefly going up 27-26 with about five minutes left in the third.

Junior point guard Kylie Robb (11 points) drove into the lane for a bank-shot bucket to give the Wildcats their only lead of the game.

Dexter responded quickly, with a bucket by Kathryn Pisano and three-point play by Makenzie Svirha (10 points). The Dreadnaughts took a 34-28 edge into the fourth.

"We did lead for just a hair and right then I thought we were starting to move the ball," de Bear said. "But it's early in the season, just one game."

Plymouth sliced the lead to 36-33 with 5:38 remaining in the contest, following a layup by Robb and senior forward Jada Woody's three-point play following a strong move to the rim.

Once again, the Dreads responded. This time, they went off on a 10-0 run to salt the contest away. Several Plymouth turnovers fueled the surge.

Any chance the Wildcats had of getting back into the game was lost by poor shooting in the fourth. Plymouth finished with 13 field goals in 33 attempts (39 percent) for the game.

Another bright spot for Plymouth was Woody, who also scored 11 points and chipped in with seven rebounds.

"We go as they (Robb and Woody) go," the coach noted. "They produced tonight. Eleven points is pretty good."

Also helping Plymouth's cause was 6-5 junior center Shelby Cheston (seven points, eight rebounds).

Plymouth returns to action 7 p.m. Tuesday at home against Farmington Hills Mercy.

MERCY 53, SALEM 29: Salem's girls basketball team fell behind early Thursday's at Farmington Hills Mercy and never could climb out of the hole.

The Marlins opened with a 23-point first quarter and never looked back.

They led by 18 points at the end of the first quarter and 31-13 at the half.

Scoring nine points for the Rocks (0-1) was Shara Long. Contributing six points and six rebounds was Bree Beaver.

Murphy signs with EMU

How many 'eagles' will Kelsey Murphy score for the Eagles of Eastern Michigan University? That question will start to be answered in fall 2013 when the Plymouth High School senior begins her college women's golf career. Murphy, an all-stater for the Division 1 state champion Plymouth Wildcats, recently signed her letter of intent with EMU. Standing behind Kelsey from left-to-right at the signing ceremony are Plymouth coach Dan Young, parents Tim and Ruth and sister Sydney.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 4
Plymouth at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 5
Renaissance at Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7
Plymouth at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Salem, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Canton at Saline, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 4
Saline at Canton, 7 p.m.
Mercy at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Marian at Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7
Salem at Huron, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Dec. 4
Walled Lake vs. PCS Penguins
at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 5
Stevenson vs. Canton,
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Novi vs. Plymouth
at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 6
Salem at Clarkston, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7
Franklin vs. Canton
at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
PCS Penguins vs. Northville
at Novi, 6:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 5
W.L.N. Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Plymouth Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Northville Invite, 9 a.m.
Rocket Duals at Glenn, 9 a.m.
Waterford Mott Inv., 9 a.m.
Garden City Inv., 9 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Saturday, Dec. 8
Rocket Relays at Glenn, 1 p.m.
EMU Classic, 1 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Monday, Dec. 3
Livonia Blue, Brighton, Howell
at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 6
Livonia Red, Saline
at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Canton at Vassar Quad, TBA

Remember your loved ones that you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute for the holidays. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at $22.50
*1x3 remembrance ad
(Larger remembrance may be purchased)

Publications
Sunday, December 23rd
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers:

Thursday, December 20th
Hometown Weekly Newspapers:
(Milford, Northville, Novi and South Lyon)

Deadline
Monday, December 17th
For all publications

Call: 800-579-7355
Fax: 313-496-4968
Email: oeads@hometownlife.com

In Loving Memory
at the Holidays

Observer & Eccentric Media
hometownlife.com
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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will **be no fee charged until after the case is won.** The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

www.ssdfighter.com

All-area spikers rise to great heights

FIRST TEAM

Erica den Boer, Sr., Canton: One of two key players from the 2011 Division 1 regional title team, co-captain den Boer continued to excel in 2012 for the Chiefs. She brought a power game up front and defensive tenacity in general.

A four-year varsity starter, den Boer collected 387 kills and 45 blocks and augmented that with 422 defensive digs and 71 aces, deservedly earning her selection to the all-conference and all-region teams.

"Her leadership as a captain, along with her on-court, all-around skills, enabled this year's team to be extremely competitive," first-year head coach Steve Johnson said.

She also was named to the all-academic team and will likely pursue a volleyball career in college.

Kaitlyn Schoeppner, Sr., N. Farmington: Schoeppner, who signed with Mississippi State, is a repeat member of the All-Observer first team. The 6-foot-3 senior had been a middle hitter, but she moved to the outside this year and had 573 kills; she also blocked 59 opposing spikes. The team captain never left the court, making 379 digs and serving 58 aces in an all-round effort.

"Kaitlyn is just a great player who has the potential to dominate and take over games," coach Jessica Condeni said. "She continues to want to get better and grow as an athlete. I'm really excited for her to continue her volleyball career at the next level."

Schoeppner also played half the season with a broken pinky finger on her left, non-hitting hand.

"She blocked that out and showed a lot of mental toughness," Condeni said. "Not many girls would say, 'I don't care if it's broken or it hurts; I'm going to go out and play anyway.'"

Emily Norscia, Sr., Liv. Churchill: The 6-foot senior outside hitter, who made honorable mention all-state, led the Chargers with 786 total kills (5.7 per set) to go along with a staggering .496 hitting percentage.

During her four-year career she had 1,964 total kills, which ranks her third all-time, as well as being recognized in the MHSSA record book.

Norscia helped Churchill go 170-41-5 overall with one three division, two district, one regional and one conference title.

"Emily was our workhorse all year and a huge part of our success came from her ability to put the ball to the floor," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said of the team co-MVP. "Simply put, she was of the best outside hitters in the state."

Katie Tomasic, Jr., Liv. Stevenson: The 6-foot junior outside hitter and setter, who recently committed to Miami (Ohio), led Stevenson in total kills with 510 to go along with 214 assist-to-kills, 143 digs and 21 aces.

Tomasic, an all-state honoree, also serve received at a 92-percent clip.

"It's been such a pleasure having Katie be around the program for three years and to see the success she has had thus far," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said. "It's a great feeling knowing you have her coming back for another year. She works very hard every day, loves the game and puts her team first outside of anything else. To step up and play the role as a setter this year was amazing, which goes to show the type of athlete she is."

Jenna Lerg, Soph., Farm. Mercy: A big reason for Mercy's ongoing success is an attention to basic fundamentals and good execution. The Marlins emphasize passing, digging and serving first, and that's where Lerg plays a prominent role. The sophomore libero and second-year varsity player was the key to a solid defense and the transition to a good offense. Lerg is one of Mercy's leading servers, too. Her sister, Lindsey, is a former three-time all-area selection who now plays for Michigan.

"Jenna is only a sophomore, but she's already being recruited by Michigan and Michigan State," coach Loretta Vogel said. "Many people don't give the libero as much emphasis as we do. I'm always big on defense, so having someone like Jenna just works really well in our system.

"She's very versatile. If we ever needed a backup setter, it would be Jenna. She's very capable of attacking, too. Next year and the year after that, she'll probably have to assume different roles, but this year she was our libero."

Erica den Boer
Canton

Kaitlyn Schoeppner
N. Farmington

Emily Norscia
Churchill

Katie Tomasic
Stevenson

Jenna Lerg
Mercy

Madelyn Betts
Plymouth

Rebecca Middleton
Canton

Nicci Joyce
N. Farmington

Katie Horton
Wayne

Marissa Pomaville
Churchill

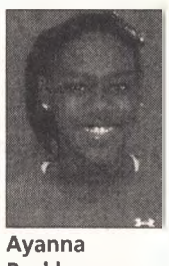
Sarah Gutknecht
Farmington

Olivia Beyer
Plymouth

Mary Dulzo
Mercy

Jamie Coleman
Harrison

Holly Mossoian
Stevenson


Ayanna Buckley
Clarenceville

Madelyn Betts, Sr., Plymouth: Over the past three years, Betts has been the epitome of consistency and stellar play both on offense and defense. Add to those attributes her leadership skills and steady demeanor and it's no wonder the senior co-captain earned team MVP honors.

Betts, also named the Wildcats' Offensive Player of the Year, earned other accolades with her selection to the all-conference, all-conference academic and all-region teams. She was a nominee for the D1 all-state team, although results have not been released.

She led the way with 399 kills (9.5 per game), served at a 90.3-percent success clip and tallied 6.6 digs per game.

"Not only was she our offensive standout, she was a leader on and off the floor," coach Sarah Marody said. "She consistently showed poise and confidence under pressure and carried the team when the game was on the line."

Betts accepted a scholarship to play volleyball at Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania.

Rebecca Middleton, Sr., Canton: The three-year starter and co-captain was the other key returnee from last season and she picked up where she left off, anchoring the defense as starting libero.

Middleton registered 561 digs, along with 67 assists and 42 aces as she earned spots on the all-conference and all-region teams (not to mention being named to the all-academic team).

"Her leadership as a captain was an important part of this year's team success by providing the setters with positive first touches in serve-receive and defensive transitions," Johnson said.

She will play volleyball next year at Marist College in upstate New York.

Nicci Joyce, Sr., N. Farmington: Joyce transferred from Marian and played one season at North, instantly making the Raiders a better and more complete team. The 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter was a good complement to Schoeppner on the opposite side of the front row, recording 422 kills and 32 blocks. Joyce, who signed with Winthrop University in South Carolina, was an all-round player who also had 397 digs and 30 aces. The Raiders rallied around her competitive fire and determined effort.

"Nicci understands volleyball and loves to compete," Condeni said. "She's such a hard worker and, defensively, can get touches on balls she has no business touching. I was so lucky to coach such a cool kid; she's such a big personality.

"She's a really fun player to watch. She has no business doing some of the things she does on the court, but it's just that passion and drive that makes her hard to stop. She was the missing piece to the puzzle."

