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Candlelight vigil

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

The local Compassionate Friends ceremony, sponsored by the TCF Western Wayne County (Livonia) chapter, takes place in Plymouth's Kellogg Park Sunday, Dec. 9, beginning at 7 p.m. The remembrance will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, poetry and songs. Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon.

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

Food help

The next distribution of emergency food by Plymouth Community United Way is scheduled Thursday, Dec. 20.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned and nonperishable items. All recipients must be pre-registered. This is a supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to pre-register. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) must provide documentation including proof of income and residency before receiving food on distribution days.

For information and to register, call Pat at Plymouth Community United Way at (734) 453-6879, ext. 2, or send email to pat.vandusen@pcuw.org.

Ice fest OK'd, will lose nonprofit status

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The 2013 Plymouth Ice Festival got the green light Monday with the approval of a permit for the three-day show by a Plymouth City Commission voice vote.

But the festival, scheduled for Jan. 18-20, will operate as a for-profit enterprise, and the nonprofit Plymouth International

Ice Festival committee will dissolve, said Sam Walton, the event's executive producer, and Commissioner Ron Loiselle, festival committee chairman.

Walton, who is planning his fourth ice show, told commissioners that landing event sponsorships to fund the festival would be easier if potential sponsors see the event as a venture that's attempting to make a profit.

"The world has changed a little bit" when it comes to enticing sponsors to fund public events, Walton told commissioners. "Sponsors want to see for-profit events."

Festival funding has been down in recent years, as many of its big corporate sponsors withdrew, and Walton has been working to increase sponsorships. The ice festival revenue has hov-

ered around \$85,000 in recent years, while budgets were well over \$100,000.

Walton said he is "looking forward to a bigger and better event." Next year's ice festival will be Plymouth's 31st.

"I take my role seriously and I want to make everybody proud," he said.

Please see FEST, A3



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Re-enactors Charles Douglas Nosbisch and wife Sally Nosbisch tour the museum.

School board grapples with bond parameters

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Facing declining enrollment projections and wanting a bus replacement program that lasts longer than five years, Plymouth-Canton Board of Education trustees continued Tuesday to wrestle with the parameters of a possible bond question they could put to voters in May.

Board members are considering asking for a \$117 million bond to basically accomplish three things: Solve an equity issue by closing Central Middle School and either building a new school or expanding the remaining four middle schools; significantly enhance the district's technology capabilities; and replace an aging bus fleet.

But how those three things will be accomplished, and what the final bond package will look like, is still up in the air.

What to do with Central Middle School, and its 850 students, is at the center of the discussion. There are three options being considered as solutions. One option is to build a new school on district-owned property in Canton, at a cost of some \$38 million. Another option is to expand to expand at least three, and possibly all four, of the remaining four middle schools, at a cost of some \$28 million.

Or the district could renovate Central Middle School to bring it

Please see BOND, A2

Back in time

Museum exhibit looks at Victorian-era Plymouth

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The new holiday display at the Plymouth Historical Museum recalls a time before artificial Christmas trees and gigantic light displays, when children might have gone ice skating or snowshoeing Christmas morning instead of breaking out the new video games.

The exhibit, "A Dickens of a Christmas," runs through Thursday, Jan. 13, at the museum at 155 S. Main.

"We're showing a time peri-

od that is really before a lot of the Christmas decoration frenzy we know today," museum Director Liz Kerstens said during a tour Monday. Kerstens said she likes to call the Victorian holiday style "simple but elegant."

The exhibit combines a look at what Victorian-era Plymouth might have looked like at Christmas time with a celebration of the bicentennial of the novelist Charles Dickens, the most popular English writer of that era. The muse-

Please see MUSEUM, A4



Vintage Christmas cards.

'40s starlet talks Hollywood and beyond in Penn appearance

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Yes, Virginia, there is a wonderful life after Hollywood.

Virginia Patton Moss, who had a bit role in *It's a Wonderful Life*, spoke about her film career — and giving it up — on Sunday after signing autographs and posing for pictures at Plymouth's Penn Theatre ahead of an afternoon showing of the Christmas time classic.

Moss said she couldn't find a role model, among the stars of the era, who appealed to her.

"I couldn't see me doing that for my life," said Moss, who acted as Virginia Patton in 15 movies between 1943 and 1949, according to imdb.com, the Internet Movie Database. "That isn't what I wanted."

Patton instead married Cruse Moss, an industrial engineer who went on to have a long career in vehicle manufacturing. He is credited with developing the Jeep Wagoneer, a pioneering sport-utility vehicle, while a vice president at the Willys Corp.

Please see HOLLYWOOD, A3



Virginia Patton Moss, an actress in the 1940s, poses with husband Cruse Moss and an unidentified fan at the Penn Theatre on Sunday. Virginia Moss had a small part in "It's a Wonderful Life," the Penn's weekend feature.

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Help children have happy holiday season

Scoop the Newshound is asking Plymouth and Plymouth 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).
- 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 suc-



cessfully helping children for 95 years, but right now our 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.

Orchards Children's Services has been a beacon of hope for children and families for more

than 50 years.

Orchards seeks to protect and nurture children and youth by providing shelter, sustenance, life and educational skills and opportunities. Orchards programs and services touch children from birth to young adulthood, and the agency remains committed to them every step of the way.

Orchards was also recognized in 2011 as one of three agencies nationwide to receive the highest score in every category of assessment from the Council on Accreditation. This is a national accrediting body that demands the



highest standards of service and care.

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

AROUND PLYMOUTH

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

HELP FOR MOM

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 8
Location: RealBarBQ of Canton, 42455 Ford Road

Details: Officials at RealBarBQ of Canton said they're joining a variety of people and groups in the Plymouth-Canton community embracing and supporting one of their own. Joanne Savage, a widow and mother of three sons Colin, Jack and Nolan, was diagnosed with a rare cancer called peritoneal carcinoma. Pat Savage, Joanne's husband and the father of their three boys, succumbed to esophageal cancer in November 2011. RealBarBQ of Canton hosts a benefit fundraiser, and 50 percent of proceeds generated from all sales will go to the Savage family. A fund at Community Financial Credit Union has also been set up where contributions can be made. Make contributions Attention: Savage and Sons Fund; Community Financial Credit Union, 500 S. Harvey Street, Post Office Box 8050, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Contact: For more information on RealBarBQ Canton, call (734) 667-3996 or visit realbarbq.com.

PCAC EXHIBITS

Date/Time: Through Jan. 2; 9 a.m.



Santa's Shoes

Talented local youths, ages 5-18, showcase their acting talents in Spotlight on Youth's upcoming production of "Santa's Shoes" Dec. 13-16, at the Village Theater of Cherry Hill. Santa himself serves as the narrator of the play and will be available afterwards for "Photos with Santa." Tickets are \$10 each. The show plays 7 p.m. Dec. 13-16, with 2 p.m. matinee performances Dec. 15-16. Tickets are available by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300, online at www.cantonmi.org/village theater or www.spotlightplayersmi.org or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door.

to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursdays.
Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces its December 2012 Exhibits: In the Main Gallery, a solo show, "An

Exhibit of Drawings & Paintings by Jean-Paul Abou-Dib." Mr. Abou-Dib is a graduate of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, with a Masters Degree in Painting from Wayne State University. His paintings and drawings feature the human form

in the style of classic realism, rendered in charcoal, graphite and paint. The December Front Wall exhibit will feature drawings, paintings and photography by the PCAC adult art students of instructors Denise Cassidy (acrylics classes), Pam Grossmann (drawing and painting classes), and Christina Evans (photography and painting classes).

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

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.

SEWING GUID

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

BOND

Continued from page A1

up to standards, at a cost of some \$25 million. But that option would come with its own issues.

"We'd have to find somewhere to put 850 students while that work was being done," said Phil Freeman, the district's assistant superintendent for facilities and operations. "At this point in time, there are no feasible options within our own district or outside our district."

Housing issues

The eventual option

chosen to deal with middle school housing issues could come down to enrollment, and where students are coming from. Three enrollment projections done by outside firms for the district show enrollment at the middle school level declining between 685 and 937 students by the 2017-18 school year.

The projections do not forecast from where the students will be coming. A large portion of the district's middle school students attending schools in Plymouth are actually Canton residents. According to Freeman, a former Pioneer Middle School

principal, the majority of students at Pioneer, Central and East middle schools live in Canton.

That's why board Secretary Judy Mardigian, who has pushed for years for a new middle school, wants to know the migration patterns of students.

"I'm interested in adding classrooms in Canton, because that's what the population dictates," Mardigian said. "I'm not wedded to (building) a new middle school, but I want to see more classrooms in Canton."

Responding to a request from the board, administrators also stretched the original five-year replacement plan for buses, which would have cost some \$9.1 million, into a 10-year plan. That estimation pushed the cost of the transportation portion of the bond to more than

\$19 million.

Because of the requirements of bond repayment, extending the bus replacement portion of the package would reduce the amount of the overall package to some \$95 million and leave the district with choices to make about what to cut out.

Administrators want to spend some \$30 million on instruction and technology needs, including computers, laptops, digital tablets and technology devices to support the district's technology curriculum and the district's own fiber wireless networks for voice and data.

Online needs

The needs are growing in the district, with the state set to go to an online MEAP testing system in a couple of years.

Jeannie Farina, the dis-

trict's assistant superintendent for instruction, said the district has gotten by so far. That is, she said, no longer the case.

"We've been able to purchase technology with general fund money," Farina said. "We're no longer able to keep up with it doing it that way."

Trustee Sheila Paton, who has children in the district, said the technology part of the bond question should be just as important as the bricks-and-mortar portions.

"We've decided buses are a no-brainer, we need them to get kids to school," Paton said. "And our schools have to have a roof, we know that. (Technology) is how our kids learn now. It's a competitive advantage for us, and it should be a no-brainer, too."

Trustees also wanted to take a closer look at any potential "fat" that might be in the administration's bond recommendation. The items included in the recommendation are divided largely into "Priority 1" and "Priority 2" items.

"Priority 1 looks like 'needs,' and Priority 2 looks like 'wants,'" Treasurer Barry Simescu said. "My thinking is (Priority 2) might be a place we look at. That could get us \$15 or \$16 million, and take us closer to a \$100 million bond instead of a \$120 million."

Administrators are hoping for a board decision on seeking the bond by its Jan. 8 board meeting. The potential election would come in May.

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HOLLYWOOD

Continued from page A1

Virginia Moss recalled that Frank Capra, the director of *It's a Wonderful Life*, told her, "You made the right choice." She and Capra kept in touch for many years.

Fans flock to theater

Cruse Moss accompanied his wife Sunday during her appearance at the Penn, which saw dozens of people lining up to meet them before the movie started. The two have been married since 1949.

One fan, Robert Volpe of Livonia, had her autograph an original poster for the 1949 western *Black Eagle*, in which she played the female lead.

"Not a good movie," she told him.

Volpe also had another poster, for *The Horn Blows at Midnight*, a vehicle for the comedian Jack Benny in which Patton had a small role.

Virginia Moss said she was cast in 1946's *Wonderful Life* when she appeared in a play at the University of Southern California that was directed by William DeMille, the brother of legendary Hollywood director and producer Cecil B. DeMille.

She remembered the *Wonderful Life* set as being one of both good camaraderie and professionalism. "When you were on that set you knew your lines," she said.

The Mosses, who live in the Ann Arbor area, had three children and became active in the community, and remain so; Virginia Moss was on the Board of Trustees at Cleary University and is still a docent at the University of Michigan's art museum.

A Bailey foil

In *It's a Wonderful Life*, Virginia Patton played Ruth Dakin Bailey, who marries Harry Bailey, the brother of George Bailey, the film's central figure, played by Jimmy Stewart. It is Ruth who pulls Harry (Todd Karns) from the family business, Bailey Building and Loan, further trapping the unhappy George there.

In a scene filmed at a train station in Pasadena — they only time, the actress said, the cast was filmed off the set — Ruth is introduced to George Bailey and Uncle Billy (Thomas Mitchell) for the first time as Harry returns from college with his new bride.

The Penn audience on Sunday applauded warmly as Patton first



The line outside the Penn Theatre stretched to Main Street on Sunday afternoon as moviegoers waited for a chance to meet Virginia Patton Moss, who had a small role in "It's a Wonderful Life," before the 4:15 p.m. showing of the Christmas time classic. Acting in 15 movies in the 1940s as Virginia Patton, Moss quit her Hollywood career in 1949 and married Cruse W. Moss, who became a noted automobile executive.

appeared on the screen.

"Ruth Dakin Bailey, if you don't mind," she announces smartly when her film husband introduces her.

A moment later, she's talking to George, who realizes he's gained a sister-in-law but lost a successor for the family business, which, at this point in the movie, doesn't suit his dreams.

Patton and Stewart share a bag of popcorn in the scene — something that stands out in the actress' memory.

"I'm eating buttered popcorn with white gloves on," she recalls worrying. "What if Capra pulls in for a closeup?"

After Sunday's screening, Virginia Moss said she was again touched by the movie.

"That really is a wonderful motion picture," she said as she exited the auditorium. "I haven't seen it for a while."

Her visit was arranged by Andy Zazula of Plymouth, a movie buff who found the Mosses lived nearby and looked them up.

"I think it worked out great," Zazula said of the event, which saw a near-capacity crowd turn out to see the actress. "I knew it would happen, people would eat this up."

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FEST

Continued from page A1

Loiselle said Walton has agreed to take several steps ahead of dissolving the festival committee, including providing financial records from this year's festival, which are overdue, to its accountant, and paying any penalties resulting from the late filing of its 2012 Internal Revenue Service statement, which is required of organizations exempt from taxes.

Loiselle tried to get those conditions attached to the commission's approval of the event permit, but some commissioners balked at that, saying the city shouldn't get involved in an agreement between Walton and the festival committee.

However, Commissioner Diane Bogenrieder's motion to postpone the vote for two weeks died for lack of support.

Loiselle withdrew his



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton carver Ted Wakar is a fixture at the Plymouth Ice Festival, which takes place Jan. 18-20 in downtown Plymouth. This year, though, the festival will be run as a for-profit event.

Loiselle said he had introduced a motion to approve the festival permit without conditions.

"If he's allowed the freedom to create an event where he's allowed to make some money, let him," Loiselle said of Walton after the meeting.

"It's his thing," Loiselle added, "and he'll do a great job."

Mayor Dan Dwyer was absent Monday, and the meeting was chaired by Commissioner Mike Wright, the mayor pro tem.

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MUSEUM

Continued from page A1

um's "Main Street" is decked out with wreaths on the doors of businesses plus a few Christmas trees, and some of Dickens' characters from *A Christmas Carol*, including Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim, are on the street. There's also a full-sized sleigh and a sleigh buggy, which would have been used for a child.

Kerstens said Christmas trees were popularized in England during the Victorian period by the German-born Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband. There would not have been many trees during the early part of Victoria's reign, she said, but more during the later years.

The trees are decorated with strings of popcorn and cranberries, paper ornaments and real candles with small drip pans. "They did whatever they had the materials for and the imagination to do," Kerstens said. She credited the Trailwood Garden Club with decorating most of the trees on display at the museum.

The exhibit also features enlarged color drawings of an illustrated edition of *A Christmas Carol*, alongside mannequins wearing clothing similar to that depicted in the pictures.

"The Americans got their fashions from England, France," via fashion magazines read by women in the U.S., Kerstens said. "The women who were here would've wanted to dress fancy."

In Plymouth's early days, frontier conditions made that difficult, but after the Civil War, Kerstens said, women in town were wearing the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The museum holiday decorations are understated, reflecting the time period of 1840-70.

latest fashions.

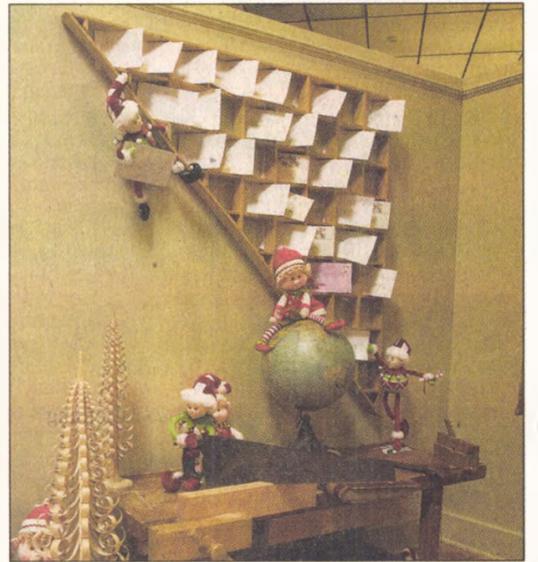
There is also a Victorian living room, a depiction of Santa Claus in his workshop and a collection of Victorian-era toys, including dolls, stacking blocks, a toy farm set with miniature animal figurines and a mechanical toy featuring the famous British puppet characters Punch and Judy.

Museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students 17 and younger. Children can visit Santa Claus during museum hours every Saturday through Dec. 22.

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Museum Director Liz Kerstens describes Dickens of a Christmas as a "simple but elegant exhibit." It's a chance to show off winter clothing, such as these fur coats, from the museum collection.



Elves working hard in Santa's workshop.



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Rotary concerts feature PBS star

Canton Rotary brings a big dose of holiday cheer to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill as part of their Candy Canes and Kiddie Rock programming efforts this holiday season.

In addition to a special-invitation-only concert offered to Headstart and Starfish families on the morning of Dec. 8, the Rotary will offer two public concert opportunities Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. featuring "Mr. Steve" of SteveSongs, a rising star on the national kids' music scene.

This musical adventure will delight families with participatory songs, clever lyrics, and entertaining melodies that kids will love and adults will find irresistible.

A recipient of numerous music awards, Mr. Steve is best known for his role on national TV as the co-host of the PBS KIDS morning block featuring favorites like Curious George and Clifford. Rotary officials invite families to put on their holiday finest for the Saturday, Dec. 8 special fundraising concert extravaganza at 7 p.m., complete with strolling characters including Santa Claus, a delicious milk and cookies bar, and more.

Tickets to PBS's Mr. Steve performing SteveSongs at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill on Friday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. are \$16 for adults and \$14 for youth/



The Canton Rotary will offer two public concerts Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. featuring "Mr. Steve" of SteveSongs, a rising star on the national kids' music scene.

seniors. Tickets to the Saturday, Dec. 8 fundraising concert at 7 p.m. are \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth/seniors. To purchase tickets or to find more information, visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call (734) 394-5460. The Village Theater at Cherry Hills is conveniently located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI 48187.

Ticket sales for these holiday extravaganzas will benefit ongoing charity efforts of the Canton Rotary, which has helped in the Canton Community by annually donating Christmas baskets to our senior citizens in need, partnering with the Salvation Army and the Plymouth-Canton Schools Clothing Bank to supply school supplies, new under-

wear, and backpacks to underprivileged children of the community, sponsoring a Christmas with Santa event for local Head Start children, contributing books to Head Start families, and contributing to scholarships for our graduating high school seniors.

In the International Community the Canton Rotary has worked on water projects in El Salvador, contributed to the worldwide polio eradication effort, helped build a home for one of the homeless "Children of the Dump" families in Nicaragua, and contributed to the installation of a heating system at an orphanage in Asia. For more information on the Canton Rotary, please visit <http://www.rotary6400.org/clubs/canton.htm>.

Check Social Security info to avoid errors later

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I met with a new client recently and, when reviewing their information, something didn't seem quite right. The husband told me that he had worked for nearly 40 years, but when I looked at his Social Security benefits, it appeared that he was not receiving nearly the amount which I thought he was entitled to. When I questioned him on it, he told me that one of his previous employers had misreported his Social Security number and the result was he did not get credit for his earnings for a number of years.

He told me that he didn't notice the error until he applied for Social Security. He was told that because of statute of limitation issues with Social Security, it was too late to make a change. He hired an attorney to fight his case, but he was unsuccessful. The end result was that he and his wife received reduced benefits because of the clerical error.

I'm not sure how often this happens, but I have no doubt when it does, the consequences are severe.

In the late 1990s, the Social Security Administration recognized that there were issues when it came to benefits. As a result, the agency started sending out a yearly statement to everyone on his/her birthday. The statement contained a list of annual Social Security earnings from the time you had started working to the present



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

if you collected at your normal retirement age at 62 or at 70.

Sending out the statements provided an easy way for people to review their Social Security information. Unfortunately, because of budget cuts, the SSA ceased sending those statements for all citizens last year. However, the SSA did start resending statements on a person's 25th birthday and to those over age 60 who are receiving benefits.

If you were not in that limited group of people who are receiving a Social Security benefit statement, checking your benefits is something you need to do.

I recommend checking your Social Security earnings record once a year to make sure that they are accurate. Social Security has made it easy to do. Go online at www.ssa.gov/mystatement to review your account. You will be asked a number of questions about yourself and this will allow you to set up an account where you can review your earnings.

If after you have set up an account and reviewed your statement you find there is an error, immediately contact Social

Security to correct the error. Remember, Social Security has a very short statute of limitations, so time is of the essence.

I look at Social Security not as a government benefit program, but rather as an insurance policy. You paid money into Social Security and you're entitled to collect the benefits. If the records that Social Security has are in error, it is going to cost you and potentially your family a substantial sum of money.

If you believe the money looks better in your pocket than it does anyone else's, then it makes sense to set up an account through Social Security and spend a few minutes to make sure your information is correct.

The few minutes that you spend can eventually mean thousands of dollars more that will end up in your pocket — exactly where it belongs. 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.

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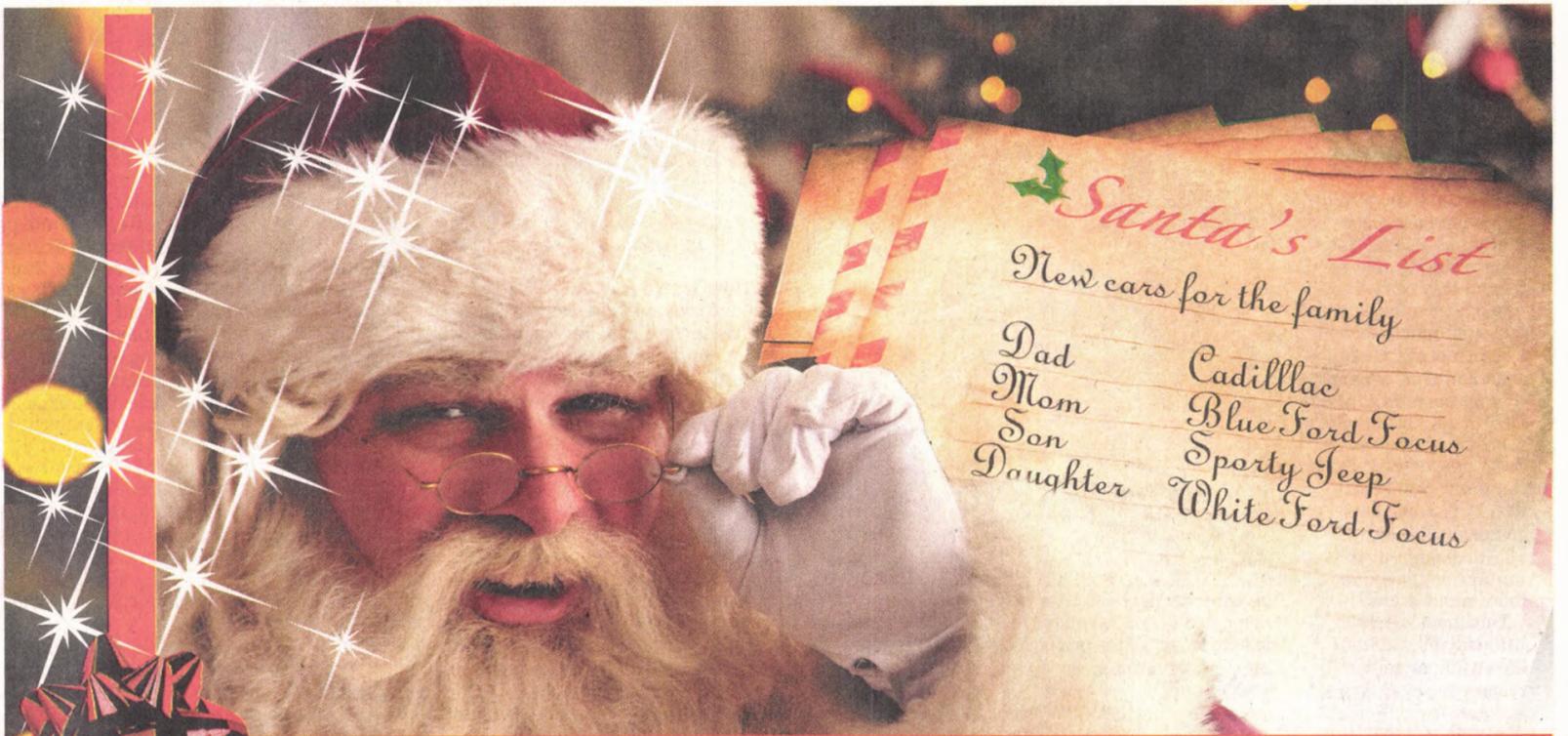
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Does your holiday gift list include a new car?

Area dealers are ready, willing to help make it a Christmas to remember

By Michelle Muñoz
Correspondent

We've all seen the TV commercials around this time of year — someone looks out their window Christmas morning to find a shiny new car in the driveway with a big bow on top. Have you ever wondered if that really happens?

Area car dealers say it does indeed, and the big bow is part of the deal. Dealers all over southeast Michigan say giving cars as gifts doesn't happen everyday, but when it does the buyer often enlists the help of the dealership to orches-

trate the perfect surprise. course, growing up in it, I have always seen about four or five during the holiday season," Jeannotte said. "It's a lot more common than people are aware."

Ed Pobur, general manager of Cadillac of Novi, likes to remind his sales staff that not only is the customer trying to craft a surprise, but they are also buying a new car, something that people only do every few years. Pobur and his sales staff do what they can to make the experience special.

Rob Millar, a sales associate at Fred Lav-ery Porsche in Birmingham, said he has delivered vehicles to valet stands at restaurants or country clubs. Bob Faust, general sales manager at Jack Demmer Ford in Wayne, said the dealership has even delivered vehicles Christmas Day to a buyer's home.

Dealers said the cars are going to children from parents for graduation or birthdays, from one spouse to another (usually from husband to wife) and sometimes from children to their parents.

Popular models

A dealership's most popular models are often their most popular gifts as well. Often the people giving the car go for practicality and affordability rather than luxury. Jason Scott, general manager of Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth, said the customer will go with whatever car fits their needs.

Hunsinger enjoys getting involved and helping to create a magical gift-giving moment.

"There hasn't been a request that we haven't been able to assist with the gifting of a vehicle yet," Hunsinger said. "It's really a fun and engaging experience."

Ron Chaudoin, general manager at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth, said gifting a car to loved ones is something everyone should take into consideration.

"I don't know why more people don't buy them as gifts," Chaudoin said. "If you're

going to buy a car anyway, why not take credit for it and get it as a present for the family."

Before making the move, though, do your homework. Even though it is often a surprise and a gift, picking the right car requires some forethought. Steve Hunsinger, new car sales manager at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn, said he has seen a few customers try to return a gifted car after the holidays.

Deciding between a lease and a purchase depends on the situation, dealers said. Chaudoin said parents of children heading off to college should consider whether they want the car to last throughout the four years of school when opting for a lease or purchase.

When spouses are picking a car for each other, doing some preliminary shopping can make a big difference, dealers said. Jeannotte said the successful surprises usually start with a couple browsing together before one decides to make the car a gift. He said some spouses also like to go with a pre-

paid lease, so the car can be enjoyed worry-free until it's time to pull out another big holiday bow.



Canton bank suspect faces federal charges

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton bank robbery suspect Raymond Ralph Ivey has been named in a criminal complaint in U.S. District Court in Detroit that accuses him of robbing the Bank of America branch on Michigan Avenue near Canton Center and changing his clothing outside after he went to the nearby Dick's Sporting Goods store and bought new attire using stolen money.

The complaint obtained from the U.S. Attorney's Office accuses Ivey, a Michigan parolee involved in two bank robberies from 2009, of robbing the Canton bank shortly after 9 a.m. Nov. 19 before township police captured him near the scene.

Ivey remains in state custody as he awaits his appearance in federal court on the criminal complaint implicating him in the Canton bank robbery, U.S. Attorney's Office spokeswoman Gina Balaya said.

One of the 2009 incidents occurred at the Comerica Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

Though the Canton bank robbery case was turned over to federal authorities, Ivey also appeared after his arrest in Plymouth 35th District Court for fines he allegedly failed to pay for a 2009 stalking case, according to the court.



Ivey

The federal criminal complaint indicates a suspect entered the Bank of America branch wearing a brown jacket and a blue baseball hat with a white letter "B" before he approached a teller and handed a note demanding money.

The complaint quotes the note as saying, "This is a robbery, give me the money and no one will be hurt." It accuses Ivey of obtaining a substantial amount of money, buying new clothes and changing before he was arrested by Canton police.

At the time, Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner had commended township police for their quick response to the incident, calling it "a good job by the police officers."

The federal complaint said the clothing Ivey allegedly wore during the bank robbery was confiscated. The complaint accuses the suspect of placing two plastic beverage containers in his jacket pockets so it would appear he had a weapon.

Ivey once had a Canton address. The federal complaint involves allegations and doesn't reflect a formal guilty plea or conviction.

dcllem@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238

Electronics theft

A computer monitor, a flat-screen television set and a laptop computer were among the things reported stolen during a Nov. 29 daytime break-in of a house in Plymouth Township.

A patio door at the house had been forced open, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, between just after 2 p.m. and just before 5 p.m. The burglar or burglars had apparently exited through an attached garage, police said.

Also reported stolen were a tablet-style computer and a safe with documents in it.

Vehicle burglaries

In-dash stereo and navigation

systems continue to be popular items with thieves burglarizing vehicles in the township. Two more such incidents were reported late last month.

In one incident, a Chevrolet Town & Country van parked at Pioneer Middle School on Ann Arbor Road was broken into between Nov. 26 and Nov. 29, and the touch-screen navigation system/radio combination was reported stolen.

Police said the driver's door had been forced open.

In another incident, a combination satellite radio and navigation system was reported stolen between Nov. 27 and Nov. 28 from another Chrysler Town & Country, this one parked in the driveway of a house on Gregory Lane. Again,

it appeared the driver's door had been forced open, police said.

Pistol stolen

A township man reported Nov. 28 that a 9-mm pistol had recently been stolen from his Ford Ranger, which was parked at an apartment complex on Heritage Drive. The pistol was taken along with its case, the complainant said.

The man told police he had been on a recent hunting trip in Isabella County but thought the gun had been taken after that. Police advised him to contact authorities in Isabella County and report that the gun had possibly been stolen there.

—By Matt Jachman

Charity hockey game benefits fallen officer's family

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

If the National Hockey League lockout has you hungering for some action on the ice, mark your calendar for Dec. 21.

It's the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association versus several local police departments for a charity hockey game fundraiser at Compuware Arena, in honor of fallen West Bloomfield police officer Patrick O'Rourke. O'Rourke, 39, was killed in action Sept. 9 after responding to a domestic dispute.

Watch retired pros Joe Kocur, Kris Draper, Dino Ciccarelli, Kirk Maltby and several others show they still got it when they face off that evening against "boys in blue" from Milford, Plymouth, West Bloomfield, Southfield, White Lake, Sterling Heights and Grosse Pointe. The event is presented by the Joe Kocur



O'Rourke

Foundation for Children and the Detroit Red Wings Association.

Along with the game, the evening will include a 50/50 raffle and live auction of autographed, game-worn NHL alumni jerseys. All proceeds will benefit the Patrick O'Rourke Family Trust.

"Pat left behind four young children and a wife. We're trying to do our best for them, trying to take care of 'our own,'" said Sgt. Scott Tarasiewicz of the Milford Police Department.

Tarasiewicz came up with the idea for the benefit as the legacy project for the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, which he's currently enrolled in. Tarasiewicz heads the legacy gift committee.

Opening ceremonies are at 7:15 p.m., with game start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, available at each participating police department.

"If we get a sell out, that's 4,000 tickets — and that's roughly \$80,000 right there that we can give to the family," Tarasiewicz said.

Compuware Arena is at 14900 Beck Road in Plymouth.

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Sharer launches cabinet line

Justin Sharer, owner and head designer of Sharer Design Group, has announced his new signature line of Michigan-made custom cabinetry, the Sharer Cabinetry Line.