Katie Horton, Sr., Wayne: The 6-1 senior, who signed with Ohio University, is a three-time all-Observer first-team selection who finished with 269 total kills, 254 digs, 189 blocks and 58 aces her senior season route to team MVP and all-KLAA honors.

"Being six feet tall, Katie is an intimidating factor when she walks in the gym," Wayne coach Samantha Dye said. "If in a game or just having fun, Katie always brings the heat on the court. She is aggressive and competitive, not letting anything or anyone stand in her way. Her last season at Wayne was a great one to watch. She kept on giving more and more. As a captain, she led the team in overall stats and led the team into victory more than once.

"There will never be another Katie Horton. She is unique and special in so many ways."

Marissa Pomaville, Sr., Liv. Churchill: The 6-1 senior, a two-time all-region pick and team co-MVP, finished her senior season with 452 kills and a team-best 101.5 blocks.

"Marissa has been our anchor in the middle for us for the past three seasons," Grenier said of the two-time all-KLAA selection. "During her three seasons looming large in the middle, Marissa has helped lead us to a state quarterfinal appearance, one district championship, two division championships and she has helped the program achieve 117 wins, with only 35 losses."

Pomaville will continue her volleyball career at Northwood University.

Sarah Gutknecht, Sr., Farmington: A four-year varsity player and outside hitter, the 6-foot senior has a powerful spiking action and can hammer the ball with the best. When the set was on target and the attack synchronized, defenses rarely stopped one of Gutknecht's hits. The all-round player had 293 kills, 44 aces and 265 digs. Gutknecht is an all-area softball player, too, and recently signed with Michigan State in that sport.

"Sarah was truly the ultimate senior captain," coach Mike Scott said. "She led by example on and off the court. We leaned on her a lot as a team and a coaching staff. I think it's pretty amazing she was able to handle all those things and still perform at the highest level. I hope the underclassmen on the team learned from her example."

Olivia Beyer, Soph,, Plymouth: The sophomore continued to shine in her second season as a starter at outside hitter, with 298 kills (6.5 per game) and 104 blocks (76 solo).

In addition, Beyer provided strong defense and intangibles such as her impeccable work ethic and energy that rubbed off on teammates. She was named to the all-conference and all-region teams and earned a spot on the all-conference academic squad.

"Despite her young age, Olivia shows poise and maturity on the court in pressure situations," Marody said. "She was the go-to player for the guaranteed kill. Her enthusiasm and commitment for the game sparks her teammates on the court to push themselves harder and be that much better."

Big things are expected of her during the next two seasons, Marody added.

Mary Dulzo, Sr., Farm. Mercy: The senior setter was a two-year starter and three-year varsity player for the Marlins, who were 45-11 and went to the Class A state quarterfinals. Dulzo excelled at organizing the offense and distributing the ball for a well-balanced attack. She also was a key defensive player who helped to make Mercy a fundamentally sound team.

"For any program, the No. 1 requirement is to have a successful setter," Vogel said. "We were fortunate to have Mary, and we had her for two years. When a team does well, it's always because of the setter. They're the quarterbacks, the pitchers. That's why we always put our setter on a pedestal.

"Serving is big for us, too. Without a doubt, Mary was our No. 1 server. She put a lot on the ball and caused the other team to be out of system. That was always our main emphasis. We would set our lineup so Mary would be that No. 1 server."

Jamie Coleman, Sr., Farm. Harrison: Coleman was a four-year starter and all-round player for the Hawks. She was an outside hitter her first three years, but she switched to being the primary setter as a senior in first-year coach Niece Curry's offense. Coleman, who is uncommitted, recorded 543 assists and continued to hit the ball, netting 138 kills in 433 attacks. She also had 185 digs, a dozen solo blocks and 22 block assists, and she was an 88-percent server with 63 aces.

"Jamie was a great asset for the 2012 Harrison volleyball team," Curry said. "She was a co-captain and the team respected her leadership. She led by example by pushing herself and the team to get better every practice and game.

"Jamie leaves it all on the court; win or lose, she competes with a true passion for the game. She has been a joy to coach and her spirit will be missed."

Holly Mossoian, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The senior libero anchored the Spartans' defense with a total of 308 digs in 474 chances for the Class A district champions.

Mossoian also serve received at a 79-percent rate (497-for-627).

"Holly was voted most aggressive this season," Graham said. "She also has been around the varsity program for three years. She's grown and improved so much from last year to this year.

"I immediately had confidence in her back-row play. She's a tough girl who played through some tough injuries this year, but never doubted what she had to do and wanted to do. I'm very proud of her efforts this year."

Ayanna Buckley, Jr., Clarenceville: The 6-1 junior, a three-year starter and Class B all-region pick, led the Trojans with 380 kills (3.4 per set) to go along with 88 solo blocks and a team-high 260 total digs.

"Ayanna is a powerful all-around player that excels in every part of the game. She has great court awareness," Clarenceville coach Wendy Merschman said. "She is an intense player and led us on offense and defense. She was huge at the net for us this year, making it a challenge for any team. I'm never worried when the ball is in her hands, she just dominates. Ayanna is also a very strong jump server and digs the ball well. She came up with some big plays all season long. Her numbers show how strong she is in every area."

Lexus Medina, Jr., Huron Valley: The 5-10 junior middle hitter led the Class D regional finalists with a total of 337 kills and 55 solo blocks en route to all-region and all-MIAC honors.

"Lexi is a very physically gifted athlete," Huron Valley Lutheran coach Mike Dest said. "She jumps out of the gym, and hits the ball as hard, if not harder, as anybody in the state. This year Lexi has developed her skills to go along with her physical gifts. I know the coaching staff likes watching her get it going.

"Offensively she's very hard to stop, and its nice to see her putting her all-around game together offensively and defensively. The sky's the limit for Lexi in this game. With some hard work and more volleyball touches, she can go very far."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jessica Condeni, N. Farmington: In her second year as head coach, Condeni led the Raiders to new heights. They won their first district championship in school history and advanced to the Class A regional final at Brighton, finishing with a 34-12 record.

Jessica Condeni
N. Farmington coach

Competing in the Oakland Activities Association's top division (Red), North finished third behind Class A powers Clarkston and Lake Orion, and one of its six wins was over state quarterfinalist Birmingham Seaholm.

The Raiders also won the Walled Lake Central tournament and were runners-up at Lakeland and Milford. North was a semi-finalist at Marian. Condeni is a former player at Harrison High School and Wayne State University.

"I'm very lucky to have the team I did," Condeni said. "Everybody had a common goal to get better and we were never satisfied. We competed with teams. We had that fighting spirit all year, and we won a lot of games in five. I think we had a lot of mental toughness.

"It's a credit to how hard the girls worked in practice and how focused they were. We had such a strong senior class. That doesn't happen very often, not at North Farmington, so they'll definitely be missed. Our seniors were the backbone of our team. They had something to fight for, and they did a really great job."

2012 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

FIRST TEAM

Erica den Boer, Sr., OH, Canton
Kaitlyn Schoeppner, Sr., OH, N. Farmington
Emily Norscia, Sr., OH, Liv. Churchill
Katie Tomasic, Jr., OH/S, Liv. Stevenson
Jenna Lerg, Soph., Lib., Farm. Mercy
Madelyn Betts, Sr., OH, Plymouth
Rebecca Middleton, Sr., Lib., Canton
Nicci Joyce, Sr., OH, N. Farmington
Katie Horton, Sr., OH, Wayne
Marissa Pomaville, Sr., MB, Liv. Churchill
Sarah Gutknecht, Sr., OH, Farmington
Olivia Beyer, Soph., MH, Plymouth
Mary Dulzo, Sr., S, Farm. Mercy
Jamie Coleman, Sr., S, Farm. Harrison
Holly Mossoian, Sr., Lib., Liv. Stevenson
Ayanna Buckley, Jr., OH, Clarenceville
Lexus Medina, Jr., MH, Huron Valley

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jessica Condeni, North Farmington

SECOND TEAM

Abigail Dworzanin, Sr., OH, Salem
Olivia Quinn, Sr., MH, Ladywood
Cayla Bone, Sr., OH, Garden City
Audrey Durocher, Sr., OH, Liv. Churchill
Chelsea Janice, Jr., S, Canton
Whitney Fields, Sr., OH, Farm. Harrison
Claire Truskowski, Sr., S, John Glenn
Hannah Long, Sr., S, N. Farmington
Shayla Smalls, Jr., S, Plymouth
Lexi Schultz, Sr., DS, Farm. Mercy
Kellie Newton, Soph., Lib., Liv. Franklin

THIRD TEAM

Nancy Krutty, Sr., S, Salem
Minta Whitaker, Sr., OH, Garden City
Jennifer Malcolm, Jr., MH, Ply. Christian
Izzy Porada, Soph., Lib. Ladywood
Madison Dest, Soph., OH, Huron Valley
Jordan Diedrick, Sr., OH, Canton
Allie Koestering, Sr., S, Liv. Stevenson
Catherine Morgan, Sr., OH, Farm. Mercy
Mackenzie Hamill, Jr., OH, Liv. Churchill
Emilee Beyer, Sr., OH/DS, Plymouth
Aldreanna Fikes, Sr., OH, Luth. Westland

FOURTH TEAM

Ariele Paris, Sr., OH, Red. Thurston
Nikki Busuito, Sr., OH, Red. Union
Kennedy Gossett, Jr., Lib., Garden City
Michelle Begovic, Jr., MH, Farmington
Erika Hatcher, Sr., OH, Salem
Ashley Murphy, Sr., MB, Clarenceville
Christa Greenwood, Jr., MH, Farm. Mercy
Elise Foss, Sr., MH, N. Farmington
Amanda Hawkins, Jr. MB, Liv. Stevenson
Julia Szuba, Sr., Lib., Liv. Churchill
Jenna Reinhold, Jr., OH, Farm. Mercy
Becca O'Connor, Jr., OH, Farmington

HONORABLE MENTION

Garden City: Julene Pummill; Redford Union: Caitlin Scanlon, Jamaya Dixon; Churchill: Krystyn Niescier; Stevenson: Annie MacDonald, Abby Whitehead, Morgan Copperstone, Mara Murray; Franklin: Mackenzie Lukas, Maggie Leins, Kelly O'Brien, Afton DeWyse; Lutheran Westland: Alissa Flury, Leah Refenes; Huron Valley: Anne St. John; Ladywood: Allie Malick; John Glenn: Hannah Staples, Wayne: Deja Tamlin, Danielle Robbins; Clarenceville: Tonya Vernier, Jodi Ankiel, Nicole Kurdziel, Christine Hurmiz; Farmington: Kelsey McDonald, Kat McAllister; N. Farmington: Lauren Caverly, Meghan Hurley; Mercy: Logan Horejsi; Harrison: Jessica Austin, Stephanie Wagner, Rachel Scrimger, Lavondria Covington, Amari Eadie; Plymouth: Caterina Soli, Kyra Neumann, Zoe Irvin; Canton: Dia Jackson, Sasha Cucuz, Madison Kielty; Salem: Emily Lipa, Julianna DiMichele, Breanne Beaver; Ply. Christian: Mary Anleitner, Rachel Fuller, Callie Morby.