Designed personally by Sharer and hand-crafted by local company Kropp Woodworking, the owner said the line "blends creativity and innovation with local resources, resulting in a quality product that embodies the resolute spirit of Michigan's small businesses."

Sharer, who owns the interior remodeling firm Sharer Design Group in downtown Plymouth, partnered with Paul Kropp of Kropp Woodworking in Mt. Clemens in early 2012. The pair set out to create a signature cabinet line that was completely original and locally made. The two worked together to create a variety of custom door styles, ranging from contemporary to traditional to classic vintage.

"Starting in the industry as a cabinet maker, I wanted to create an original cabinet line using the best materials that were offered," Sharer said. "Being born and raised in Michigan, I also wanted to keep as much of the process in Michigan as possible, so finding another local company to manufacture the cabinets was really important to me."

The Sharer Cabinetry Line offers a one-of-a-kind design experience, allowing customers the opportunity to create rooms that are truly original. From custom door panels to inset or frameless cabinetry, Sharer Cabinetry offers design styles that are not available anywhere else in the remodeling industry.

Sharer hopes this new product line will also stand as a testament to the mindset and will to succeed found in many Michigan small businesses.

"I love seeing the look of satisfaction on our customers' faces when we

complete a job for them," he said. "That's all the incentive I need to keep doing what I'm doing, even if the Michigan business climate is a little tough. I want to show that there's still young talent in this state and that if you work hard, you can make it."

Sharer began his career in the remodeling industry as an apprentice cabinet maker and soon mastered the art of building custom cabinetry, along with learning installation and project management processes. Sharer spent the last eight years honing his design skills designing kitchens, bathrooms, home offices and more throughout the metro-Detroit area, before opening Sharer Design Group in January 2012.

For more information about Sharer Design Group, visit www.sharerdesigngroup.com or www.facebook.com/sharerdesigngroup. For more information about Kropp Woodworking, visit www.kroppwoodworking.com.



Gov. Rick Snyder was at Hiller's Market last week to launch the new Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program. On hand were (from left) Justin Hiller, vice president of Hiller's, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, Julie Metty Bennett, executive director of Michigan Saves, state Rep. Kurt Heise, Gov. Snyder, Greg White, MPSC commissioner and Tom Conzelmann, of Ervin Leasing.

Snyder stops at Hiller's to tout energy efficiency

Gov. Rick Snyder made a stop in Northville last week to launch a new program to help Michigan businesses make changes to become more energy efficient.

On Friday, Snyder was at Hiller's Market on Center Street to tout the new Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program. Hiller's is the first business to take advantage of the program, which offers Michigan businesses low-interest financing for energy efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, insulation, refrigeration, equipment, and more. Businesses make the upgrades with the help of authorized contractors and affordable financing of \$2,000 to \$150,000.

The program's advocates say participating businesses can lower operating costs and improved cash flow for a quick return on investment.

"The Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program is a win-win for Michiganders," said Snyder. "It helps businesses save on costs, creates good-paying jobs and moves us toward a greener energy future."

The financing is avail-

able through Michigan Saves and lending partner, Ervin Leasing and capital provider Bank of Ann Arbor. Michigan Saves is a public-private partnership, which was seeded with public funds and works with private lenders to provide affordable financing to help homes and businesses save energy and money.

"We were proud to help thousands of homeowners across the state with the Michigan Saves Home Energy Loan Program and now we want to help local businesses lower their costs and improve on energy efficiencies," said Julie Metty Bennett, executive director of Michigan Saves. "When businesses use inefficient ways to operate, they are losing money they could spend to hire more people or make more products."

Buildings and properties that are owned or occupied by businesses or nonprofit organizations located anywhere in the state of Michigan are eligible for Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing, subject to credit review by Ervin Leasing. Typical improvements to the business

could include: replacing T12 fluorescents with T5 fluorescents or LEDs; installing anti-sweat heater controls; installing vertical night covers on open deck coolers and replacing door gaskets on walk-in coolers.

Hiller's Vice President Justin Hiller said they will use the program to move to more efficient lighting and other cost savers.

"We are pleased to have a welcoming, light and bright presence at all of our grocery markets," he said. "But that signature business model comes at a price. We are always looking for advantageous opportunities for our business and our customers and this program will help us speed up our efforts to go green while saving money. We thank the governor for highlighting our efforts."

Snyder said energy efficiency is "a pro-growth strategy that aligns with the state's plan to provide local businesses with the tools they need to foster economic growth and grow new jobs."

Businesses can get more information by visiting www.MichiganSaves.org.



Sharer Design Group has launched its new signature line of Michigan-made custom cabinetry, the Sharer Cabinetry Line. The line was designed by owner Justin Sharer and hand-crafted by local company Kropp Woodworking.

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PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

New doctor

Cardiologist Daniel R. Harber of Plymouth recently joined St. Mary Mercy Hospital's medical staff.

Harber received his degree at Michigan State University, and completed his residencies at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills and the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor. He is board-certified in Cardiology-Nuclear Medicine and a member of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI).

Harber's practice, Cardiovascular Clinical Associates, has an office in 23801 West Warren Avenue, Dearborn Heights, with off-site locations at 255 N. Lilien in Canton and 1159 E. Michigan Ave in Ypsilanti.

Scientific team

The JB Ashtin Group, Inc., announced Jill McCollam, PharmD, has joined the company's Scientific Services department as director.

McCollam comes to JB Ashtin from Janssen Pharmaceuticals where she was Senior Medical Science Liaison and Senior Medical Project Scientist in their Analgesia division. At JB Ashtin, McCollam will be responsible for collaborating with clients and thought leaders to develop relevant and engaging scientific communications programs. In addition to providing extensive project management expertise, McCollam will also serve as

medical writer, delivering high-quality scientific/medical content to all clients.

New online retailer

YesMichiCAN, maker of "Don't Mess with the Mitten" apparel and accessories, announced the launch of its new online store. Just in time for the holidays, the redesigned e-boutique makes it easier than ever — and much more fun — to order the company's T-shirts, hoodies, air fresheners, decals, and coffee tumblers emblazoned with the "Don't Mess with the Mitten" logo and Michigan silhouette.

The new website was designed by Axis Cross Media of Troy and focuses on the beauty and spirit of Michigan with full-color photographs and references to the state's most famous attractions. It reflects the Don't Mess with the Mitten Facebook page, a community of more than 7,400 fans that showcases beautiful pictures and positive news and events in the Mitten State.

"Our company is more than what we sell," said Terri O'Brien, co-owner of YesMichiCAN. "We are all about promoting Michigan pride and shedding light on the wonderful people, places and opportunities in our great state."

O'Brien and her long-time friend Lisa Burnia founded YesMichiCAN in 2009 to help out neighbors, family and friends affected by economic turmoil. A percentage of sales are dedicated to help families in the inner city of Detroit. For more information contact Terri O'Brien or Lisa Burnia at (248) 347-4350 or visit www.dontmesswiththemitten.com.



Mary Dekker, Wayne Clinic coordinator (from left), is joined by Lillie Tabor, president of the Metro Health Board of Trustees; Cathy Robinson, executive director of Hope Clinic, and Gail Bernth, clinical services coordinator at Hope Wayne Clinic, in receiving the grant.

Wayne Clinic receives health foundation grant

A medical clinic that provides free care to low-income, uninsured adults has received a \$12,500 grant from the Metro Health Foundation of Detroit to help expand the services provided by its satellite medical clinic in western Wayne County.

The Hope Wayne Medical Clinic is based on the model of Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti, which was founded in 1982 by a local family practitioner Dr. Daniel Heffernan.

Hope opened the clinic in 2007 to provide more accessible care for the

many patients who were traveling to Ypsilanti from western Wayne County. In August 2012, the Wayne Clinic moved to its new home in the basement of the Lighthouse Home Missions building at 33608 Palmer Road, Westland.

The clinic has weekly walk-in clinics on Saturday mornings with sign-in from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. It also has two monthly weekday clinics to provide continuity of care for patients with chronic conditions. Care is provided by volunteer doctors, nurses, and other med-

ical professionals, supported by a small paid staff. St. Joseph Mercy Health System and St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia provide laboratory services and X-rays. Referrals for specialty care are made as resources are available.

Free or low-cost medications are provided to Hope patients through retail programs, pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs, samples and purchased bulk medicines.

For more information, contact Wayne Hope Clinic at (734) 710-6688.

Walmart drive to 'Fill the Trucks'

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit and Walmart are asking the community to give this holiday season during The Salvation Army "Fill the Truck" Toy and Coat Drive from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, at all Walmart locations.

During this one-day event, Salvation Army Corps Community Center officers and volunteers will hand out wish lists to Walmart customers as they enter the stores. Customers will have the opportunity to buy items from the list to fulfill local families' wishes by providing them with toys and warm coats this holiday season. Supporters can drop toys and coats into bins located outside of Walmart locations. Salvation Army trucks will be parked outside to collect

the purchased items.

Throughout the holidays, Detroit area Walmart stores are hosting The Salvation Army's red kettles and bell ringers through Monday, Dec. 24. All donations made to the red kettles will remain in the community and help The Salvation Army provide food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance and other services to metro Detroiters in need all year long.

"Last year, The Salvation Army distributed more than 5,000 coats and 90,000 toys to local children in need. The 'Fill the Truck' event will enable us to help more families than we have in the past," said Major Mark Anderson, general secretary and metro Detroit area commander of The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan

Division. "We are thankful to Walmart for allowing us to collect toys and coats at their store fronts, as well as the iconic red kettles for the 2012 Red Kettle Campaign."

In addition, more than 25 Walmart stores throughout the area will host Angel Tree Programs. Angel Trees are filled with tags containing the age/gender description and a suggested gift item for someone who otherwise might not receive a gift this Christmas. Walmart customers are encouraged to choose an "angel" from the tree, buy a gift and return it, unwrapped, to Walmart to surprise a child on Christmas morning. The Salvation Army welcomes such age-appropriate gifts such as clothes, sporting goods, toys, backpacks and books.

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.

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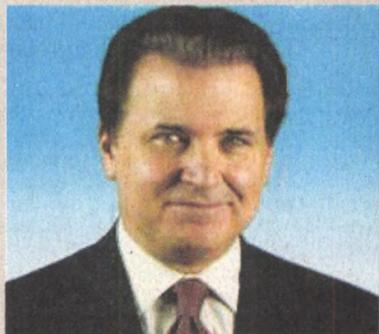
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OUR VIEWS

Speak up!

Tell lawmakers what you think about budget, school issues

As lame duck sessions go, this one is shaping up to be an interesting one when it comes to the Michigan Legislature and U.S. Congress.

In the past two weeks, Gov. Rick Snyder has rolled out his plans for sweeping reforms of public education and revamping the state's personal property tax. Congress, on the other hand, is in the middle of a stare down with the President that could take the country over the fiscal cliff.

None of these issues as they presently stand, bode well for taxpayers. Michigan cities could lose money with the elimination of the personal property tax that businesses pay. School districts could lose control of their purse strings not to mention unused school buildings. And taxpayers would lose even more, if there's no agreement on continuing tax cuts and a long-term plan to cut the deficit.

This all comes at a time when politics is the last thing people want to think about. It's Christmas. There's gifts to buy, cookies to bake and parties to plan.

Wrong. Voters also need to keep their attention focused on what is happening in Washington and Lansing, and let legislators know what they think about their plans.

In the case of the fiscal cliff, the pain will be felt in pay checks. The House and Senate failed to resolve major party differences on \$1.2 trillion in targeted savings over 10 years, triggering the tax hikes and program cuts scheduled to begin next year. Income tax will increase, if the Bush tax cuts are allowed to expire on Dec. 31, and payroll taxes will climb, if President Barack Obama's two-year-old Social Security payroll tax ends.

It's time to get on the phone, write an e-mail or send a letter. Compromise is needed now, not in the 11th hour. Recovery from the last recession has been painful at best and the financial losses, as the result of it, have affected all citizens. Partisan politics need to be set aside for the good of the country.

Lansing is another place voters need to watch closely.

Gov. Snyder has done well to turn around the state's finances, but at what price? Support to public schools has been cut, and cities have seen revenue sharing slashed. Both entities now must meet a number of devised best practices to get a little extra cash out of the state.

While the elimination of the personal property tax would be phased in, it's still a loss for cash-strapped communities, even with the creation of an authority that would send back money, if the loss is a minimum 2.5 percent of the general fund revenues.

School districts, for years, have said that the funding mechanism for K-12 education is flawed, but the proposed changes which would revamp the School Code go well beyond tweaking.

The governor has said the state's educational system has not given taxpayers, teachers and students "the return on the investment" they deserve." Last month lawmakers rolled out proposed bills that will, among other things, create a new any time, any place, any way, any pace public school learning model in which per pupil school aid would be tied to the student not to a specific district.

The bills also expand the use of virtual learning, putting education just a mouse click away, use performance as the basis for funding and create a list of unused school buildings that could be taken over by the state and repurposed for public academies and charter schools.

Politicians are always good about telling constituents what they want and what they need, whether or not they want it or need it. In these instances, people need to make it perfect clear what it is they want: Higher taxes? Giving up local control of their school districts? Giving up control of school buildings they paid for with their tax dollars?

Whether the answer is yes or no, now is the time for people to let their voices be heard loud and clear. Today is the day to send the Beltway and Lansing a message: You, the people, elected them, and they need represent your interests, not theirs.

Don't wait, don't hesitate. Tomorrow will be too late.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you find the holidays stressful?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



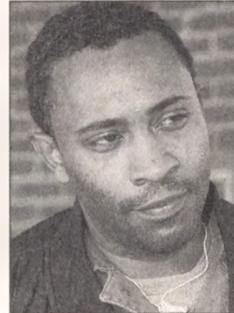
"No. You make it as stressful as you want it to be. We do the same thing every year. We don't feel obligated to purchase a bunch of stuff for a bunch of people ... and just kind of go with the flow."

Kathryn Devlin
Plymouth



"No. I try to be happy and joyful during the holidays."

Casonja Davis
Canton Township



"No. ... I don't celebrate the holidays. I was raised a Jehovah's Witness."

Tirrell Scott
Canton Township



"Yes. Usually you have to incorporate all the family gatherings ... and make sure you hit all the gift lists."

James Kolongowski
Plymouth

LETTERS

What to do with Obama

Mr. Obama has been doing a reasonably good job.

His muzzling of the banks following the market crash that coincided with his election seems to be going well. The banks appear to be returning to their role in our economy.

The medical insurance system he proposed is some response to the problems of greed and fiscal incompetence of American health care.

Obama exulted in his victory at this last election. He even shed at least two tears. I saw them on TV.

It is my opinion that his plate is full. Ensuring the banks continue to reduce their own business activity while performing the functions they should — like lending, saving and investment — is a large task. His insurance scheme has yet to be put into operation. That will be much work.

Mr. Obama has, unfortunately, shown a disdain for anyone who does not swear allegiance to him.

It strikes me that he believes that those who oppose him or his ideas are ignorant. His second term is thanks to two facts. First, there are only two powerful (though corrupt) working political parties in the United States. Secondly, the opponent the Republicans chose to pit against him was a gift.

The fact of the matter is that if the American people he looks down on were as ignorant as he seems to believe then we would have put Romney in the White House.

Now that we have dealt with Mitt Romney and the Money Circus — what do we do with Obama?

Alfred Brock
Wayne

Important decision

Today (Nov. 27) in Lansing, the Senate approved legislation authorizing the formation of a regional transit authority (RTA) in southeast Michigan, taking an important first step toward solving a decades-long challenge for our region.

As the only major urban area in the country without a regional transit system and plan, southeast Michigan is long overdue for an RTA that can serve its communities, foster economic growth, create a much-needed, well-coordinated regional transit infrastructure and address the urgent need for public transportation.

The organizers of M-1 RAIL congratulate Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville and the Michigan Senate for today's historic bipartisan vote. An RTA will have a lasting, positive effect on southeast Michigan and the state well into the future. As we continue to work hard on making M-1 RAIL a reality as a catalyst for investment, economic development and urban revitalization within Detroit, the region's core city, we are encouraged by what took place in Lansing today and look forward to continuing our support for the RTA over the coming months.