Reason for the season

Bible characters come alive at Breakfast in Bethlehem

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Portraying shepherds are Sissy Howard (left), of Romulus, Ralph Congdon of Livonia and Liz Nuorala of Westland. Sadie, Sissy's miniature poodle, is pretending to be a lamb.

Breakfast in Bethlehem co-leaders Shona Vincent (left) and Linda Crawford work together in the church's youth ministry, Kidz Connection.

Teresa Prong, of Livonia, carves a Star of David from foam board.

Shona Vincent and Linda Crawford have cooked up a Christian alternative to the "Breakfast with Santa" activities that abound this time of year in metro Detroit.

The co-leaders of Kidz Connection, the children's ministry at Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia, along with 100 volunteers, have been busy the past few weeks transforming the church gymnasium, lobby, and fellowship hall, into Christ's birth place for a free, two-hour "Breakfast in Bethlehem" on Saturday, Dec. 8.

The event, packed with activities for kids and open to the community, will run from 10 a.m. to noon at the church, 35475 Five Mile, in Livonia.

Live animals, a living nativity, "shopkeepers" with hands-on craft projects, patrolling Roman soldiers and mingling townsfolk will help bring Bethlehem to life.

"It's a fun outreach and hopefully the community will come," Vincent said. "It's really in competition with 'Breakfast with Santa' and it's meant to give new meaning to what Christmas is all about, to teach children that we're not celebrating Santa Claus — although that is a fun thing and there's nothing bad about that — but it's just a way to teach what Christmas really is and what we're celebrating, which is Christ's birth. We want to teach them that and let them experience the sights, sounds, smells of what may have been. We can give the kids a sense of wonder."

Vincent attended a similar event 19 years ago at a Nazarene church. She doesn't recall much about the experience, other than "it was cool." When she and Crawford brainstormed ideas for Memorial Church of Christ, they decided their version of Breakfast in Bethlehem would take shape on a grand scale.

In the village

Visitors will enter the building and pass through a village gate before checking their jackets and coats in the "cloak room," staffed by a costumed volunteer. They'll receive a bag full of play denarii — ancient Roman cash — and then head to breakfast.

Before entering the gym to browse shops, each child will sign the town census book in English or in Hebrew with assistance.

"There will be a lot of different shops," Vincent said. "At the music and psalm shop they'll make instruments. They'll go to Herod's palace and make jewelry and interact with Herod, who will be sitting on his throne.

"We'll have Bethlehem bagels, the bakery where they'll decorate a cookie. We'll have a metal shop, a carpenter shop. They'll make a catch-it toy and there will be a yard where they can play with it."

Families will get a chance to don costumes and take photos of themselves as nativity characters. Outside they'll see goats, chickens, lambs, calves, ducks and a living nativity, with Mary, Joseph, and shepherds.

"We'll have some role-playing going on. We're going to have a beggar woman. We'll have a tax collector who will be right inside the door trying to grab the kids money and make them pay taxes. We'll have shepherds just outside the door when families go out, saying 'Oh, did you see that bright star tonight?'"

Creating the setting

The volunteers account for approximately one third of the church's members. Some of them cut foam board into Stars of David, painted scenery and crafted palm trees from carpet roles topped with umbrellas decorated in green paper leaves at a work session earlier

Please see BREAKFAST, B6

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nancy Ryan is a shopkeeper in Bethlehem. When she's not at work in Bethlehem, Nancy lives in Livonia.

BREAKFAST

Continued from page B5

this week.

Ralph Congdon of Livonia, will portray a census taker at the event, but also helped paint and create papier mâché scenery.

"It makes me happy that I can do it. Whenever I can help anybody, that's what I do," he said.

Teresa Prang of Livonia and Krista Stelmaszek of Canton, both long-time members of the church, are in charge of decorations for the event. They found ideas for scenery online and from previous Vacation Bible School classes.

"This is such a good sense of community. It helps us as a congregation, to draw us closer, and hopefully will bring people in," Prang said.

The hands-on activities are aimed at sixth graders and younger, although the Breakfast in Bethlehem event is open to all ages.

"I'm hoping the kids will be impacted by seeing Jesus in the stable and the humble beginnings he had," Crawford said. "I also think the kids will really enjoy the live animals. I'm hoping it will make the whole Christmas season come alive to the kids and their families. "

Vicent and Crawford request that participants RSVP at www.memorialkidz.org to help them determine how much food they'll require for the breakfast.

Tiffany Reed, of Canton and LuDean Peters, of Livonia, use tissue boxes dipped in paint to print a brick wall.

Ladies shopping night set in Plymouth

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents its annual "Dashing through the Stores," a ladies night out, 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6 in downtown Plymouth.

This event is designed for women to holiday shop in Plymouth's unique shops and fill out wish lists for themselves. Many restaurants also will offer special drinks and appetizers for shoppers.

Participating this year: Agio Spa; Bella Mia; Candy Trail; Creatopia; Dazzling Daniela; Dearborn Jewelers; Eclectic Attic; Genuine Toy Co.; Gigi's Mode; Hands on Leather; Haven, Home Sweet Home; Isabella's Copper Pot; Kemnitz Fine Candies; Kilwin's; Lolayan; Magnolia Fresh Flower Market, Old World Olive Press; Opndohr; R.S.V.P.; Simply the Best; Sun & Snow; TranquiliTea and Yogurt Palooza A donation drive for Plymouth Community United Way will be held in conjunction with the event. Shoppers can donate a new hat, scarf, mittens or gloves at any of the participating stores. For more information visit www.plymouthmich.org.

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Youngsters send gifts to Navy personnel

Children and families from the Felician Sisters Child Care Centers, Inc. recently collected treats — from candy and hot chocolate to books and crossword puzzles — for sailors aboard the USS Oscar Austin DDG-79.

Terrie Nemeth, Kindergarten Readiness teacher, whose son, Jeremy, serves in the Navy, spear-headed the project at St. Mary Child Care Center in Livonia. In addition to children collecting items for donation overseas, staff members donated money to help defray the cost of postage.

The project took on a life of its own and resulted in more than 40 boxes being packed and mailed to the sailors. The children spent several days designing more than 300 Christmas cards that were sent with the boxes.

Sister Joyce Marie Van de Vyver gathers the troops of red, white and blue Christmas Elves at St. Mary Child Care Center in Livonia.

"Projects such as these are important learning tools for putting our Core Values into practice, especially for very young children who are just learning how to share with others," said Sister Joyce Marie Van de Vyver, administrator. "They also become a vehicle for parents to begin discussions with their children regarding peace and justice."

The Felician Sisters sponsor both St. Mary Child Care Center and the Montessori Center of our Lady. For information call (734) 655-1900.

Holiday brass concert

The Motor City Brass Quintet will play holiday and seasonal favorites noon, Wednesday, Dec. 5 in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Quintet members — some are from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra — have performed with such ensembles as the Empire Brass Quintet, Spectrum Brass Quintet and Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble. The free concert is part of the Noon Concert Series that includes soprano Linda Meehan, Jan. 23, 2013; Tubao Bravo, Feb. 6, 2013; Gary Schunk Trio, Feb. 20, 2013; Schoolcraft Music Faculty, March 20, 2013; The Michele Ramo Group, April 10, 2013; and violinist Kirk Toth, April 24, 2013. Donations will be accepted at the door to help fund student scholarships. Call (734) 462-4403 for more information.

Shop for unique gifts at artist sale

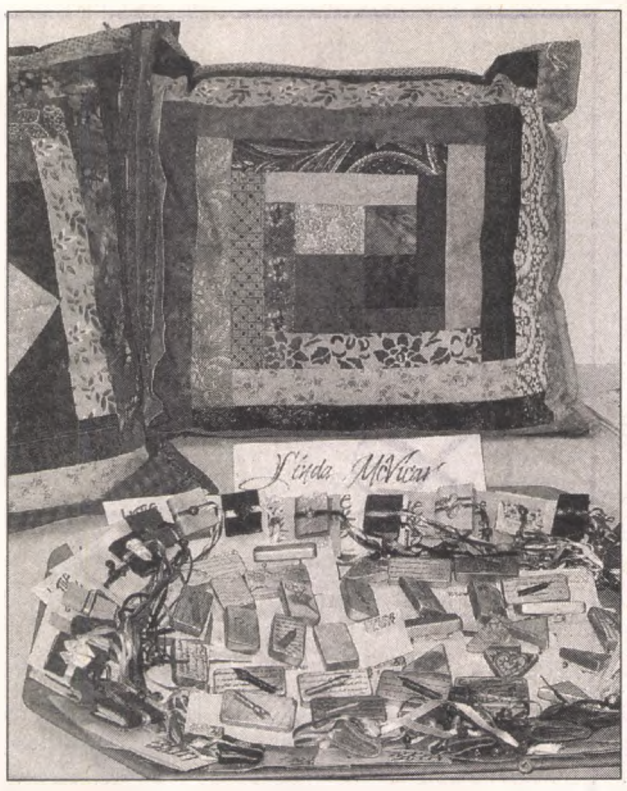
The Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) will open its third VAAL Holiday Shoppe Wednesday, Dec. 5. in the VAAL classroom at the New Five Village Shopping Center, 37653 Five Mile, Livonia.

The juried show and sale will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Saturday, Dec. 15. A special reception will be held 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. Refreshments will be served.

The VAAL Holiday Shoppe offers shoppers an opportunity to select unique art gifts for holiday giving. The art work is by award winning artists including staff, members and non-members.

The sale will include unframed art, cards, jewelry, fiber, ceramics and one-of-a-kind art pieces, in every price range.

For more information call (734) 464-6772.



From pillows to pins and everything in between, the Visual Arts Association of Livonia offers handmade items for sale in its holiday gift shop.

Photographer uses Google Earth in genealogy

Doug Willett of Livonia-based Luna Tech 3D will talk about using Google Earth for genealogy at the next meeting of the Oakland County Genealogical Society.

Willett is a "Google Trusted Photographer" who will explain how to use Google Earth in researching the neighborhoods of ancestors.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4 in room 303 of the Troy Community Center, 3179 Livernois, just north of Big Beaver, Troy.

For more information, call Dick Fellrath at (248) 519-5064. Visit www.ocgs-mi.org.

Arthritis Today

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THE ANKLE

When someone mentions arthritis, what usually comes to mind is a swollen knee or a shoulder that can't move. The picture of a person limping on a bad ankle doesn't often come up, but it should.

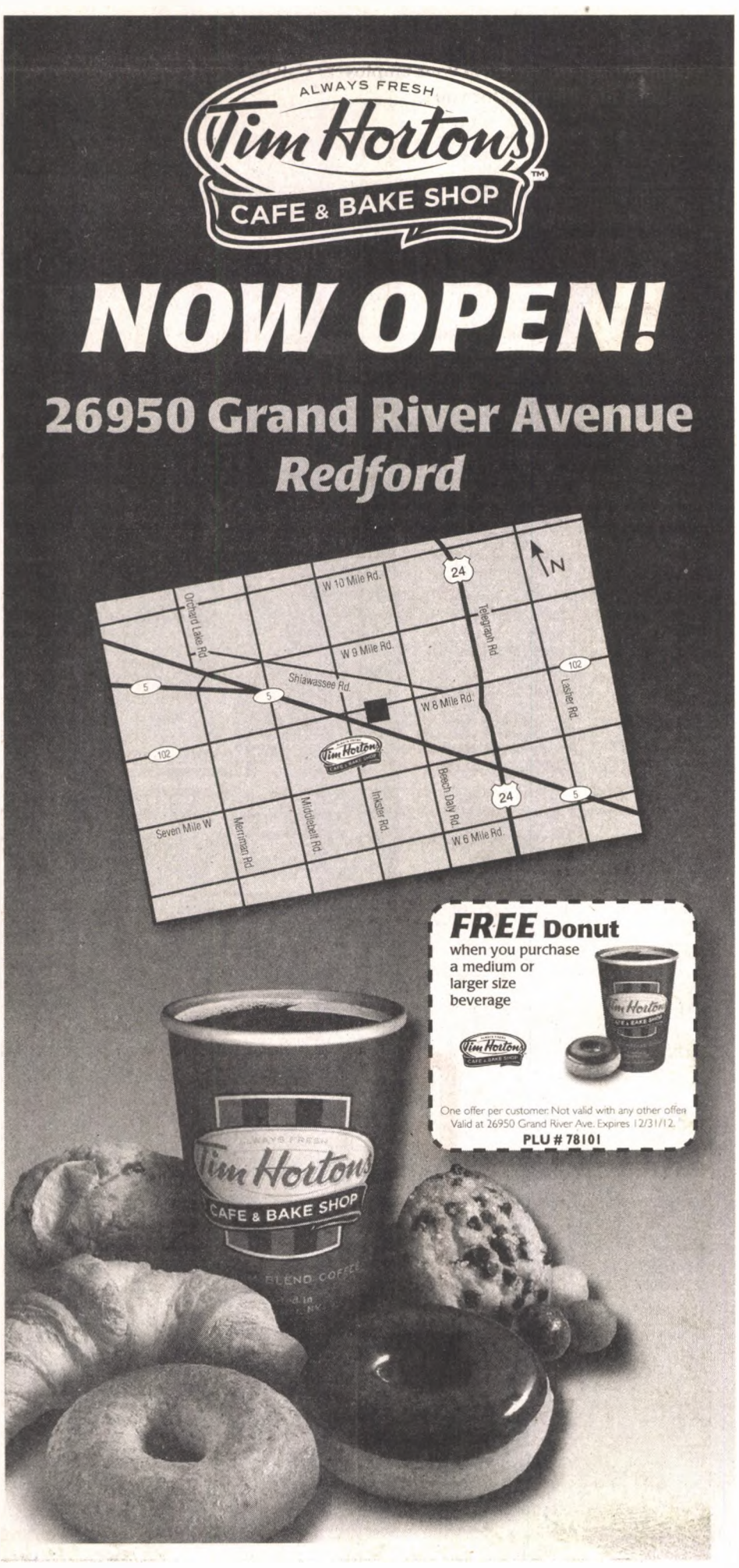
Ankle pain and swelling is common. Keep in mind that the ankle is more than the joint itself but includes the tendons that run on either side of the ankle joint. These parts control movement of the foot and toes. Finally, next to the bones are ligaments which bind the ankle to the foot and stabilize the small bones of the foot.

Physicians make an effort to identify ankle pain because a patient with a bad ankle often will present with a painful, aching leg. A swollen ankle throws a strain on the rest of the leg that may lead the patient and potentially mislead the doctor to seeing the problem as coming from the leg not the ankle.

The most common cause of ankle pain is injury, usually of the twisting variety. Osteoarthritis may set into the ankle at any age, at times quite early if the person experienced a sports injury or from a vehicle such as car, motorcycle or cross country road bike.

Gout can strike the ankle; rheumatologic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, an ankylosing spondylitis need be considered in otherwise unexplained ankle pain. Infection occurs, but usually the inciting agent is identified from an evident wound.

Treatment may be difficult. In instances of injury, braces and splints are the therapies of choice, but they often cause as much strain as they relieve. Medication is only appropriate if the physician has identified an underlying cause.



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

December

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12, and 19

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The meditation them is the beginnings of the Gospel of St. Matthew, St. Luke and Revelation

Contact: (734) 968-3523

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5, 12 and 19

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market in Farmington Hills

Details: A pre-service meal will be served at 6 p.m.

Contact: (248) 553-3380

BELL CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9

Location: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Classical Bells performs, with The Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Tickets are $10 in advance; $12 at the door

Contact: www.seatyourself.biz/stmatthewslivonia; (734) 422-6038

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: This service is designed for individuals who struggle with the holidays. It is for those who may be grieving, for those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or just struggling with the holidays in general. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service

Contact: (734) 422-1470

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14 and 10:45 a.m.Sunday, Dec. 16

Location: First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "One Quiet Night" is a dramatic musical, written by Tony Wood and Heidi Petak and arranged and orchestrated by Richard Kingsmore. It's directed by Ron Newsome. Admission is free

Contact: (734) 981-6460

Detroit Lutheran Singers will perform 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon, Canton.

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton

Details: Free clothing and shoes to those in need

Contact: (734) 404-2480 or (734) 927-6686

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.detroitlutheransingers.com

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9

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 the door.

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

COOKIE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-noon or until cookies are sold out, Saturday, Dec. 8

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, Gutherie Social Hall, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: Cookies will be sold for $7 per dozen of "choose your own" cookies or $11 (2 for $20) for prepackaged 2-dozen boxes

CONTACT: (734) 422-0149

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: Doors open 8 a.m., sale starts 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 15

Location: Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 Seven Mile, between Farmington Road and Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Come early for coffee and conversation. There will be a large quantity of European cookies, nut, poppyseed, and apricot rolls, perogies, sweet bread and stuffed cabbage available for purchase

Contact: (248) 476-3432

COOKIE WALKS

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

FILM

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: Screening of "The Nativity." The movie is free and appropriate for the entire family