Matt Cullen
president and CEO
M-1 RAIL

STAFF COLUMN

Penn Theatre, '40s actress bring 'Wonderful' film experience to life

By **Matt Jachman**
Observer Staff Writer

I could rave for hours about the glories of *Citizen Kane* and the relationship between German Expressionism and film noir.

I've been to the Toronto International Film Festival twice, and film classes were among the most memorable of my college career.

In another life — before kids and a mortgage — it wasn't unusual for my wife and me to take in two or even three movies a day — at theaters, too, not on video.

But I'd never, before Sunday, seen *It's a Wonderful Life*, the Frank Capra-directed sentimental favorite that's become

a television staple during the holidays.

The 1946 movie is about a hard-working, honest Everyman, George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, whose long dissatisfaction with being stuck in Bedford Falls running the family business, a struggling savings and loan, leads to an encounter with his guardian angel, Clarence, and an epiphany that shows him his life and work had had great value and had won him many loyal friends.

I'm not giving anything away here, because it seems as though everybody, at least every adult, has seen this movie — many multiple times. The story is so much a part of our culture that even I, who had only caught a short scene, maybe two, in years of flipping by it on television, at least knew the plot.



Virginia Patton Moss autographs a poster advertising the comedy film "The Horn Blows at Midnight," in which she had a small role. Poster collector Robert Volpe of Livonia (left) had another poster for a movie in which Moss, who acted as Virginia Patton, starred, "Black Eagle." With Moss is her husband, Cruse Moss.

My boss, Brad Kadrich, laughed incredulously when I told him I'd never seen it; he watches it every year, he said, and seems to be able to recite many lines from memory. "Did you grow up in America?" said John Buzuvis, Plymouth's special projects director, when he learned of the obvious gap in my cultural education.

But thanks to Virginia Patton Moss, an actress from the 1940s who had a bit part in the movie, I finally got a chance to sit down with *Wonderful Life* Sunday afternoon at the Penn Theatre.

Moss appeared at the Penn with her husband, Cruse Moss, and greeted moviegoers, signed autographs and posed for photos ahead of the afternoon showing. The event nearly packed the place; people were lined up along Penniman all the way to Main Street before the theater doors opened, and a few disappointed fans were still in

the receiving line when the house lights dimmed.

In *Wonderful Life*, Moss, then Virginia Patton, was a radiant 20-year-old on the screen for a few minutes as Ruth Dakin Bailey, George's sister-in-law. In present life, she's still radiant, with her and her husband maintaining a glamorous appearance despite her having left Hollywood more than 60 years ago.

I found *It's a Wonderful Life* to be well-acted and imaginatively told, a movie that respects its audience, and the audience's ability to read movies, despite a somewhat sappy tone.

The story of a man's, and a community's, perseverance through hard times remains relevant: the Mr. Potters of that world have become today's faceless corporate lenders whose policies wreck neighborhoods, even as taxpayers in those neighborhoods pick up the tab for their bad decisions. And the struggling people of Bedford Falls, the garlic-eaters, as Potter disparagingly refers to them, are today's overworked (or underemployed), overtired, overstressed Americans who always seem to draw the short straws.

So I've finally had my *It's a Wonderful Life* initiation, and I'm thinking of sitting down with it again with my wife and kids. I'm not sure a guardian angel had anything to do with it, but one could say, as far as moviegoing goes, I got my wings.

Matt Jachman is a reporter for the Plymouth Observer whose (rare) movie-watching now is limited to family-friendly comedies and cartoons. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or at mjachman@hometownlife.com.

PLYMOUTH
OBSERVER
A GANNETT COMPANY

Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

Tail Wagger's collecting donations of pet food, supplies for holidays

With the holidays fast approaching and some families struggling to provide a Christmas for their children, Tail Wagger's 1990 is collecting pet food donations so their pets' needs are also met.

The community is asked to drop off food and/or supplies for both dogs and cats for the Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program at Tail Wagger's office,

located at 28402 Five Mile Road at Harrison between Middlebelt and Inkster.

The goal is to collect at least 250 bags of dog and cat food so that the animals in the community can have a little something special under the tree for them this holiday season, founder Laura Zain said. Gift cards to Petsmart, Petco, Target and Walmart are also welcome.

The Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program gives assistance to animals in need so that they can stay with the family they have grown to love. "The goal of the Pantry 4 Paws program is to help eliminate additional financial stress on a family during the holiday season and to ensure the animals of the community are being fed and not going to sleep hungry at night," Zain said.

Local businesses are also encouraged to become a collection point for the Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program along with an invitation to area Scouts, church groups, youth groups, schools, etc. that are in need of a special project. All collection points will be given a sign, personalized flyer, collection bin and exposure on the Tail Wagger's 1990 website. Currently, canned

food for dogs, cats and kittens is running low. Families in need of pet food assistance can contact Tail Wagger's at (734) 855-4077 or tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com. All calls will be kept confidential and arrangements will be made on an individual basis for pick-up of food.

Financial contributions can be made through the website at: www.tailwaggers1990.org or by mail

to: 28402 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154. All financial contributions are tax-deductible.

Tail Wagger's 1990 is a non-profit organization, committed to helping people help animals. It is their ultimate goal to be able to support dedicated pet owners in need of assistance along with providing necessary funding for those animals in emergency situations.

Peace group presents talk on education in Haiti

An educator, activist, mother, writer and advocate of active non-violence will discuss her passion for peace with the Citizens for Peace group as well as the public at 7 p.m. Tuesday,

Dec. 11, at Unity of Livonia, 26880 Five Mile Road.

Kim Redigan, of Dearborn Heights, who teaches at U of D High School, will tell of her recent trip to Haiti where she partic-

ipated in a Peace Camp for the children living in Cite Soleil, a shantytown outside of Port-au-Prince. Her first trip to Haiti took her to the mountainous area for a celebration of the first college gradu-

ating class in rural Haiti.

With the two different perspectives of education in Haiti, Redigan will share her experiences and impressions of education in Haiti.

Redigan also teaches social justice at a two-week Peace Camp every summer in Detroit. Her passion for peace has taken her to the Middle East with the Michigan

Peace team three times in the past 10 years. She is a nonviolence trainer with the Michigan Peace Team and writes for their newsletter. Redigan serves on the board of Pax Christi Michigan; the Michigan Coalition of Human Rights; Southeastern Michigan Jobs with Justice; and is on the Coordinating Committee of the Detroit

Area Peace with Justice Network.

There will also be a book exchange after the presentation. Anyone bringing a favorite book to trade can select another book to take home. All are welcome.

For more information, go to www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com or call Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079.

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D139 Cordell B Barker II (aka Brian Barker II)
H287 Cheryl Lawrence**

Purchases must be made with **cash only** and **paid at the time of sale**. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Publish: November 29 & December 6, 2012

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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

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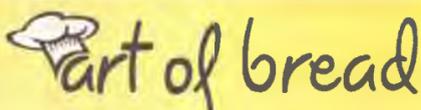
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2012-2013 BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PT. 2

KLAA champs brace for new challenges

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Bob Brodie is fully aware his Salem varsity boys basketball team will be the hunted rather than the hunter during the 2012-13 season.

That's what happens after a team rolls to a 20-3 record and KLAA championship, which last year's Salem squad accomplished.

"We've got a target on our back," said Brodie, beginning his 29th season at the coaching helm. "Everybody's going to be shooting for us because we're the KLAA champs, divisional champs, conference champs,

"Everybody wants a piece of us and knock us off the mountain. Our job is to defend that if we can."

Brodie said there is no question the graduation of key players such as guards Tyler Stewart (Madonna) and Grant Bettner and forward Josh Peterson leaves some important voids to fill.

They know the drill

Yet there are eight players who were on board for last season's successful ride, which ended in the Division 1 district final against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

"That's all over, (but) it instills confidence in us as a team," Bro-

die said about what last season's experience means to the returning players. "We know we can do it, we've got a lot of players coming back."

At the top of that list is 6-7 senior forward Chris Dierker, who averaged 10.5 points (second to Stewart's 15.2) and 9.5 rebounds per outing last winter.

"He'll be a key guy down low for us this season," Brodie said. "He was last season. He's played a lot of basketball for us at the varsity level, so are expectations of him are high.

"Whether or not he can fulfill those expectations is yet to be seen."

Brodie cited Dierker's inconsistency, between being dominant and "kind of non-existent on the court. If we could get him to be more consistent, we'll have a great season."

Several other forwards, in addition to Dierker, provide Brodie with good, numerous options in and near the paint. Those include seniors Cam Werner (6-2), Ankit Tiwari (6-5, 225), Ahmad Khalid (6-4, 225) and Jake Burns (6-6).

"We got Cam Werner, who started quite a bit inside for us," Brodie said. "He'll be running at the three

Please see HOOPS, B3



Eyeing the basket during a 2011-12 game is Salem's Austin Whitted (No. 24), who is back for another season with the Rocks.

Prep pucks for Gleaners

Plymouth's and Salem's prep boys hockey teams (JV level) are teaming up to help fight hunger.

They will be facing each other 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, in a "Black vs. Blue Hockey Night" at Plymouth Cultural Center, culminating the first annual Gleaners Food Drive.

Admission will be the donation of five canned goods, which will be sent on to the Gleaners Food Bank. Game two (7 p.m.) will feature the Plymouth and Salem alumni teams.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. will be a third Plymouth-Salem game, pitting the current varsity teams. An admission fee will be required for the varsity contest.

Plymouth's prep hockey program is spearheading the Gleaners Food Drive (Salem and Canton are involved in similar endeavors for the holidays). Leading up to Dec. 21, Wildcat players will be canvassing neighborhoods to collect cans. A goal of 1,000 cans for Gleaners is the team's ultimate goal.

For more information, contact Rick Covalt at (313) 319-3606.

Washington's men ready to go to work for Eagles

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It remains to be seen how much of a turnaround Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team can make in 2012-13.

But second-year head coach Dominique Washington is enthused that the mission of his program is starting to take root.

"Our motto this year is defense and work hard," Washington said. "So far these kids are buying into that. ... Last year, I came in and everything was new to me.

"I tried to express what

I wanted out of games and (that's) not going to happen overnight. Now they know where I'm coming from and they're all on board."

For example, Washington, a former prep basketball star at Salem, said players are arriving at the gym early — for 5:50 a.m. practices. They're leaving it all out on the floor, even in the wee hours.

"Everybody wants to be here, they push themselves," Washington said. "Everybody's working hard and everybody understands in order for them to play, they have to earn their playing

time. Just showing up isn't enough."

That work ethic and all-in attitude could help the team improve upon last season's 7-15 mark and become more of a factor in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division.

Leading the charge will be the players who started down the stretch last year, following a knee injury to center Eric Jipping (a 2012 grad).

In the backcourt will be senior guards and co-captains Mick Noel (PCA's top scorer with 21 ppg) and Drew Ibach, with junior Daniel Jip-

ping in the wing position.

Also in the lineup: senior small forward and co-captain Alex Huber; 6-2 junior guard/forward Daniel Jipping; and 6-0 junior post player Jacob Bailey.

New approach

According to Washington, the starters will need to all chip in "by committee" on the boards because the team lacks a dominant low-post player such as Eric Jipping.

"The same game plan I had last year, I can't go with this year," he said,

Please see EAGLES, B3



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian Academy's offense this season will rely on the outside shooting of senior guard Mick Noel (No. 11).

Heldmeyer tops at Siena

Beth Heldmeyer, a 2009 Plymouth grad and senior at Siena Heights University, was named the team's most outstanding cross country runner for the second year in a row.

During her career she was a four-time NAIA national qualifier, all conference, academic all conference and WHAC Senior Champion of Character Award. She will graduate in the spring with a degree in nursing.



Salem seniors to lead by example

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

WRESTLING PREVIEW

Seniors will lead the Salem Rocks on and off the mat in 2012-13.

According to Salem varsity wrestling coach Pete Israel, the efforts of senior co-captains Tyler Gross, Riley Doxtader, Alex Arble and Mitch Marshall should set the tone for the younger members of the squad.

"Overall, I think if we are all healthy throughout the season, this could be a good year for the Rocks," Israel said. "I see the senior class really stepping up and providing great leadership for a younger team. I look forward to seeing the hard work pay off for these young men."

Gross will compete at 171 and Israel expects continued excellence from the 2012 state qualifier. "Tyler should have another great year topping off his Salem career."

Doxtader is set to wrestle either at 135 or 140. "Riley is coming off a great cross country season and is in great shape to push and grind out matches," Israel said.

The coach said Arble (119) and Marshall (140 or 145) both have worked hard and made strides during the off-season and will make solid contributions to the Rocks.

So will senior Tony Agostini, who Israel said "has shown a lot of improvement and (is) looking to be a contender for great things" at 215.

There is competition at both ends of the lineup.

At heavyweight, Tyler Moore, Matt Piotrowski and Derek Young are battling it out for the top spot on the depth

Please see SALEM, B3

Family link

EMU-bound Rodes excited about golfing where his grandpa did

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

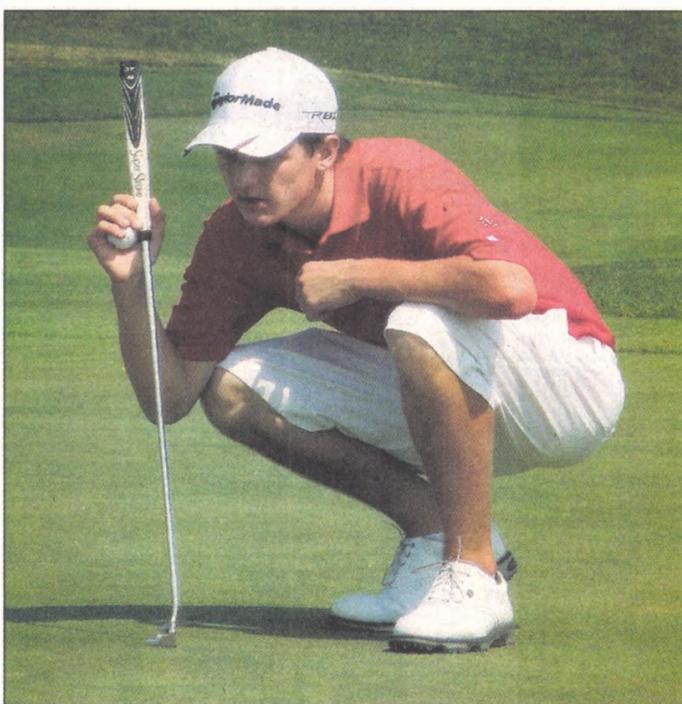
Eastern Michigan University men's golf and Kyle Rodes's family have a long tradition that the Plymouth senior wanted to continue.

His grandfather, Cliff Zill, golfed at Eastern and now so will the 17-year-old Rodes — who recently signed his national letter of intent to join the EMU program coached by Bruce Cunningham.

"One of the factors that made me decide on Eastern was coach Cunningham," Rodes wrote in a recent email to the *Observer*. "Listening to current players and other coaches that were pursuing me, all said that (Cunningham) is strong at developing young players and taking them to the next level."

Cunningham attended Rodes's recent signing ceremony. Also on hand were his parents, Lisa and Joe Rodes, and his former and current coaches at Plymouth — Chris Moore and Nick Brandon, respectively.

Of course, first will come his senior season



Plymouth's Kyle Rodes reads the green before putting during last summer's AJGA Columbus Memorial Tournament, where he finished fourth.

with the Wildcats, who finished 10th in Division 1 last year.

"I am very excited about my senior year of high school golf," Rodes continued. "Our team has finished in the top 10 the past three seasons and

our goal for next season is to win it all."

It will be with new coach Brandon leading the way. He is taking over the team from longtime coach Moore, who had to step down due to a career move.

"I had a great relationship with coach Moore," Rodes wrote. "During tournaments, his calming influence factored into my scoring. After meeting briefly with our new

Please see RODES, B4

Whalers lose 'bear-y' good game in shootout

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It was quite a Saturday evening at Compuware Arena, with magical plays, brilliant saves and even more than 1,000 teddy bears raining down on the ice.

The only thing missing for the 3,483 fans in attendance at the annual "Teddy Bear Toss Night" was a Plymouth Whalers victory over the Kitchener Rangers. They almost got it, but lost 5-4 in a shootout.

"It was a great game, I'm sure the fans would have liked a win and so would have we," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "It was end-to-end hockey. We tied it up late, had a lot of chances in overtime, (but) their goalie made some great saves."

The Whalers trailed 4-3 entering the final minute of regulation. With their net empty, forward Rickard Rakell skated deep in the Kitchener zone.

Then came some magic. As Rakell spun around on the doorstep, he made a dazzling no-look pass across the crease to linemate Ryan Hartman for the tap-in at the right post.

That tally made it 4-4 with 51 seconds left in the Ontario Hockey League tilt. It also was Rakell's third assist and Hartman's second goal of the night.

"He makes that pass quite a bit," said Vellucci about Rakell, an Anaheim Ducks prospect. "He made a great pass and Hartman put it in when he had the chance."

Forward Stefan Noesen almost won the game with the final seconds of the period elapsing. But Kitchener goalie Franky Palazzese came up big for one of his 38 saves for the Rangers (18-8-1-1).

Goalie duel

Palazzese followed up with spectacular work



PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

After Plymouth's first goal Saturday night, Compuware Arena fans tossed more than 1,000 teddy bears onto the ice. The toys will be distributed over the holidays to needy children by Plymouth Community United Way.

throughout overtime and the shootout. The only goal of the shootout was scored by Justin Bailey.

Also playing a strong game despite giving up four goals was Plymouth's 16-year-old rookie netminder, Alex Nedeljkovic, who made 28 saves and could not be faulted on any of the four goals he allowed.

It was Nedeljkovic's third consecutive start following a disappointing 7-6 loss to Kingston on Nov. 23 where the Whalers let a 5-2 lead slip away.

The youngster earned wins at Erie and against Ottawa as Plymouth, with the point Saturday, improved to 14-8-3-2, good for 33 points and first place in the OHL West Division.

"He (Nedeljkovic) played really well this week," Vellucci said. "For a 16-year-old, not too many kids can play that many games and play that well. So we're very excited about him."

Vellucci said he wasn't sure yet whether Nedeljkovic would start again Wednesday at Owen



Matt Mistele (No. 22) of the Plymouth Whalers deflects the puck into the net past Kitchener goalie Franky Palazzese in the first period. The goal prompted fans to toss teddy bears onto the ice at Compuware Arena. At right for the Rangers is defenseman Ben Fanelli (No. 4).

Sound. Another factor is a foot injury hampering the Whalers' No. 1 goalie, Matt Mahalak.

"As a coach you always play the guy that's got the hot hand and the guy that's played well," Vellucci noted. "He's going to play until he deserves otherwise."

From start to finish, it was a back-and-forth game by both teams.

There go the teddies

The first goal of the game, scored at 11:22 of the opening stanza by Matt Mistele — deflecting Tom Wilson's shot into the top-left corner — signaled fans to throw their teddy bears over the boards.

Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV, then came out to center ice to briefly talk about how those teddy bears will be distribut-

ed this month by Plymouth Community United Way to needy children throughout the area.

When play resumed following a short delay, the Rangers needed just 45 seconds to make it 1-1. Ben Thomson blocked a shot at the Kitchener blue line, then motored down the ice before deking Nedeljkovic and slipping a low shot between the pads.

Garrett Meurs gave Plymouth a 2-1 lead at 4:50 of the second, roofing the puck into the Kitchener net. Rakell set the goal up with a perfect pass.

A wraparound by Bailey, after stealing the puck behind the Plymouth net, resulted in a goal that again tied the contest with 6:16 to go in the frame.

Each team would score late in the period ended to make it 3-3. A fortuitous bounce off the boards behind Nedeljkovic led to a goal by Matia Marcantoni to give Kitchener its first lead.

Then with 1:10 remaining, Hartman slammed home a one-touch feed across the crease from forward Alex Aleardi (Farmington Hills). Starting the play was Rakell, who moved the puck up the wall to Aleardi.

Kitchener netted a power-play goal with 13:57 left in the third to go up 4-3. Radek Faksa made good on his own rebound, capping off a three-shot flurry.

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Chargers de-iced by 'Cats, 10-2

Plymouth scored 10 unanswered goals after Livonia Churchill took an early 2-0 first period lead en route to a 10-2 victory over the host Chargers Friday at Edgar Arena.

Nick Schultz led the Plymouth assault with three goals and three assists, while Michael Schultz added three goals and two assists. Zack Tavierne also added a pair of goals for the Wildcats (5-1, 1-0), including a power play goal with 6:43 remaining to end the game due to the eight-goal mercy rule. Dean Guenther and

BOYS HOCKEY

Mitch Claggett also added goals for Plymouth, which was tied 2-2 after one period and led 4-2 after two periods before adding four goals in the final 11:17 of the third. Churchill got goals from Riley Brown (from Tommy Carey and Drew Sparks) and Drew Puishes (Brown).

Jared Maddock was in goal for Plymouth, while Alec Calvaruso and David Turel each played for the Chargers (1-3, 0-1).

Marlins get back at Pens

GIRLS HOCKEY

The last time the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins squared off against Farmington Hills Mercy for a girls hockey showdown, it was for their league's Division 2 championship.

PCS won that contest in triple overtime, winning the trophy and giving the Marlins something to look forward to.

Mercy exacted some measure of revenge on Saturday night with a 3-1 victory at Canton's Arctic Edge Arena.

The Penguins (1-2 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey

League) fell behind 3-0 in the first period on Mercy goals by Anna Julien, Maddie McClain and Caitlin Conner.

It was the third period before PCS got on the board to spoil Mercy goalie Katy Kouvaris' shut-out bid.

With 14:09 remaining, Amanda Hoehn found the back of the net with Cortny McAdoo collecting the lone assist.

"I feel like the girls let the hype and nerves get to them in the first half of the first period where Mercy scored all three goals in a six-minute time frame," PCS head coach Mary Beth Trainor said. "This was Mercy's chance to get revenge and I knew that they would come out flying, which they did."

Trainor said she told her players not to let the setback get them down, emphasizing the Penguins were the better team for much of the remainder of the night.

"Without that (six-minute) breakdown, it would have been a 1-0 game for us," she added. "I know we all look forward to playing them again on February 15."

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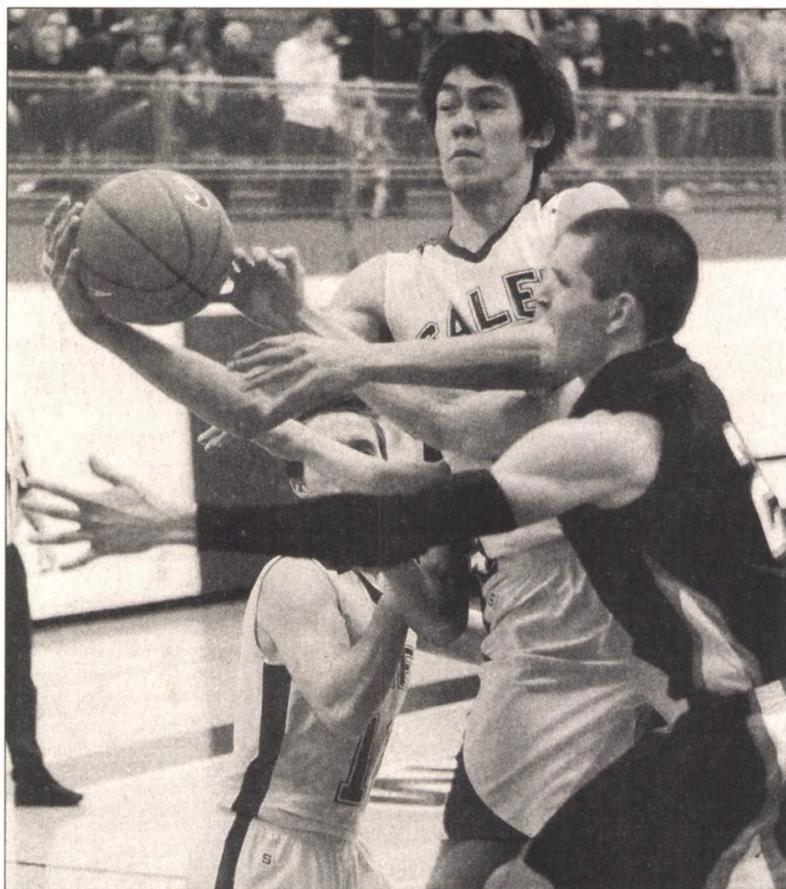
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Salem's Chris Dierker battles for a rebound during a 2011-12 contest. Dierker is one of eight players back from the KLAA champions.

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

position and forward also. "Ankit Tiwari, who started, and Ahmad Khalid, they got a lot of playing time for us last year and they're big, solid, stud players. Good on the glass, strong and they can handle the ball fairly well."

Brodie said Burns has "improved quite a bit from last year. He's a big, long, lanky kid who is very smart on the floor." Juniors Alec Winfrey (6-3) and Michael Hoover (6-3) also might be in the mix to make contributions up front. However Hoover, recovering from a broken collarbone sustained during football season, is starting the season on the sidelines.

Bringing it

Available to plug in either at guard or small forward are junior twins Brady and Connor Cole, who played at the JV level last season.

"I call them my junkyard dogs," Brodie said,

smiling. "They just get out there, they mix it up and they play. Those guys get after it. They don't care what the score is or who they have to guard or who guards them. They just play 110 percent all the time, energy guys."

Another candidate for guard-forward combo work is 6-3 senior Nate Sass, who Brodie said can fill a three spot or run the backcourt if needed.

Probably starting in Salem's backcourt — at least at some point — will be seniors Kevin "KJ" Mack and Austin Whitted.

Yet another backcourt option is sweet-shooting junior Alex Kenrick, who Brodie called a "calm, cool and collected guard for us. He's smart and he could do some shooting for us on that perimeter."

Sass, Mack and Whitted all were on last year's KLAA champs and bring talent and versatility, attributes of which the Rocks have plenty.

Of course, Brodie didn't mince words about the team missing the presence and ability of Stewart.

"The guy averaged 16 or 17 points, he was all-conference three years in a row," Brodie said. "He's been with us forever and he's always been our go-to guy. Nobody's really stepped up yet this year to show us they can fill that void for scoring. Hopefully, if it's not one guy then it's three or four that can step up."

Brodie emphasized that the KLAA is improved and that it's not easy to try to repeat such a magical season. Still, last year's experience should give the squad a boost when tournament time arrives.

"It will be a challenge to at least equal what we did last year," Brodie said. "If we don't, hopefully we're vying for a championship at the end."

"If you haven't been there, you don't know what it's like and these guys have been there."

Salem gets to work at 7 p.m. Friday when Wayne Memorial visits for a conference crossover match-up.

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Chiefs win sloppy opener

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It wasn't pretty, but season openers usually aren't.

And for Canton varsity girls basketball coach Brian Samulski, it didn't hurt that his Chiefs still won 39-25 Tuesday against visiting Saline.

"The first game's always tough," Samulski said. "Coming in I didn't have a good feel for what to expect. There's a lot of new faces, it's a young group. There's a lot of kids playing big minutes in certain situations that they haven't done before."

Samulski did get the hard work his teams are known for.

"I knew we'd get effort, I knew we'd compete," he said. "I knew we would try to defend and rebound. And it sort of went the way it was going to go."

Leading Canton (1-0) with 11 points, along with six rebounds was junior forward Paige Aresco.

Contributing 10 points and four steals was junior guard Rachel Winters while junior center Taylor Hunley tallied nine points and a team-high eight boards plus three blocked shots.

"Taylor did a nice job around the rim, she guarded their inside kids okay," Samulski continued. "I thought all the kids that played, everyone brings something to the group."

"We all try to do our best. Was our execution great? No, but we're working at it and we're going to get better."

In the clutch

The Chiefs won despite making 20 turnovers and letting the Hornets climb back from a 20-7 halftime deficit to cut the Canton lead to single digits, both in the third and fourth quarters.

The Hornets grabbed a little bit of momentum in



Canton's Paige Aresco (No. 14) tries to beat Saline's Taylor Mulder on the dribble during Tuesday's game.

the third as they worked their way inside for buckets.

It was 27-19 with the frame about to end when Winters connected on a clutch 3-ball that opened up an 11-point lead entering the fourth.

With 2.1 seconds left, sophomore forward Annie McDougall in-bounded the ball from under the Saline basket. Winters, stationed outside the arc on the right wing, drained the shot for her second trey of the quarter.

But Saline stayed relatively close and trailed just 32-25 midway through the fourth.

Canton stopped Saline's comeback bid right then and there and didn't allow another point.

First, Hunley intercepted a pass in the Chiefs' end and subsequently was rewarded with a field goal. Five free throws in the final minutes sealed the victory.

Saline's Catelynn Ellis scored 10 points to pace the Hornets.

When the Chiefs host Bloomfield Hills Marian 7 p.m. Thursday, Samulski would like to see his players shave the number of turnovers.

"Way too many turnovers, we turned the ball over 20 times," he noted. "A little bit of that is first game stuff. But after the first two or three minutes we've got to settle down into it and take care of the ball."

MERCY 55, PLYMOUTH 34: On Tuesday at Plymouth, the Wildcats were neck and neck with Farmington Hills Mercy until halftime, when they trailed 19-17.

The second half was a much different story. In the third quarter, the Marlins outscored the Wildcats 25-8 and were on their way to victory in the non-league girls basketball matchup.

"It was a close game going into halftime then Mercy turned up their pressure in the third quarter and that was the difference," Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear said. "The effort was there but we couldn't solve the press."

Jada Woody scored 17 points for the Wildcats while Kylie Robb chipped in with seven. Plymouth (0-2) will visit North Farmington on Friday.

EAGLES

Continued from page B1

"because I don't have somebody down for the post, I don't have an Eric Jipping. I have a scorer in Mick Noel, but I don't have a (dominant) post player."

Washington said each player brings a different element to the squad.

"He's a great shooter," Washington said about Huber. "I would say he's one of our three-point specialists. We're going to design plays espe-

cially for him to get a three-ball up and I'd say there's a good chance he'll knock it down."

Daniel Jipping "pound for pound is probably the strongest kid in this league."

Bailey will be a thorn in the side of opponents' top players.

"I can rely on him to do everything he can to stop that guy," Washington said. "What I'm trying to do is to get the whole team to buy into the defensive concept and he (Bailey) already has. He's a vocal guy, he leads by example."

In reserve will be 6-5 sophomore forward Michael Slater, 6-7 sophomore guard/forward Evan Horne, 6-3 senior forward Matt Sumner and junior forward Ryan Hovermale.

Washington said Sumner is "probably the most athletic kid on the team. This kid jumps, he can jump out of the gym."

PCA opens the season Tuesday, Dec. 11, at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Mira named All-America

Grand Valley State University senior Alyssia Mira was recently named to a pair of All-America squads in women's soccer.

For the second time, Mira garnered a spot on the Daktronics NCAA Division II third-team after leading the Lakers with nine assists to go along with three goals.

Mira, a midfielder, was also named to the NSCAA/Continental Tire All-America Division II team for the first time after helping the Lakers, an NCAA Final Four team, to 18 shutouts.

Mira closes out her four-year career with 23 assists, which ranks ninth in the GVSU record book.

Mira was also named to the All-Midwest team and is a two-time All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection while also earning Defensive Player of the Year honors as a junior.

GVSU Junior defender Kayla Kimble (Livonia Stevenson) also earned second-team All-Midwest honors for the 20-2-3 Lakers, who fell 2-1 to UC San Diego in the national semifinals.

Football training

Nike Combine Training for High School Football players to prepare for the 2013 season and preparation for SPARQ, Michigan Preps, and NUC testing protocols.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine. This

training session will be on Sundays beginning Jan. 27 at D1 Sports in Bloomfield.

To register go to www.coachjacksonspeed.com or for more information contact Coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

TVO volleyball

The Triple-Threat Volleyball Organization junior program for girls ages 7-10 begins Wednesday, Dec. 5 at Riley Upper Elementary School, located on Five Mile between Middlebelt and Merriman roads.

Team practices will be from 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays at Riley.

For more information, call club director Gary Smart at (734) 432-5959; or e-mail tvovolleyball@sbc-global.net. You can also visit www.tvovolleyball.com.

MU softball camp

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

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

Fundamentals (Camp I) - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26;

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

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com.

Winter baseball

Madonna University will

stage a winter baseball camp (ages 7-16) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays through Friday, Dec. 26-28, at Total Sports in Wixom.

Campers will work with college coaches and players. The cost is \$160 per camper (half off for siblings).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com.