Contact: (248) 553-3380

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

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holisticma@gmail.com

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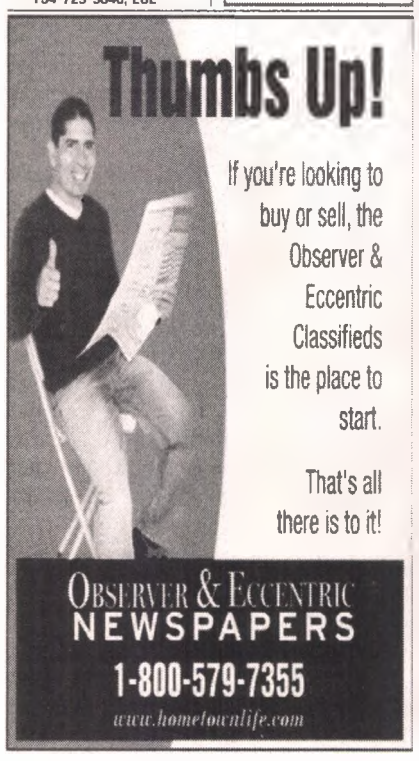
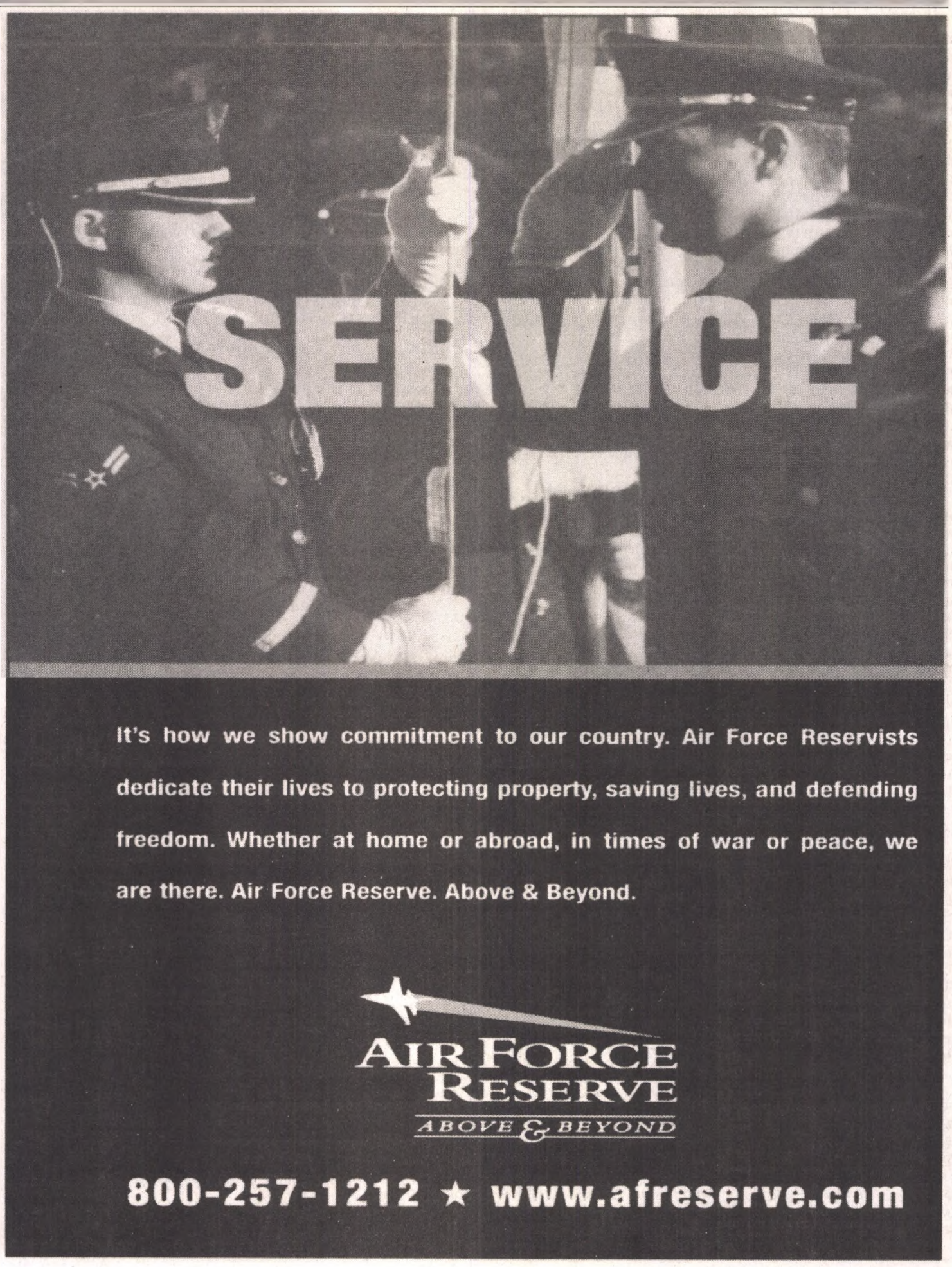




MILESTONES

Kavanaugh-Hollandsworth

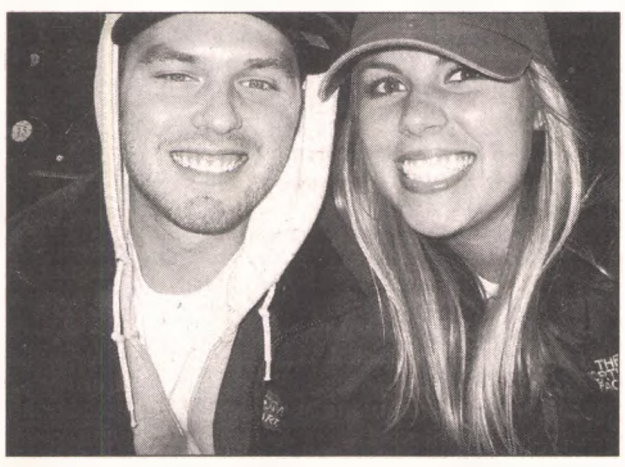
Shanna Marie Kavanaugh and Bradford Hale Hollandsworth announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Garner and Mr. and Mrs. David Phalin, all of Chicago, Ill., is a stylist in Chicago, Ill.

Her fiancé, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rob Hollandsworth of St. Charles, Ill., formerly of Farmington Hills, is employed with Dean Foods Co., as a sales rep.

A February 2013 wedding is planned at Hotel 71 in Chicago, Ill.

Young-Mitchell



Stephanie Alexandra Mary Young and Timothy Kevin Mitchell announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Robert and Mary Young of Burton, graduated in 2009 from Michigan State University with a B.A. degree in interdisciplinary studies in social science. She is employed by Young's Environmental.

Her fiancé, son of Kevin and Pamella Mitchell of Farmington Hills, graduated in 2009 from Michigan State University with a B.A. degree in finance and is working on his MBA degree from Michigan State. He plans to graduate in April 2014. He is employed by Ally Financial.

An August 2013 wedding is planned in Bay Harbor.

Long-time Livonia couple observes 70th anniversary

Robert and Phyllis (Zerilli) Mooradian of Livonia will mark their 70th wedding anniversary Dec. 16. They were married in 1942 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Detroit.

They couple celebrated their milestone anniversary on Thanksgiving Day with their family.

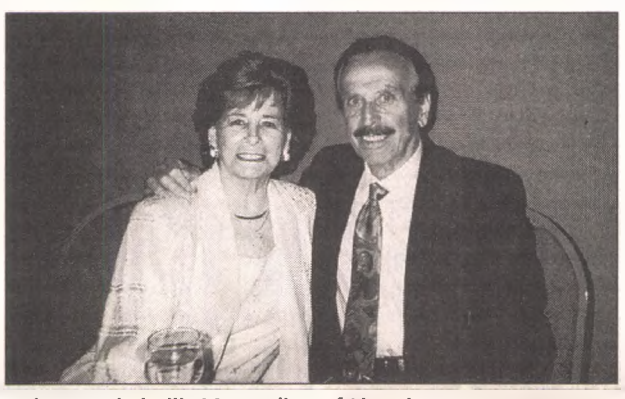
"We got a very special, customized two-tier anniversary cake, a beautiful arrangement of all white flowers with roses, lilies and silver and white glittery embellishments, giant balloons that matched the cake and plates, napkins," said their daughter, Barbara Mooradian of Troy. "And I designed a customized banner we ordered from a sign company to make the day even more special."

She and her brothers rented two white stretch limos to whisk family away to dinner at Bucca de Beppo Italian Restaurant.

Her brothers are Paul (Pam) Mooradian of Bloomfield Hills, Don (Kathleen) Mooradian of Nashville, Tenn., and Bob (Mary Ann) Mooradian of Mt. Pleasant.

Grandchildren are Bryan Mooradian of Kalamazoo, Michael Mooradian of Royal Oak, Brandon (Crystal) Mooradian of Pell City, Ala., Rebecca (Jonathan) Moody of Nashville, Tenn., Mark Mooradian of Mt. Pleasant, and Joe Mooradian, of Nashville, Tenn.

Great-granddaughter is Emily Mooradian. A great-grandson is due this month.



Robert and Phyllis Mooradian of Livonia.

Robert and Phyllis Mooradian on their wedding day.

Long-time residents

Robert recently celebrated his 91st birthday. He was born Nov. 16, 1921. Phyllis, born June 11, 1924, is 88 years old.

Both grew up in Detroit and lived there until 1952 when they moved to Livonia.

"They have many friends and love the sense of community that comes with living in Livonia," Mooradian said.

Robert served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during WWII.

"Mom had movie star beauty — still beautiful — and raised four wonderful children while Dad worked hard every day and went to night school to earn a college degree from Wayne State University."

Two retirements

Robert worked at Ford Motor Company and retired at age 65. He returned as a consultant within weeks and worked full time for the next 15 years. He retired again at age 80.

Mooradian said her father made significant contributions in the cost analysis of manufacturing PEM Fuel Cells when he worked as a consultant. She said he is recognized as a leader and expert.

"Since Dad retired at 80 and worked most of his life, my parents find they love spending time together and have done this for the last 11 years. They also enjoy spending time with family and friends."

Phyllis enjoys crossword puzzles, reading, and visiting with friends. Robert gardens, enjoys landscaping and is a physical fitness advocate. He exercises, including power walking with weights and stomach crunching, for up to two hours a day, five-six times a week, Mooradian said.

"Anyone who knows my parents can see that they love each other very much. They kiss often — every morning and night — and a lot in between. They write each other love notes, hold hands, and respect each other in subtle and obvious ways," she said. "Even their little actions demonstrate respect, caring, and love. My mom says they never go to bed mad at each other and one or the other will give in if they don't see eye to eye.

"They are loving, generous parents who passed their values of hard work, integrity, compassion, and caring on to all of their children."

Alexa Jordan Grant

Alexa Jordan Grant was born at 8:09 p.m., Oct. 3, 2012 at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield. She weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long.

Proud first-time parents are Livonia residents Katie and Brian Grant.

Her happy grandparents, Jean and Craig Fones and Colleen and George Mills, all are Livonia residents. Brian Grant's father, Ronald Grant of Shelby Township, welcomes his first grandchild.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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BAILEY-FAWCETT, DOROTHY MARIE

Age 77, November 24, 2012. Wife of Neil and the late Ralph. Mother of Sandi (Kevin) Eisbrenner, Karen (Greg) Westfall, Doug Bailey, Mike (Lisa) Bailey, Jerry (Anna) Bailey, Mark Fawcett, and Paul (the late Charlene) Griffin. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of 4. Sister of Elsie Lee. Sister-in-law of Gertrude Wynsberge and Rita Wynsberge. Visitation Thursday 2-8pm. Funeral Service Friday 11:30am at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill).

Memorials suggested to the Michigan Humane Society.
santeiufuneralhome.com

BARACKMAN, DENISE D.

November 22, 2012, Age 60 of Garden City. Beloved wife of Charles "Chuck". Dear stepmom of Chuck Barackman. Loving daughter of Dick and the late Delores French. Dear sister of Douglas French. Proud Grandmother of Sara and Ryan Barackman. The family will gather with friends Mon 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth (at Gotfredson). Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church Deacons Fund or Grace Centers of Hope, 35 East Huron Street, Pontiac, MI 48342

To share a memory, please visit
vermeulenfuneralhome.com

DALY. JOHN ROBERT

Age 45, November 22, 2012. Beloved husband of Dawn, loving father of Caryn and Erin. John is also survived by his parents, Brian and Mary Daly and brother Stephen. John graduated from Farmington High School, class of 1985. John was a retired U.S. Navy veteran with 23 years of service retiring as a Senior Chief. He was currently employed by BAE systems in Patuxent, MD. Internment will be at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

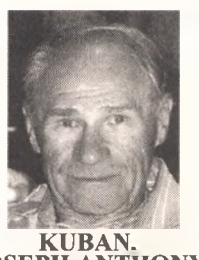
EARHART. JOANN (BROWN/REED)

Passed away on November 20th, 2012 at age 63. She was originally from Westland and is survived by her loving daughters, Bridgett (Ken) Monville, Christie Reed, and Brenda Earhart. Beloved wife of Donald Earhart and the late Billy Reed. Blessed with 8 grandchildren, Molly & Shelby Wysong, Nicholas & Lucas Monville, Cole Belknap, Paiden, Hailee, & Domanyk Meza. Sister of Cindia Lee (Mike)Tanner and the late Jimmy (Pat) Brown. Preceeded in death by her parents Bill and Verlon "Ruth" Lee and James Brown. Visitation Dec 8th from 1pm until Cremation memorial service at 2 pm at L.J Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 N. Middlebelt Rd, Westland. Interment services immediately following at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens, 17840 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to her family.

EMRICK, ELISE M.

November 4, 2012, age 95. She was one of the first female real estate brokers in Wayne County, having obtained her license in 1960. She and her husband Paul, operated Emrick Orchards until 1990 when she co-developed Emrick Orchard Estates. A Celebration of Life will be held on December 10, 2012 from 3pm until 7pm at Station 885, 885 Starkweather, Plymouth. Contributions are suggested to Wells Veterinary Scholarship, Michigan State University, F130 Veterinary Medical Center, East Lansing, MI 48824-1314

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



KUBAN. JOSEPH ANTHONY

Age 91, passed away on November 24, 2012 in Birmingham, AL from complications of CIDP. He was preceded in death by Patricia Kuban, his wife of 62 years, sons Jack and Karl and three sisters. Joe was born in Czechoslovakia in 1921, moved to Cudahy, WI with his parents at the age of 3. He proudly served his country in WWII, receiving many decorations and citations including a Purple Heart. Joe married Patricia Whidden in 1947. Demand for automobiles prompted Joe to move his family to Westland, Michigan in 1957 to work at Ford Motor Company until his retirement. Joe and Pat chose to spend their retirement years in New Port Richey, Florida. Joe was a very loving and supportive husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. All who shared his life will miss his quick wit, storytelling and amazing memory. He was a good man, mild mannered with an uncanny ability to take life's ups and downs with grace and humility. He loved God and was a good and faithful servant. Joe is survived by his sons Ronald, Rotanda West, FL, and Brian, Westland, MI, daughter Peggy (Dave) Carlington, Hoover, AL., one brother, Frank (Diane) Kuban, Racine, WI. He leaves behind seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. A military rites funeral will be held December 6, 2012, 11:00 am at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

PETRICHES, ANNE

(Age 54) Beloved wife of Jeffrey. Loving mother of Jennifer (Travis) Black and Jonathon (Kara) Petriches and grandmother of Oliver Black & Jaycie & Kaylie Petriches. Dear sister of William (Margaret) Gauthier, Dolly (the late Robert) Morris, Jeanie (Ken) Steel, Richard (Patty) Gauthier & Larry (Deborah) Gauthier & loving aunt of many. Daughter of the late Nelson & Alice Gauthier & Daughter in law of Pat (the late John) Petriches. Anne was manager of Neighbors Caring for Neighbors Clinics & Prescription Resource Network Services of Henry Ford Hospital. Visiting Thursday 3 pm until 7:15 pm Scripture services at Henry Malburg Funeral Home 11280 32 Mile in Romeo. Visiting Friday 10 am until 11 am Memorial Mass at SS. John and Paul Parish 7777 28 Mile Romeo. In lieu of flowers donations for the care of diabetic patients at Neighbors Caring for Neighbors Clinics appreciated. (henryfordgiving.com)

WIELEBA FRANCES A.

83, of Farmington Hills, retired Madison School District Educator, died November 26, 2012. Surviving are her nieces & nephews, Marianne Yochimovitz, Leonette Yochimovitz, Micki Czerniak, Matthew (Diane) Czerniak, Keith Krupsky, Robert (Terry) Lynch, Dennis (Karen) Lynch, Terence Lynch and Mary Margaret Lynch; numerous great nieces and nephews, and her beloved pet, Penny. Sadly, Frances was preceded in death by her niece, Susanne Krupsky, and her sisters, Mary Yochimovitz, Stephanie Czerniak and Bernice Lynch. Funeral Mass Friday, 10:00 AM (in state 9:30 AM) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Visitation Thursday, 1-5 PM and 6-8 PM, with a 7 PM Rosary, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington .Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial contributions may be directed to Michigan Humane Society, michiganhumane.org, or St. Anthony's Guild, 144 W. 32nd St., New York, NY, 10001-3202.
heeney-sundquist.com

May you find **comfort** in Family and Friends

RITTER MARY J. (NEE CORACY)

November 30, 2012, Age 91 of Lathrup Village. Mary's first priority was her family and in her professional life she was a school librarian in the Detroit Public School system. She graduated Wayne State University in 1942, 1945 (BA,MA). Social activities included AAUW where she was a 65 year member and an active worker in the annual book sale where thousands of dollars were raised for women's scholarships. She was also involved in the Gourmet Foods group and active in an investment club, and the Cranbrook Writers Society. She was also a board member of the Metro Detroit Book and Author Society that raised thousands of dollars for local libraries. Her avocations included travel to five continents and spending summers in the mountains of Colorado. Beloved wife of George M.D. Dear mother of James D. (Diane), John G. (Rita Aiello), William G. (Dana) G. Thomas (Donna) and Robert D. (Carrie). Grandmother of Kevin, Cory, Courtney, Daniela, Krista, Dean, Lauren, Nate and Ryan. Also survived by seven great grandchildren. Sister of Vito "Bill" Coracy (Anna). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), Sunday (today) 2-5 & 7-9p.m. Funeral Mass Monday 10a.m. at Church of the Transfiguration, 25225 Code Rd., Southfield. Visitation at church begins at 9:30a.m.

Memorial tributes to Wayne State University School of Library Science or the AAUW Birmingham Chapter.

View obituary and share memories at www.Desmond FuneralHome.com

A.J. DESMOND SONS

VELLER (SUND), KATHLEEN

Age 89, of Toledo, Ohio, long time resident of Beverly Hills, Michigan, and recently of Rogers, Minnesota was welcomed into heaven on November 8, 2012 by those who passed before her including her parents Edna (Suhrbier) and Edwin Sund. A compassionate caregiver, both personally and professionally, she retired from Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak after a long career as a Registered Nurse and Clinical Nursing Coordinator. Her Nursing career began in Toledo, Ohio when she graduated from Flower Hospital Nursing School. She later received her B.S. in Nursing from Oakland University and her M.S. in Counseling from Mercy College. She was an active and faithful member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Birmingham, MI where she acted as a Stephens Minister and served in the church library. Her varied interests included Bible Study, reading, travel, plants, and birds. She was a loving wife to Robert Veller, mother to Patricia Olive (John) of Brooklyn Center, MN, Donald of Greenville, SC, and James (Shari) of Cheboygan, MI and sister to Eugene Sund of Toledo, OH, all who have survived her. A private family service will be held at Toledo Memorial Cemetery.

WASHBURN, PAULETTE D.

Age 62, November 25, 2012. Beloved wife of Louis. Loving mother of Michele (Leo) Hoover, step-mother of Julie (Todd) Randolph and Jodi (Ed) Sturgeon. Dearest daughter of Leona and the late Russell Boyle. Dear sister of Michael (Renee), Wayne (Helen), Patricia (Rick), Claudia (Stan) and Lana. Visitation Thursday 2-8pm at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City where funeral services will be held on Friday at 10:00 am. Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Please sign the online guestbook at: rggrharris.com

In Memoriam

LOU ANN (GISNER) BOUCHIE

Daughter of Oscar and Marie Gisner. Born on July 6, 1937 and passed away on August 10, 2012 in her home on Pine Island Cove, St. James City, Florida. Leaving behind her son, Russell, and two grandsons, two sisters. There will be a memorial on December 2; 2012 at Calvery Baptist Church in Plymouth, Michigan. This will be at 2:30 for more information call 734-674-8666, her sister Alice.

HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR
SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
(313) 222-8833
FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Speaker to discuss Lyme disease and nutrition

The East Oakland-Northern Wayne Lyme Support Group will feature David Rodgers, who holds an M.S. degree in nutrition, at its next meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

Rodgers used his training as a nutritionist to heal his symptoms of Lyme disease, using only nutritional protocols while consulting with Lyme-literate physicians in Southeast Michigan. He has been 95 percent symptom-free for more than four years. His nutritional practice, specializing in the treatment of Lyme disease and other chronic conditions, is located in Berkley.

The East Oakland-Northern Wayne Lyme Support Group, is sponsored by the Michigan Lyme Disease Association, and Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church. The group meets the first Tuesday of every month, except January and July, and is open to anyone who has Lyme disease, suspects they may have the disease, or cares about someone with Lyme disease. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about Rodgers visit www.nutrientbalance.com or call (248) 291-7722.

For more information about the Michigan Lyme Disease Association, visit www.mlda.org or call (888) 784-LYME.