Weekly 5K runs

All runners, joggers and walkers are welcome to participate in a weekly timed 5-kilometer run-walk at 9 a.m. each Saturday at Livonia's Bicentennial Park.

Participation is free, but you must bring your registrant barcode to earn by registering at www.park-run.com or www.park-run.us.

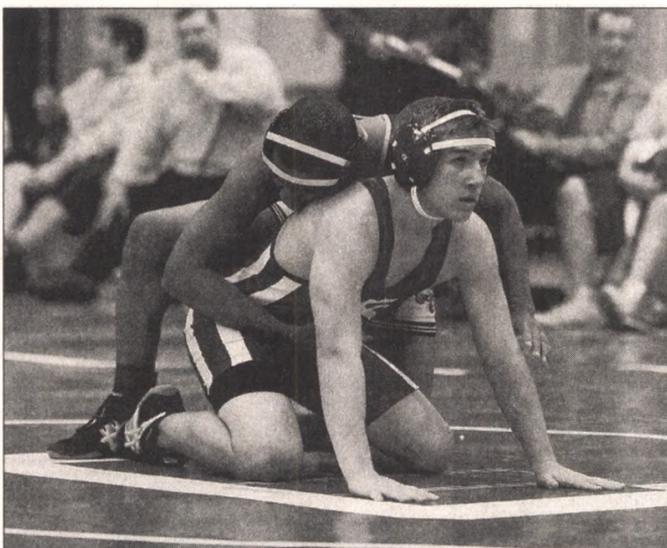
Livonia wrestling

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

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

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

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



Waiting for the whistle to start a matchup last season is Salem's Riley Duxtader (bottom), who will wrestle either at 135 or 140 this year.

SALEM

Continued from page B1

chart. Meanwhile, the 103 slot is coming down to Drew Lindsey or Russell Gaubatz.

Israel said the starting lineup is still being firmed up, largely because others are being considered for more than

one weight class.

For example, Hamad Abed will wrestle either at 145 or 152 while Connor Thornbury will see action either at 152 or 160.

Meanwhile, set for 119 is Charlie Woody, who the coach said "has worked hard during the off-season and improved since last year."

Others expected to be

in the mix include Mitch Rosinski (125), Caleb McCabe (130), James Upshaw (160) and Mitchell Gross (189) along with "fresh faces" Jake Judge (135) and Cameron Shaughnessy (112).

Salem started the season Wednesday at the Plymouth quad meet.

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GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

Chiefs eager to finish title quest

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The roster changed a bit, but not the Canton varsity girls gymnastics team's quest to win a state championship.

After coming oh-so-close to the pinnacle last season (Grand Ledge won by .825 points over the Chiefs), veteran head coach John Cunningham sees enough talent to take another run.

And that's even with the loss of 2012 graduates Ayana Lewis and Marina Milad, two of last year's top performers.

"This season looks like another year where we have a run at a state championship," Cunningham noted. "We have to replace graduating team leaders Ayana Lewis and Marina Milad.

"But a year of improvement to last year's runner-up team might make the difference."

For starters, back for another season is junior Erica Lucas — the 2012 state champion on vault in Division 2.

Senior co-captains Nicole Lasecki, Katie Adams and Jenna Foster will pick up the leadership reins where Lewis and Milad left them.

They also can get it done in competition, too. Lasecki placed 19th in all-around in Division 1 at the state individual finals held at Kenowa Hills.

Others who comprise the 2012-13 nucleus are returnees Melissa Green (a junior who was 11th in D1 all-around) and sophomore Jocelyn Moraw (a sophomore who was eighth in D1 all-around).



Canton's Jocelyn Moraw, shown from last season, is one of the returnees from the state runners-up team.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Augmenting them will be Katie Lawera, Katie Klaebir, Jessica Siegler (who Cunningham said is showing more potential) and freshmen Haley Hodgson, Maddie Toal and Ellie Bachman.

"Our hope is to remain one of the teams to beat in the state," said Cunningham, whose Chiefs rolled to a perfect season in the

KLAA division and conference last year.

Canton opens up with Saturday's Vassar Quad at Bounce. On Wednesday, Dec. 12, the Chiefs will square off against Salem at Plymouth High School (where the Park's gymnastics matches take place).

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'Cats feature deep, talented roster

Plymouth's varsity girls gymnastics team is gearing up for a promising season, which started Tuesday with an impressive 137.35-127.775 win over Northville.

Head coach Pam Yockey said the Wildcats (2-4 in 2011-12 KLAA dual meets) feature a mix of outstanding veterans and youngsters such as freshman Emily Welch who are making quite a first impression.

Welch set a new Plymouth record on vault against the Mustangs, registering a 9.2 score.

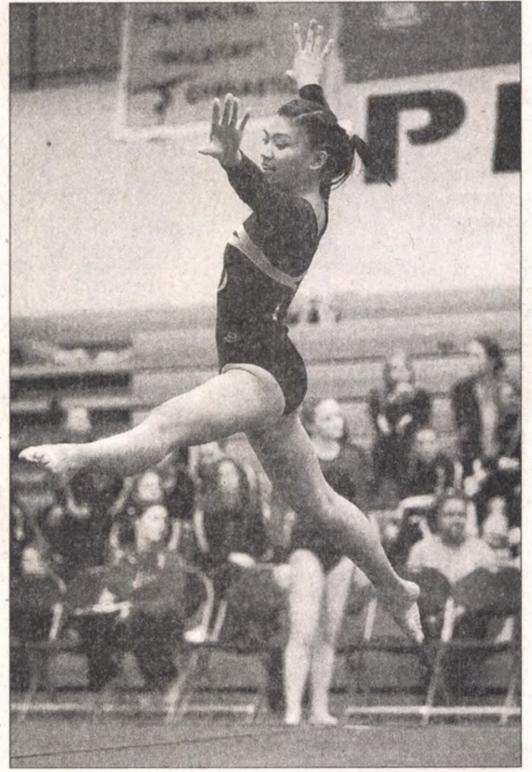
Yockey said there is strong depth with 10 all-arounders and "as the season progresses and skills are acquired, the team hopes to break 140."

The Wildcats boast plenty of talent in all events, but she cited an excellent lineup on the balance beam.

Strong beam performances are expected of senior co-captain Sarah Uhlian (school record on beam, 9.55 last year) and junior co-captains Brenna Connelly and Katie Salanga.

On floor exercise will be senior co-captain Jane McCurry (school record on floor, 9.50 last year) along with junior Kennedy Lewis.

In addition to Welch on vault, the Wildcats will look for contributions from freshman



ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Junior co-captain Katie Salanga is one of many key returning gymnasts for Plymouth.

Rebeca Simu and sophomore Megan McKeehan (school record on floor, 9.50 last year).

Plymouth's lineup on uneven parallel bars includes Simu, Haley Metz and freshman Sam Fontana.

Rounding out the roster are seniors Amanda Pzybyla (floor, vault,

beam), Jessica Lutkenhoff (vault, beam, floor); junior Kayla Janevski; sophomores Alessandra Bologna (floor), Alissa McCarter (floor, vault, beam), Anna Warbel, Molly McSween, Natalie Ondayko (vault, bars, floor); freshmen Caitlin Browne, Drew Degener and Megan McCurry.



Plymouth senior Kyle Rodes puts his name on the dotted line, recently signing a national letter of intent to play men's golf at Eastern Michigan University. Standing behind Kyle (from left) are former Plymouth boys golf coach Chris Moore, parents Lisa and Rodes, EMU coach Bruce Cunningham and current Nick Brandon, who is succeeding Moore at the helm of the Wildcats.

RODES

Continued from page B1

coach, Nick Brandon, he seemed really competitive and motivated to continue our program's success."

For his final year with the Wildcats, Rodes intends to shave strokes off his already outstanding average (73.9 for 18-hole tournaments, 35.9 for nine-hole matches).

"My personal goals are to lower my scoring average and to end my high school career playing the best golf I possibly can," he added.

Rodes, a two-time KLAA Scholar Athlete and National Honor Society member (with a 3.76 grade-point average), said family tradition and the EMU coach weren't the only factors in his

decision to go there.

The Plymouth resident liked the Eagles' strong schedule (such as tournaments at Maryland, Northwestern and Georgetown), noting his ultimate goal "was to play the best competitive

golf I can. Eastern gives me the greatest opportunity of all the schools interested in me to do that."

Golf to the rescue

The opportunity to play the sport at a high level did not come automatically for Rodes, whose parents (who both golf, by the way) have attended every round of competitive golf in which he's played.

Growing up, he played football, baseball and basketball along with golf — albeit on an occasional basis.

Then in eighth grade, he fractured his femur playing basketball and required surgery. He broke it again on the baseball field and ultimately needed a third surgery, to remove screws from his leg.

"It was at that point I realized that I may not be able to compete in contact sports, so the logical choice then for me was golf," Rodes said. "The rest is history. After my third surgery and then a fourth surgery to repair a fractured elbow, I questioned God's plan for me.

But now I know."

He really got his golf game on track the past three years, with assistance from swing coach Paul Haase of Kendall Golf Academy. Haase worked with the teenager on his physical and mental approach and that paid off handsomely.

Augmenting Rodes's high school career have been participation in several elite tours (AJGA, Adams, GAM, Golf-week).

Although it took injuries to steer Rodes to the links, he's stayed on course with dedication and talent. Now, the road will lead him to Ypsilanti.

His grandfather, a former pro at Ann Arbor Golf and Outing who passed away in 2007, would have been tickled.

"Unfortunately," Lisa Rodes said, "my dad got sick with emphysema right when Kyle was beginning to get more involved with golf after all his surgeries. They never got to play together. He would be thrilled and very proud."

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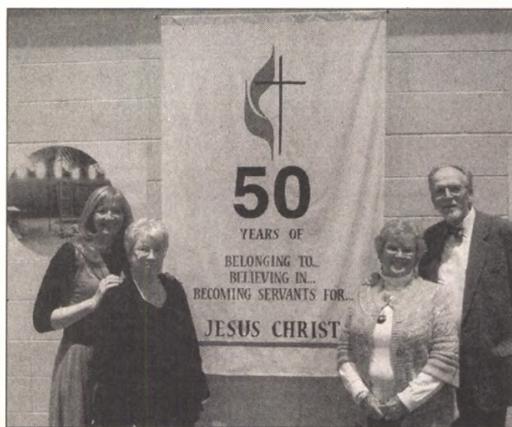
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Sue Craik, (left), Christian education adviser, Mary Anne Duluk and Marie Adams, co-chairs of the 50th anniversary committee, and the Rev. George Covintree show one of the anniversary banners at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia.

Speaker, displays wrap up 50th anniversary

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will conclude its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration with a worship service and special guest speaker, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey will give the sermon and serve communion. The Rev. George Covintree Jr., St. Matthew's pastor, will assist.

A light luncheon will be served in the fellowship hall after the service.

Mary Anne Duluk chaired the 50th anniversary committee, which planned special events throughout the year. Wink Covintree and Dawn Johnson designed anniversary banners and Duluk, Marie Adams and Caren Cunningham make the banners.

The anniversary celebrated the merger of the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church into the United Methodist Church. St. Matthew's became the first United Methodist Church in the United States.

Historical photos and letters will also be on display after the service.

For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

December

ADVENT SERMONS

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. Sundays through Dec. 23

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

Details: Rev. Paul Stunkel will focus on "Why? The Prophecy, The Stable, a Virgin," Dec. 9; "Why?

Shepherds and Wise Men," Dec. 16; and "Why? Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Family, and featuring a live nativity, Dec. 23

Contact: (734) 422-1470

ADVENT SERVICES

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

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



BERTSCH SMALLIDGE BROWN JOAN

7/7/1929-12/3/2012

(83) was born to Ralph E. Smallidge and Grace E. (Humphrey) on July 7th 1929, at Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Her family lived in Flint and Ypsilanti and after attending Ypsilanti High School, Joan attended Michigan Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Teaching and a Master's degree in Special Education. In 1977, she earned a second Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Michigan. She enjoyed a very fulfilling teaching career which spanned four decades beginning in Grand Rapids in the early 1950s. She was not only a classroom teacher but also a homebound teacher—for students with illness or disability—and finally a consultant in special education compliance for Oakland County Schools. Joan is predeceased by her only sibling, Patricia (Sutton) and her first husband, Ian H. (Scott) Brown, Jr. whom she married in 1953. Joan and Scott lived in Midland and Birmingham before making their home in Farmington Hills in 1958. Joan is also predeceased by her second husband, Thomas Bertsch, whom she married in 2001. Joan is survived by her three children: Daniel (Claire) Brown, Lawrence (Connie) Brown and Rebecca (Edward) Brinskele and her three step-children: Frederick (Elaine) Bertsch, Maggie Hunkele and Lawrence (Diann) Bertsch. Joan is also survived by her seven grandchildren: Amanda, Caitlin and Bill Brown and Paige, Jake, McCall and Walker Brinskele and six step-grandchildren: Ethan and Parker Portice, Sarah Renee (Dave) Hytinen, Heather (Tim) Muir and Matthew, Michael and Thomas Bertsch and step-great grandchild: Liam Muir. Joan was an energetic, inspirational and loving mother, wife, grandmother and friend as well as a gifted teacher and an accomplished gardener. She will be dearly missed. A memorial celebrating the life of Joan Bertsch will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 2012 at 11 a.m., with visitation at 10 a.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, 121 South Harrison, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Memorial donations suggested to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org). Arrangements made by Case (casefuneralhome.com), Saginaw, Michigan.



BOYD, HUBERT J.

Dec. 2, 2012; age 85 of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late Lois. Dear father of Danny (Maureen), Norene (Michael) Hanchett, the late Kathleen Mary & Keith Allen. Brother of Francis & the late Claude, Gerald. Loving grandfather of Melodie (Jason) Alery, Darin Albany, Amy (Bernard) Rizkallah, Angela (Vincent Kutscheid) Albany, Danielle (Robert) Short, Bryan (Tonya Shotwell) Boyd, Danny Boyd. Also survived by 9 great grandchildren. Family will receive friends Sat. 12 noon until time of Memorial Service at 3 pm at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family requests memorials to Odyssey Hospice. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com



CHAPIN, GORDON CLARK,

Age 91 of Plymouth, December 3, 2012. Beloved husband of Elizabeth (Dinkel) Chapin. Dear father to Ann (Bruce) Cavender of Northville and Clark (Karen) Chapin of Plymouth. Grandfather to Robert (Susan) Cavender of Livonia and Bill (Anna) Chapin of Oakland, CA. He was preceded in death by his wife and brothers, Martin and John. He was the son of Martin G. Chapin and Margaret (Clark) Chapin of Detroit and was born on February 19, 1921. Gordon graduated from Detroit's Redford High School in 1939 and Wayne State University in 1948. A veteran of the US Army, he served in Europe during WWII as part of the 109th Maintenance Company (Medium). He was an engineer who helped develop the first domestic automotive disc brake system while employed by Kelsey-Hayes in Romulus. He was active at the Plymouth Historical Museum and Risen Christ Lutheran Church. An active sailor, he served as Commodore for Portage Yacht Club in Pinckney and sailed 18-ft Interlake Class sailboats until age 85. He was honored by Portage Yacht Club in 2006 for his years of service. Visitation Fri 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 W. Ann Arbor Road, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 or Risen Christ.

To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

GULLEDGE, BETTY JANE

Born April 16, 1929
Died November 23, 2012
Born in Henry County, Ohio our loving mother was preceded in death by her parents; John Henry and Lula May Swalley. Her brothers; Robert & Donald Swalley. She moved from Ohio to Michigan then began working as a home health care aid until her late 60's when she retired. She leaves behind to mourn her passing 5 children: Roger Hurd, James Hurd, Linda Rabe, Pamela Bynum, and Sheryl Pritchard; followed by her 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many close friends. She is dearly loved and will greatly be missed. Services will be held at Husbands Family Funeral Home 2401 S. Wayne Rd. Westland, MI 48186; followed by a lunch-in Sat. Dec. 8th 2012 at 2:00. Rest In The Arms Of The Angels Mom.

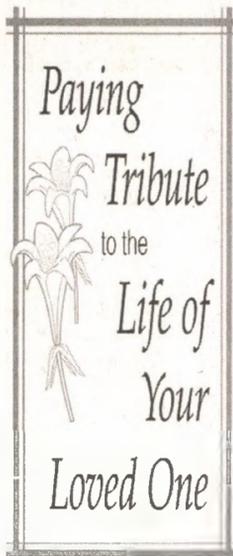
SADOWSKI, ANTHONY F.

Age 64, December 1, 2012.
Resident to Westland.
www.edwardswansonandsonfuneralhome.com



CLARK, TREVA N.

Age 87, November 30, 2012. Loving mother of Dennis (Penney) Clark, Lynne (Ron) Almos, Karen (Fred) Layton and the late Brandon Clark. Dear grandmother of Angie, Arianna, Bonnie, Derek, Amie, Jayme, Ryan, Andrew, Laura and Lisa. Dear great-grandmother of 10. Sister of Larry, Dixie, Bob, Sharon and Andy. Funeral Services were held for Treva on December 3, 2012 at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. Please share a memory at www.rgrharris.com



May you find comfort in Family and Friends

Your Invitation to Worship

<p style="text-align: center;">CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 a.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. ATB788020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>Rosedale Gardens PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD TRADITIONAL CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48166 248.304.3400 www.wardchurch.org</p> <p>Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p>OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen & Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734)281-1380</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICES Sunday: 9:30 A.M. & 11 A.M. Tuesday: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">UNITY WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES</p> <p>Friends of Unity 774 North Sheldon Road Plymouth, MI (Plymouth Community Arts Building) www.friendsofunity.org Sunday Service and Youth Programs 10 a.m. Florence Ermen, Licensed Unity Teacher 734.454.0015</p>			

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Epic story

Detroit firefighters battle a blaze in the documentary, "BURN."

Farmington Hills man featured in firefighter documentary

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

As a Detroit firefighter, Dennis Hunter sees the best and the worst of his former hometown every day.

"I love the city and I hate the city. It's where I grew up. It's my hometown and everyone in Metro Detroit, they know Detroit once was a great city and I believe it can be again. It just needs investment, leadership.

"What I hate is the lack of leadership and the crime and the school system, which is one of the main reasons I left."

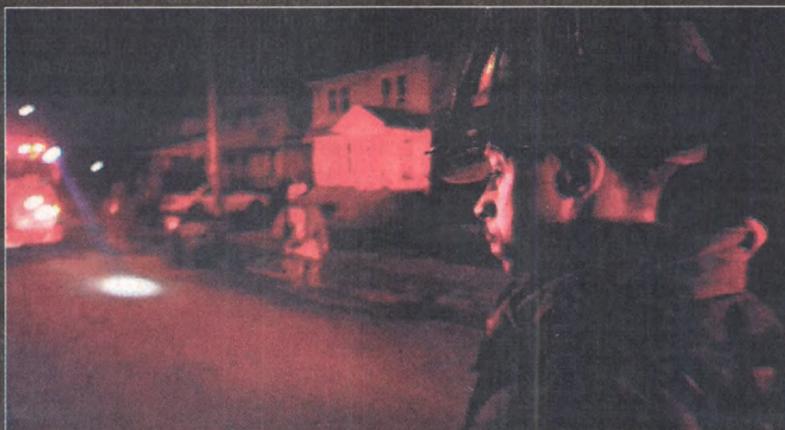
Hunter, 41, who is married and the father of three daughters, moved to Farmington Hills from Detroit about four years ago, but continues to work in one of the busiest fire departments in the country.

He's a senior firefighter in Engine Company 40 on Detroit's west side and one of several firefighters featured in the documentary *BURN One Year on the Front Lines of the Battle To Save Detroit*, by Tom Putnam and Detroit native Brenna Sanchez.

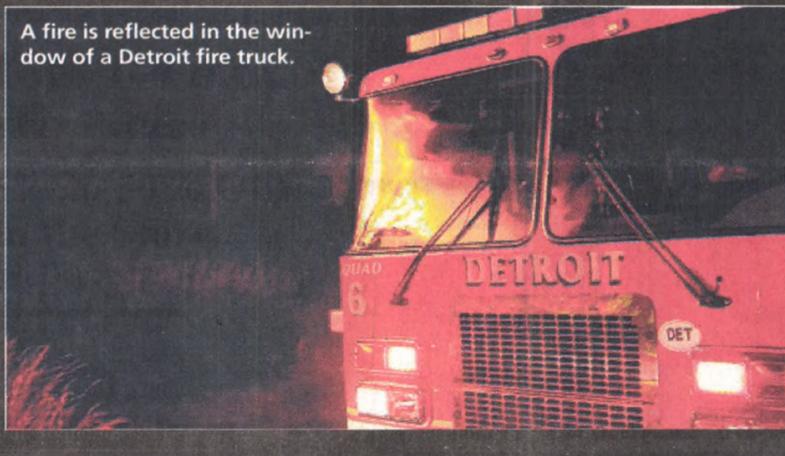
Hunter saw the film at its Tribeca film festival debut in New York earlier this year. It will open Friday, Dec. 7 in Washington D.C., Chicago, Ill., AMC Livonia 20 in Livonia and AMC Forum 30 in Sterling Heights. A portion of the proceeds of the film will go to the Leary Firefighters Foundation to buy gear for Detroit firefighters.

Untold story

Putnam and Sanchez became interested in filming Detroit firefighters after learning in late 2008 that a veteran fireman had died battling an arson blaze in an abandoned home. Nine months later they were embedded in Engine Company 50 on the city's east side where they filmed a test reel. In their first two days of shooting, the crew filmed 21 fires. They also inter-



Dennis Hunter of Farmington Hills is a 14-year veteran of the Detroit Fire Department.



A fire is reflected in the window of a Detroit fire truck.

viewed each member of the eight-man crew and outfitted them with helmet cameras.

They shopped the footage to film executives and cable broadcasters who said they liked the idea but couldn't find an audience for a movie about firefighters. So, the pair posted the trailer on Vimeo.com and YouTube where it drew 100,000 views. They started a Facebook page and led a fundraising campaign on Kickstarter.com. With funding from corporate sponsors, such as General Motors, and individual donors, they began filming in December 2010, finishing in January this year. In the process, Denis Leary, star of

the FX series, *Rescue Me*, and Jim Serpico, president of Motion Pictures and Television at Apostle productions, joined them as executive producers.

In addition to filming at Engine Company 50, the crew spent time at other fire stations, including Engine Company 40, where Hunter is based.

"It was pretty easy. They worked around us," Hunter recalled the film shoots. "They gave us cameras for our helmets. They'd be in the firehouse filming. I got used to it. At first it was, 'wow, I'm getting filmed.' But then it was 'I'm going to be me, be real. I'm at work.' You've got a serious job to do."

A new career

Hunter became interested in firefighting after a cousin, who also works for the Detroit Fire Department, mentioned that the city was taking applications.

"My dad wasn't a fireman. I didn't grow up wanting to be a fireman. I didn't know much about it even though my cousin was one. I have a barbershop I own. I was working there at the time," said Hunter, adding that he continues to cut hair in his spare time. "I decided, man, I could use some insurance. I'll take the test."

Several thousand other job-seekers had the same idea that day at Cobo Center.

"It was like a needle in the haystack. It was ridiculous."

Hunter later received notice that he had passed the test and was accepted into the training academy.

"Now I was getting interested. It was starting to get a little intriguing. Once I got into the academy, it was like, wow, I really want to do this ... helping people, the physical part of it, being in the community."

After four months in the academy, he spent eight months in the field completing his trial period before attaining his badge. He remembers his first fire was in an attic — attic and basement fires are the hottest blazes — and a sergeant led him through the process.

"We were up in the attic for an hour. It was something I never did before. It was scary, but when I saw all the guys seemed so comfortable, it relaxed me. I was probably full of adrenalin."

Suburbs, city

The film notes that Detroit firefighters often douse flames from the inside of a burning structure, a necessity in neighborhoods with older houses in

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TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

Michigan Philharmonic plays sounds of the season

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

The Michigan Philharmonic will perform its holiday concert five times this month, but each show will vary depending on its location.

"It's very different from place to place and that keeps it fresh," said Beth Stewart, Michigan Philharmonic executive director. "There are a whole



ReGina Coles

host of things that can change it up." "Home for the Holidays" concerts on Dec. 7 at Walled

Lake Northern High School in Commerce and Dec. 14 at the Seligman Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills will feature school choirs singing holiday tunes and leading the audience sing-a-long. The Huron Valley Council for the Arts sponsors the concert in Commerce, which will include the Walled Lake School youth choirs. The Detroit Country Day School choirs will sing at the Seligman Center.

Vocalist ReGina Coles of Canton will sing Dec. 15 at the Carr Center in Detroit. She's also a board member for the Michigan Philharmonic and a founding member of the Canton Cultural Commission. Coles has performed at venues throughout the Detroit area, including Baker's Keyboard Lounge, MGM Grand, and Motor City Casino.

An early evening con-



The Michigan Philharmonic under the direction of Nan Washburn will perform three holiday concerts Dec. 13-15.

cert Dec. 13 at the Penn Theatre in Plymouth will appeal to families. It's shorter than the other shows and will include an appearance by Santa Claus. A later evening performance is geared toward adults. They also can make reservations at a special dinner that Fiamma Grille offers to concert-goers.

Michigan Philharmonic pianist, Patrick Johnson, will perform at all of the events except for the family concert at the Penn. He is working on a doctorate in piano and music theory from Michigan State University. He also plays organ at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Hazel Park.

The size of the orchestra will stay the same — 30 musicians — for each concert.

"We keep it small and compact because of the Penn," Stewart said, noting that the theater's stage doesn't accommodate larger orchestras. "We have managed to have big sounds with a smaller

number of players."

She said residents from Northville, Canton and Plymouth make up the majority of the orchestra's audience at the Penn Theatre, which is situated in

a perfect location for an evening out on the town.

"It's downtown and close to restaurants and the (Kellogg) park looks beautiful," she said.

Stewart described the

Carr Center as an intimate space, set in old ballroom, where "the audience practically sits around the orchestra." It typically includes children because tickets for



Patrick Johnson

youngsters are free. "At Seligman, it's a fabulous performing arts center. We love playing there and the sound is terrific," she said. "The tickets are priced by section. There is something for everybody."

She added that the symphony's holiday repertoire will offer music for everyone.

"If your favorite isn't here, I'd be surprised. There's a lot of great Christmas music ... Hanukkah songs, too."

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Michigan Philharmonic will play seasonal classics including, "Winter Wonderland," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," holiday songs from films, such as "Miracle on 34th Street," the "Polar Express," and more. Michigan Philharmonic pianist, Patrick Johnson, will perform Bach's "Piano Concerto #3 in D Major" and the audience will be invited to sing along on several tunes

Plymouth: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at The Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave.

Beverly Hills: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at the Seligman Center for Performing Arts, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 13 Mile and Lahser, in Beverly Hills

Detroit: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at The Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River Ave.

Commerce: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Walled Lake Northern High School, 6000 Bogie Lake Road
Tickets: \$30, \$25 and \$10 at the Penn; \$40, \$30 and \$20 at the Seligman Center; \$25 for adults and free for students accompanied by a paying adult at the Carr Center; and \$40, \$25 and \$15 adult admission, \$10 for youth, 10 and under at the concert in Commerce

Contact: Get information, buy tickets or make Fiamma Grille reservations by calling the Michigan Philharmonic office at (734) 451-2112 or visit www.michiganphil.org. For the Commerce concert, call (248) 889-8660 or visit huronvalleyarts.org

'BURN'

Continued from page B6

close proximity to each other.

"In the suburbs you may have one or two house fires a year. When you do get a fire, you may not have as much experience as someone doing it every day," Hunter said. "We do inside out because we have to get in and get it fast or the house next door may catch."

The slower suburban pace hasn't tempted him to leave the city. Hunter has remained in the Detroit department for 14 years, despite recent 10 percent pay cuts, dysfunctional equipment, disagreements with city

administration, and high arson rates.

"We do save a lot of houses people live in. We save a lot of people. We do have a record amount of fires — 30 to 40 a day (department-wide) and out of those, 70 percent are vacant. Another thing that keeps me going is, you can go through the politics, the tremendous amount of fires and the equipment that doesn't work, and I think when you save a life, save someone's property, that makes everything worthwhile and you can keep on going."

AMC Livonia is located at 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile, Livonia; (888) 264-4386.

AMC Forum 30 is at 44681 Mound, south of M-59 in Sterling Heights; (586) 254-1381.



Dennis Hunter of Farmington Hills is one of several Detroit firefighters featured in the documentary film, "Burn."



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Bottles of olive oil line the shelves at Cantoro Italian Market in Livonia.



Sweet treats from Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery in Redford are a hit, especially during the holiday season.



Greek feta cheese from Hellenic Bakery and Grocery in Livonia is popular with customers, especially during the holidays.



A culinary trip around the world

Area ethnic markets lead the tour

By Mary Quinley
Correspondent

Distant cultures intrigue me. I especially like to sample unfamiliar foods and check out native shopping possibilities. Yet, travel to far away places isn't always feasible. If I stayed close to home and scoured local ethnic shops and markets, would I satisfy my urge? Absolutely. I found an amazing assortment of edibles and gifts ideal for celebrations, including the fast-approaching holidays. Here's a sampling:



Mary Quinley

• A warm, wonderful aroma welcomed me as I strolled into Pearl of The Orient in Livonia on a recent afternoon. It was Chicken Afritada. The stew-like entrée with pieces of chicken, potatoes, carrots, tomato sauce and seasonings is often served in Filipino households, Conrado C. Gegajo, the cook, told me. Made-in-house Filipino hot dishes — beef, pork and squash concoctions among them — and spring rolls are other popular any-occasion-to-go items. Customers flock to the store during the holiday season for gift-wrapped hams (marinated with brown sugar and pineapple), pork butt roasts (cooked in Calamansi, a tropical lemon/lime marinade); and, sweet treats like steamed rice cakes and custard cakes.

• "Everything is good and fresh and homemade. That's what I like about this place," said Nick Pitsillos of Livonia, as he shopped for olives and feta cheese at Hellenic Bakery and Grocery in Livonia. His Greek and non-Greek friends, as well, also enjoy made-in-the-back-kitchen spinach pie, arm-length-long loaves of wheat and white bread, kourambietes (Greek almond cookies), baklava, and kolyva (a sweet treat served at Orthodox memorial services). Barrels filled with soup staples like lentils, bulgur wheat and chickpeas; shelves lined with bottles of olive oil and packages of orzo and other pastas; and, a refrigerated case with Greek yogurts, caviar and cheeses lure customers. A limited selection of wines and non-alcoholic beverages — I found Kouros, a favorite Greek white wine — are available.

• Whenever Harini Prabhun needs lentils, or an



Customers rave about the made-in-house pork rinds from Dos Hermanos, a Mexican market in Westland.

LOCAL ETHNIC MARKETS

- **Hellenic Bakery & Grocery**, 33306 W. Seven Mile, Livonia, (248) 476-2080; Greek
- **Cantoro Italian Market**, 19710 Middlebelt, Livonia, (248) 478-2345, www.cantoromarket.com
- **DiMaggio's Italian Bakery**, 25861 W. Six Mile, Redford, (313) 538-9665
- **Simply Polish**, 6201 Middlebelt, Garden City, (734) 525-2800, www.simplypolishusa.com
- **Da Zhong Food Market**, 28860 Seven Mile, Livonia, (248) 426-9798; Chinese
- **Dos Hermanos**, 34707 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 326-0523; Mexican
- **Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery**, 25566 Five Mile, Redford, (313) 532-1181, www.ackroydsbakery.com
- **One World Market**, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 374-0844, www.oneworldmarket.us; Japanese
- **Polanka**, 28905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 466-9725; Polish
- **New International Market**, 15383 Inkster Road, Livonia, (734) 522-2220; European and Mid-eastern
- **Colleen's Gaelic Gifts**, 15373 Farmington Road, Livonia, (734) 513-2107, www.colleensirishgiftshop.com
- **Beirut Bakery**, 25706 Schoolcraft, Redford, (313) 533-4422, www.beirutbakery.net; Mid-eastern
- **Uri Market**, 31557 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 488-0477; Korean
- **Loaf & A Pound**, 34815 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 728-5623, www.loafpound.com; Italian
- **August Chinese Market**, 42488 Cherry Hill, Canton, (248) 844-8688, www.chinesemarketusa.com
- **Maria's Italian Bakery**, 41706 W. 10 Mile, Novi, (248) 348-0545, www.mariasitalianbakery.com
- **Vani Food**, 38245 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 919-0062, www.vanifood.com; Indian
- **Namaste Plaza**, 34703 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, (284) 476-7500; Indian
- **Koyama Shoten**, 37176 Six Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-1480, www.koyama-shoten.com; Japanese
- **Bombay Grocers**, 45510 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 459-2016; Indian
- **Jeramm Westside Oriental Store**, 29454 Ford Road, Garden City, (734) 421-0019
- **Dedo's Marketplace**, 33021 Grand River Ave., Farmington, (248) 476-0300; Arabic, Eastern European and Indian

Indian spice, like masala powder, or an Indian vegetable, she heads to Vani Food in Farmington Hills or Namaste Plaza in Farmington. "I use the powder to cook Indian gravies," said Prabhu of Farmington Hills, who is a regular customer at both markets. The stores carry an assortment of groceries, fresh vegetables (coccinia grandis, an ivy gourd, can be found only at Namaste), and Indian CDs and DVDs.