Learn to identify teen drug, alcohol abuse

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," will run 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 and 15, 2013 Elliott drive, Ypsilanti. The workshop series is designed for families and others who are concerned that a teen they know may be involved with alcohol or drug use.

The first part of the series, "What To Know," on Jan. 8, will help participants understand and recognize teen substance abuse problems. The second session, "What To Do," on Jan. 15, will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified. It will include a short talk by a recovering teen.

The program is free. It's targeted primarily to parents and caretakers of teens but is open to all. Free literature about alcohol and other drugs and teens will be provided.

The "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do" program is sponsored by Dawn Farm, and co-sponsored by the Livingston and Washtenaw Regional Coordinated School Health Program Advisory Team, and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System Greenbrook Recovery Center. The programs are presented by Dawn Farm and Growth Works therapists specializing in adolescent substance abuse problems.

Call (734) 485-8725, email info@dawnfarm.org or go to http://www.teensusingdrugs.org for more information.

NEW FACES

Dr. David Crowl Jr., D.O., a board-certified internist, recently joined both the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, as well as Botsford's Midwest Internal Medicine Associates (MIMA). The medical practice recently earned Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's designation as a patient-centered medical home practice.

Crowl

MIMA is located at 20317 Farmington Road in Livonia.

Crowl attended medical school at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, where has served as an associate clinical professor since 2009. He performed his internal medicine residency at Garden City Hospital, where he held the position of chief resident. He also received the 2010-2011 Medical Educator of the Year Award from Garden City Hospital. He will continue to train internal medicine residents at Botsford.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

December

LUPUS SUPPORT
The Lupus Alliance of Michigan will hold a lupus Support Group meeting, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777, Livonia. Meetings are designed to assist people with lupus and their family and friends to get connected with one another, and to get a better understanding of the disease and how to fight it. Support Group meetings are offered free of charge to anyone interested in participating. For more information visit www.milupus.org, or call (800) 705-6677.

NEUROPATHY SUPPORT
The Southeast Michigan Neuropathy Support Group's next meeting is 7 p.m. Dec. 18, at the Civic Park Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. The group meets the third Tuesday of the month. The group is aimed at individuals with any kind of neuropathy. Questions? Call Len McCulloch at (248) 474-2763 ext 22.

THYROID CANCER
Thyroid Cancer Support meets monthly and is free for all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family and friends. Its next meeting is 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 1641 Charlevois Drive, Troy. For more information, contact Gwynne at (248) 515-0348. Or visit Thyca.org

VOLUNTEER VOICES
The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extends an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Times and dates of sessions in December vary. Call Len McCulloch at (248) 474-2763 ext 22. Or visit www.therapychoirs.org.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES
The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT
2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT
Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina at (734) 837-7700 with questions.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUPS
• St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.
• Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue, Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

CPR CLASSES
Classes range from basic CPR for people who want to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

DIABETES SUPPORT
An adult diabetes support group sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion will facilitate. There is no charge to attend. Discussion topics will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies. Call Vining at (734) 454-0859.

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It's time to shake your job search blues

Kaitlin Madden
CareerBuilder writer

In both his books and speeches, Donald Trump often mentions a story that his father told him when he was a child that goes something like this: There once was an entrepreneur who started a soda company called Three Up. Despite the man's passion for his company, though, Three Up eventually went under. Undeterred, the entrepreneur started another cola company called Four Up, which also went bankrupt. He persisted on, but after Five Up and Six Up failed as well, the man was tired of struggling and gave up. A short time later another company came along and invented 7 Up, which was wildly successful. The point of the story, according to Trump, is that if the man hadn't quit, he would have created 7 Up.

If you're a job seeker, you can probably relate to the entrepreneur in the story. It may seem hard to stay motivated in the face of rejection and success can seem elusive — you might even feel like giving up on your job search or settling for a job you don't really like. But, if you quit when the going gets tough, you may miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime — like the entrepreneur did.

The job search blues can certainly be tough to conquer — but it can be done. Here's how to get through the tough times in a job search.

Pay attention to your thoughts

"Listen to the things you say to yourself about your job, your abilities and your chances of achieving your career goals," says Colette Ellis, founder of leadership consulting firm In-Step Consulting and author of e-book "Focus on your vision."

If you realize that your "self-talk" is predominately negative, make an effort to change it any time a negative thought pops into your head. "When you hear your negative messages and begin to feel badly, say 'stop!' and replace the thought or message with a more positive statement," Ellis says.

Dave Sanford, an executive vice president at recruiting firm Winter, Wyman, agrees: "You can't force hiring decisions to go your way. But you can control your reaction to the circumstances. Allow yourself that healthy moment of disappointment and then pick yourself up and dust yourself off. This will help you move on a lot more quickly, which is imperative to your search," he says.

Set goals

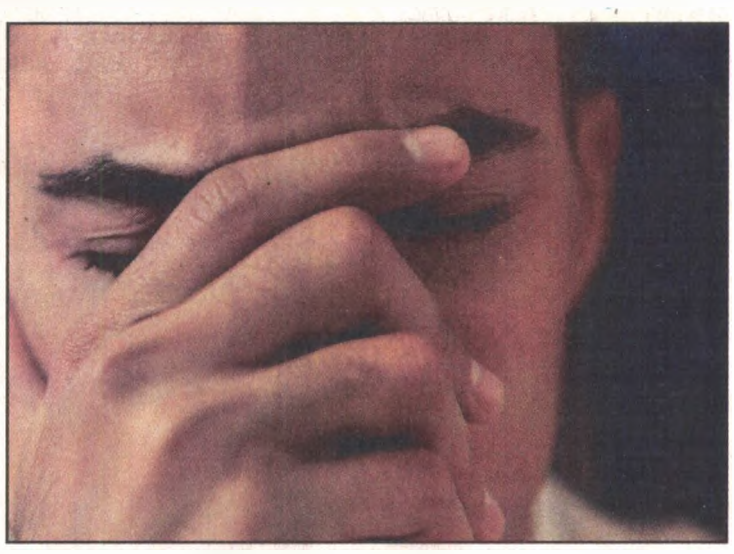
Let's face it: The modern job search can be a long and tedious process — but that doesn't mean it can't also be rewarding. Set smaller goals throughout your job search to keep you focused and give you a sense of achievement.

"As part of your job search, you will certainly have set goals for yourself, such as the number of networking meetings you will have each week, how many resumes you will send out per day and the number of hours you will dedicate to researching opportunities," Sanford says. "Feel good about completing your objectives and find ways to celebrate accomplishments."

Be careful not to be too hard on yourself when setting goals, though. When outlining your job search goals, don't limit yourself to an overly-stringent time deadline for getting a job. "It may feel proactive to say 'I will be working by June 30' but you are really setting yourself up to be let down," says Cheryl Heisler, president of Lawternatives, a career coaching firm for lawyers. "Concrete goals are good — as long as they are within your control. Do commit to goals that you can reach, like 'I will make five new contacts each week.'"

Talk to people

Making an effort to talk to people in your industry can give your job search a much-needed boost for a number of reasons: It's great for networking, it can provide you with a renewed sense of motivation and energy, it'll help you stay abreast on what's new in your field, and it can present you with options and opportunities you may not have known you had.



Best of all — talking with your industry peers can help you get a job faster. "After speaking with someone and building a rapport, they are much more likely to bring up potential job leads or contacts for you, rather than you having to ask for them," says Kathryn Minshew, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Pretty Young Professional, a blog and online resource for young professional women.

Is there someone in your field that you'd like to know, but don't? Reach out and ask the person for an informational interview. "I firmly believe in informational interviews," Minshew says. "Everyone loves being asked for advice, and sometimes the best thing you can do to get your foot in the door is to find people who work at the company or industry you're targeting, and ask them if you can meet."

Take a break

Although it's important to maintain momentum and keep up a steady job search, it's also important to take time out of your day to de-stress. "Stress can be palpable and you don't want to present yourself to prospective employers or networking contacts as someone who will crack under pressure," Sanford says. "Whether it's a morning yoga class or walking around the block, find what works for you and incorporate it into your daily routine."

Reducing stress also means fighting the e-leash during "you" time. While you may feel compelled to check your e-mail or voice mail every five minutes, fighting the urge will help you relax. "Access your voice mail and e-mail a few times a day — and then let it go," Sanford says.

Kaitlin Madden is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues. Follow @Careerbuilder on Twitter.

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Help Wanted - General

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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.25	0	2.625	0	J/A
BRINKS Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3	1.125	2.375	1.125	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Gold Star	(800) 991-9922	3.25	0	2.625	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3.25	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	3.5	0	2.875	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3	1.125	2.5	0.375	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	3	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Gold Star	(888) 293-3477	3.125	0.375	2.375	1.125	J/A/V/F

Above Information available as of 11/21/12 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a $200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at **www.rmcreport.com**.
Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported.
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1 Druid
5 Kind of window
8 Pull along
11 Drip-dry fabric
13 Foreman foe
14 Hard wood
15 Marvy!
16 Gentle breezes
18 Edible lichen
20 Want-ad abbr.
21 Translucent gem
23 Furniture mover
25 Work with acid
28 Gave medicine
30 U.K. fliers
32 Battery size
33 Prince Harry's mom
34 Oxford tutor
36 Fountain or light —
38 JAMA reader
39 PC button
41 Rowdy crowd
43 Ways
45 Smell awful
47 Murky
49 Four-letter word
50 Proposal response
52 Beau Brummell, notably
54 Pond floater (2 wds.)
57 Kelp
60 Excessively
61 Poem by Keats
62 Narrates
63 Pester for payment
64 Cargo unit
65 Living-room piece

DOWN

1 A Turner network
2 Scrutinize carefully
3 Andes ruminants
4 Beyond repair
5 Fundraiser
6 Stein filler
7 Oh my gosh!
8 Japanese import
9 Viking longboat item
10 Yr. parts
12 Monsieur's refusal
17 Start of a bray
19 CA neighbor
21 More peculiar
22 Self-confidence
24 Take a snooze
26 West Pointer
27 Unduly severe
29 Mr. DeLuise
31 Not masc.
35 Give silent assent
37 Wonton morsels
40 Sri Lanka
42 Invited
44 Fluorescent paint (hyph.)
46 Low island
48 Cellist Yo-Yo —
51 Smudge
53 Natalie's father
54 Business suff.
55 Unlucky gambler's note
56 Hubbub
58 Sitcom E.T.
59 NASA counterpart

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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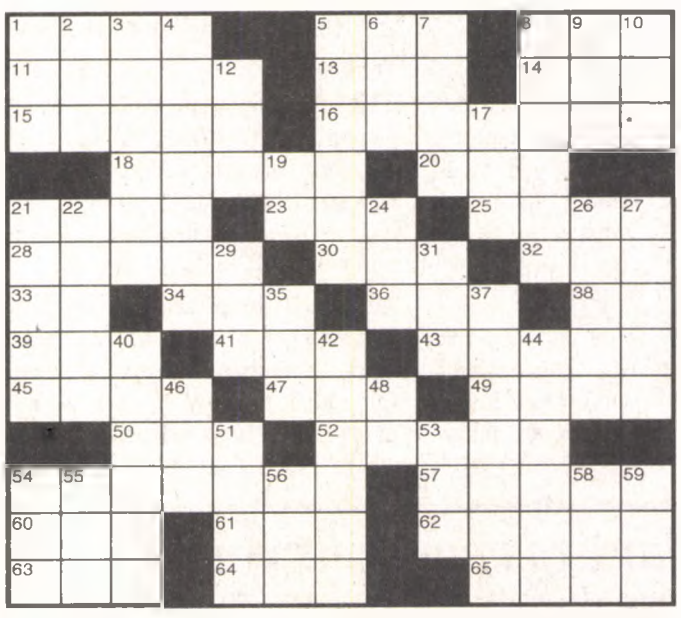

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

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Word Search

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

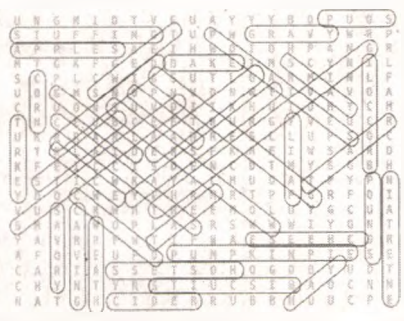
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search



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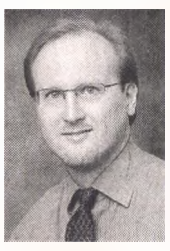
Car Report

Advertising Feature

Audi Doubles Down on Diesel, Offering TDI Across Lineup



By Dale Buss

In a major declaration of its devotion to clean-diesel technology that it has pioneered, Audi of America is making its Turbo Direct Injection system available across its entire lineup of volume models sold in the United States.

The new TDI-powered Audi A8, Audi A7, Audi A6 and Audi Q5 will debut at the Los Angeles Auto Show this month, joined by an updated Q7 model that has been clean-diesel equipped since 2009.

Each TDI delivers up to 30 percent better fuel economy and 30 percent lower carbon-dioxide emissions than gasoline engines, Audi said, resulting in longer range and fewer trips to the fuel pump. By being denser than gasoline, diesel packs more energy content into the same amount of fuel, which helps maximize the miles per gallon when that energy is released during a more powerful combustion cycle.

The move means that Audi has made by far the most extensive commitment to clean-diesel technology of any automaker in the United States; previously, the brand made only its A3 and Q7 available in TDI. Sibling brand Volkswagen of America makes a number of its U.S. models available in TDI.

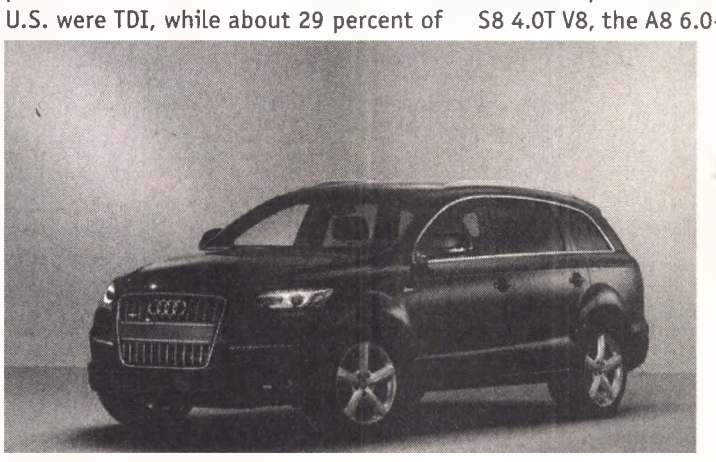
No other brand operating in the American marketplace, luxury or mainstream, has made anything close to Audi's substantial commitment to clean-diesel power and its benefits

And this backing of clean diesel goes beyond the significant benefits in Audi TDI versions in terms of performance and fuel economy. It's a matter of devotion to helping secure U.S. energy independence, a benefit of harnessing clean diesel that Audi has been pointing out in TV ads and other marketing communications for three years.

"Owners of Audi TDI engines have helped save over 4 million gallons of gasoline, or the equivalent of more than 240,000 barrels of foreign oil, since the introduction of Audi TDI to the U.S. in 2009," Scott Keogh, president of Audi of America, said in a press release.

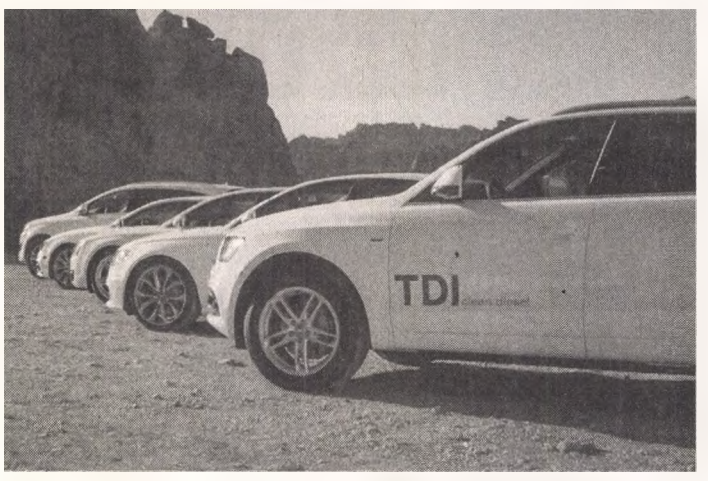
In fact, in order to "fuel" the conversation surrounding the benefits of TDI technology in the U.S., Audi will use the hashtag, #FuelForThought, and invite fans to weigh in through a social experience at the display and online.

Audi buyers have steadily ramped up their demand for TDI versions, as gasoline prices have risen and word-of-mouth about the performance and mileage characteristics of the Audi A3 TDI and Audi Q7 TDI have spread. In October, about 45 percent of all Audi A3 models sold in the U.S. were TDI, while about 29 percent of all Audi Q7 models sold were diesel-equipped.



The Q7 TDI has been popular for two years.

The first new TDI version will be the Audi A8, coming onto the U.S. market in Spring 2013. TDI versions of Audi A6, Audi A7 and Audi Q5 will be available in the fall of next year.



Audi is doubling down on clean diesel by expanding its TDI lineup.

Audi will drop out the TDI version of the A3 this model year and introduce a new, redesigned model in early 2014.

The flagship A8, in its TDI version, will provide estimated fuel efficiency of 24 mpg in the city and 36 mpg on the highway. The new 2014 A8 sedans expand the line's engine offerings by moving from two variants (4.2-liter V8 and W12) to six, including the entry-level A8 3.0T V6, the 420-horsepower A8 4.0T V8, the new Audi S8 4.0T V8, the A8 6.0-liter W12, and the new A8 3.0 TDI V6.

The new 3.0-liter TDI clean-diesel engine generates 240 horsepower with 406 lb.-ft. of torque and goes from zero to 60 mph in 6.4 seconds.

The A7 TDI, like its conventional counterparts, is a strong design statement; the car also was the first car in the world to feature available factory-installed Wi-Fi for up to eight passenger devices. The Audi A6 TDI clean-diesel engine can make up to 2,000 "decisions" per second, like its A6 TFSI gas engine counterpart.

The Audi Q5 TDI offers the driving appeal of a sedan with high versatility in its interior space. The new TDI engine is the fourth variant for the model line, which also includes the current four-cylinder 2.0T, the 3.0T V6, and the Q5 hybrid.

For 2014, Audi also plans to freshen the Q7, whose TDI variant already has proven so popular. Its revised V6 TDI engine offers a 10-percent efficiency improvement compared with gasoline engines and boasts an increased output of 240 horsepower and 406 lb.-ft. of torque.

All of that helps improve performance and boosts fuel economy to an EPA-estimated 19 mpg in the city and 28 mpg on the highway. Q7 TDI can achieve a range of more than 700 miles per tank of fuel.

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Auto Misc.

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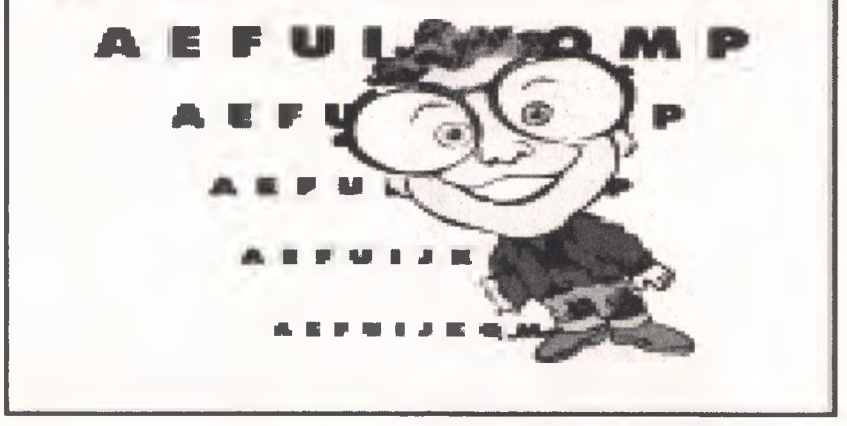

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