• Sausage rolls, meat pies, candy bars and a selection of pastries from Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery elicit happy childhood memories for Derek Marshall of Livonia. "If we behaved ourselves, these (edibles) would show up," said Marshall, chuckling. Shortbread (buttery shortbread cookies filled with strawberry jam and topped with white icing and a cherry piece) are some favorites. During the holiday season, said Allan Ackroyd, co-owner, "steak pies for Christmas dinner are popular." This Redford market also carries a variety of imported items from the Unit-



One World Market, a Japanese grocer in Novi, carries fresh produce.

ed Kingdom including gift boxes of assorted Cadbury candy bars; Christmas Crackers (colorful wrapped cardboard tubes typically filled with small gifts and candies); and traditional Christmas puddings.

• A medley of pleasant scents — fresh-from-the-oven Italian bread and pepperoni rolls, among them — filtered throughout DiMaggio's Italian Bakery and Catering in Redford on a recent Saturday. Debbie Dahlman of Plymouth picked up a "to go" order of pasta salad, dinner rolls, and broast-

ed chicken. "THE best chicken!" Dahlman said. At a table just inside the bakery's door, customers nibbled on Italian subs and sipped bottles of red birch beer, a hard-to-find, cane-sugar-sweetened soda. Desserts, perfect for holiday gift-giving, include cannolis (sprinkled with mini-chocolate chips or dotted with peanuts), chocolate-raspberry cakes, and a selection of cookies. Made-to-order beef, pork or lamb meatballs, or a combination of any of the three, are favorite customer requests. "Whatever people need, that's what we do," said Steve DiMaggio, who is co-owner with his wife, Tina Zdravkovski.

• When Kathy and Franklin Luxon decided they wanted "something different and unique" to add to their bridal registry, they knew just where to find it. Simply Polish in Garden City. "It's the only place (in the area) where you can get authentic Polish pottery," said Kathy Luxon. The stoneware, adorned in patterns of blue, green and earth tones, has roots dating back to the early 19th

century. The couple from Livonia received a hodgepodge of place settings, casserole dishes, salt and pepper shakers and a "whole cabinet of odds and ends." Holiday gift seekers will enjoy shopping for the pottery, amber jewelry, glass ornaments, apparel, tea pots and other Polish-inspired wares.

• Dos Hermanos, a Mexican market in Westland, carries "many things that many places don't sell, like piñatas and homemade pork rinds and tamales," said Reyes Arreola, owner. An assortment of jerseys, T-shirts and other apparel provide possibilities for under-the-Christmas-tree gifts. Piñatas — three sizes of the decorated papier-mâché containers dangle from the store's ceiling — entertain kids as well as adults on happy occasions. Like guacamole? Choose a mild or hot made-in-house variety. Other deli items include mild to very hot salsa, chicken feet (good for soup-making), beef tongue, goat, and, made-in-house chorizo. Shelves are packed with dry spices, Hispanic taco seasonings, and sweets. An eatery, which is attached to the market, serves authentic Mexican fare.

• Not to worry if Japanese is an unfamiliar language. Signs and many labels at One World Market, Michigan's largest Japanese market located in Novi, are bi-lingual. Two cases hold a medley of must-be-cooked-before-eating halibut, snapper, mackerel, butter fish and other fresh fish; and, a variety of safe-to-eat-raw fish like blue fin tuna, whelk and conch. Green tea and red beans-flavored Mochi Ice Cream Bonbons, plum wine, fresh fruits and veggies, cooking supplies, and, an in-house sushi bar are among the highlights.

• Polanka Market in Livonia features a slew of holiday heat-and-serve meals like stuffed cabbage, city chicken and potato pancakes. Soup choices include dill, dill pickle, and chicken noodle. An assortment of deli meats, baked goods and shelves packed with a variety of Polish cookies, candies and canned goods can also be purchased.

• All things Irish — and then some — decorate the shelves at Colleen's Gaelic Gifts in Livonia. "I carry Waterford crystal, Belleek Parian China, and, a large selection of jewelry, especially Gaelic wedding bands," said Colleen Haggerty, owner. Edibles — a plate of Irish cookies sits on the counter for customers to sample — and, a selection of teas, music CDs, and, "everything in between" make shopping for everyone's "wish list" an easy task. Most merchandise is made in Ireland. Michigan and USA products also are featured.

As temps fall, be aware of safety in home heating

'Tis the season for rosy cheeks, button-down coats, and cranking up the heat. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), it's also the time of year when home fires peak, many of which are caused by heating equipment.

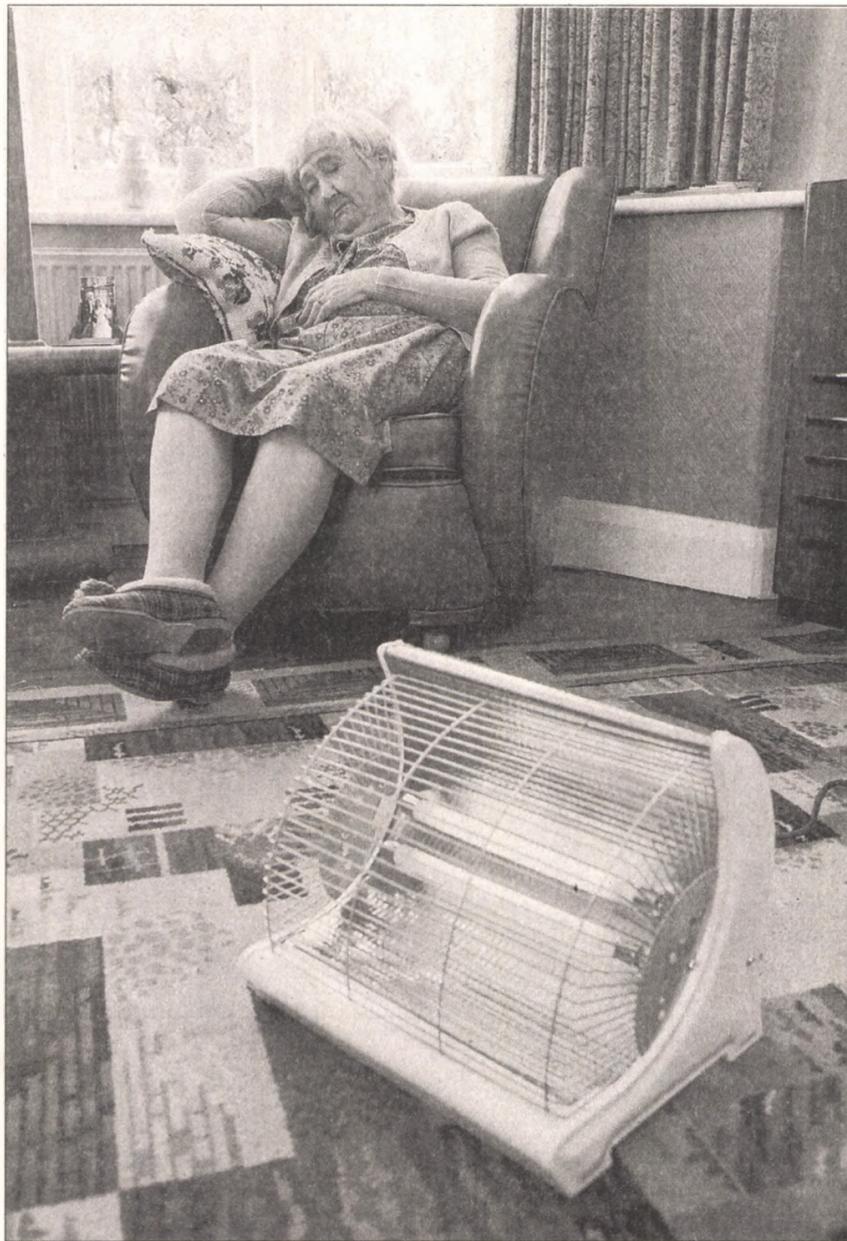
"Half of all home heating fires occur during December, January, and February, when we are fully utilizing our heating systems," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications for NFPA. "The public can reduce their risk of getting left out in the cold by following NFPA's safe heating behaviors."

In NFPA's report "Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment," in 2009, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 58,900 reported home structure fires, 480 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage. Stationary and portable space heaters accounted for one-third (32 percent) of reported home heating fires, but nearly 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths, two-thirds (66 percent) of associated civilian injuries, and half (52 percent) of associated direct property damage.

Overall, fires, injuries and damages from fires involving heating equipment were all lower than in 2008 and fit into a largely level trend over the past few years. The number of deaths from heating equipment was virtually unchanged.

As temperatures begin to drop, here are some safe heating behaviors to follow:

- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before put-



ting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Test smoke alarms monthly.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mis-

sion of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

Lincoln strong college town

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: My son is thinking about going to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I am wondering if you happen to have any information about the opportunities for rental and/or purchase in that city?

A: I find that the Lincoln real estate market is similar to that of Ann Arbor. There are lots of apartments and condominiums available for purchase and/or rental, and the economy is relatively strong. Indeed, I have found, in my experience, that the people there are extremely friendly and helpful to persons visiting the city as



Robert Meisner

they appreciate the basis for an energized economy. You should consult with at least two or three Realtors to find who is best able to fill your needs.

Q: Has the property in San Francisco, in terms of residential housing, taken a dip at all because of the recession, and how does it stand now?

A: It has basically stayed stable. It has not decreased as much as most of the rest of the country; however, the constant appreciation that you would continue to see in, for example, Marin County, has not directly benefited San Francisco proper itself, but it is still extremely expensive to buy or rent real estate in the city. There are opportunities if you find the right location, but obviously zoning limitations preclude new construction in various designated historic areas and as always you are best to consult with an experienced real estate professional in the locale in which you are interested.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 27-31, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	1956 Liberty St N	\$325,000	14117 Mayfield St	\$125,000	40564 Newport Dr	\$70,000
43524 Bannockburn Dr	42173 Saratoga Cir	\$137,000	19451 Merriman Rd	\$100,000	11759 Parkview Dr	\$128,000
354 Charterhouse Ct	4052 Sherwood Cir	\$202,000	18377 Norwich Rd	\$120,000	13036 Portsmouth Xing	\$470,000
41300 Cherry Hill Rd	45549 Southwick Dr	\$354,000	11201 Oxbow St	\$64,000	14993 Robinwood Dr	\$168,000
45164 Danbury Rd	2473 Westgate Ct	\$212,000	19909 Rensellor St	\$63,000	101 S Union St	\$165,000
39834 Deepwood St	2349 Woodgreen Ct	\$230,000	32922 Southgate St	\$205,000	101 S Union St	\$166,000
6636 Edgewood Rd	2411 Woodgreen Ct	\$221,000	14459 Summerside St	\$123,000	49966 Standish Ct	\$467,000
6636 Edgewood Rd	GARDEN CITY		NORTHVILLE		50591 Top Of Hill Ct	\$500,000
45486 Fieldstone Dr	7070 Burnly St	\$81,000	42149 Crestview Cir	\$306,000	9393 Village Manor Dr	\$305,000
46550 Geddes Rd	28523 Donnelly St	\$14,000	16229 Crystal Downs E	\$530,000	REDFORD	
7261 Heron Way	32930 Kathryn St	\$29,000	16761 Franklin Rd	\$45,000	12828 Beech Daly Rd	\$28,000
8304 Holly Dr	LIVONIA		18790 Grande Vista Dr	\$110,000	18292 Gaylord	\$32,000
6908 Kings Mill Dr	15352 Brookfield St	\$100,000	46444 Greenridge Dr	\$400,000	9624 Hemingway	\$92,000
43156 Lancelot Dr	17148 Brookview Dr	\$115,000	16046 Morningside	\$120,000	25711 Lyndon	\$80,000
	30261 Buckingham St	\$134,000	17022 Niagara Ct	\$483,000	17451 Macarthur	\$62,000
	9258 California St	\$83,000	17553 Parkshore Dr	\$790,000	18401 Negaunee	\$67,000
	28554 Cleveland St	\$58,000	16136 Thorndyke Ct	\$315,000	13995 Seminole	\$28,000
	9130 Colorado St	\$130,000	PLYMOUTH		23643 W Chicago	\$15,000
	14449 Fairway St	\$215,000	1664 Cassady Place Dr	\$170,000	WESTLAND	
	11736 Farmington Rd	\$76,000	9862 Dorian Dr	\$283,000	2103 Elbridge Ct	\$4,000
	19001 Gillman St	\$55,000	44853 Erin Dr	\$95,000	6605 N Wildwood St	\$80,000
	18351 Heatherlea Dr	\$301,000	11665 Lorenz Way	\$392,000	1266 Selma St	\$94,000
	35940 Jamison St	\$120,000	40526 Newport Dr	\$58,000	1536 Woodbourne St	\$79,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

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

BEVERLY HILLS	658 Sedgefield Dr	\$224,000	26384 Crestwood Dr	\$473,000
32850 Bell Vine Trl	1440 Stuyvesant Rd	\$643,000	51152 E Bourne Ter	\$45,000
16233 Birchwood Ave	856 Thorntree Ct	\$321,000	24912 Hadlock Dr	\$656,000
18860 Devonshire St	3680 W Bradford Dr	\$279,000	24368 Hampton Hill St	\$129,000
16993 Kinross Ave	138 W Hickory Grove Rd	\$485,000	25613 Hilldale Dr	\$530,000
32300 Lahser Rd	COMMERCETOWNSHIP		25786 Island Lake Dr	\$440,000
31794 Mayfair Ln	2871 Augusta Dr	\$246,000	40598 Lenox Park Dr	\$257,000
15955 Reedmere Ave	2969 Gabriel Dr	\$119,000	40608 Lenox Park Dr	\$261,000
20100 Village Dr	FARMINGTON		40622 Lenox Park Dr	\$259,000
BINGHAM FARMS	22611 Brookdale St	\$125,000	24407 Saybrook Ct	\$486,000
23920 Greenglen Ct	22799 Hawthorne St	\$68,000	45342 Sedra Ct	\$40,000
BIRMINGHAM	FARMINGTON HILLS		40437 Village Wood Rd	\$212,000
1358 Bowers St	35072 Bunker Hill Dr	\$190,000	2012 West Lake Dr	\$158,000
1662 E Maple Rd	29700 Drake Rd	\$140,000	28279 Wolcott Dr	\$84,000
1626 Hazel St	23116 Glenmoor Hts	\$117,000	SOUTH LYON	
1340 Latham St	34227 Gloucester Cir	\$295,000	23791 Copperwood Dr W	\$68,000
1113 N Old Woodward Ave Unit	33117 Hopecrest Ct	\$150,000	20919 Greenbriar Cir	\$210,000
356 Pilgrim Ave	30146 Kimberly Ct	\$225,000	435 Lyon Ct	\$81,000
1497 Pilgrim Ave	24153 Noble Dr	\$152,000	24739 Martindale Rd	\$35,000
671 S Bates St	32308 Red Clover Rd	\$175,000	24317 Padstone Dr	\$75,000
1269 Willow Ln	21521 Riverwalk Ct	\$234,000	24445 Peters Barn Ct	\$325,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	21684 Rockwell St	\$139,000	23497 Prescott Ln W	\$406,000
2558 Aspen Ln	30336 Shiawassee Rd	\$121,000	24848 Purlin Ct	\$71,000
2975 Aspen Ln	23217 Springbrook Dr	\$93,000	1143 Shetland Dr	\$305,000
4403 Barchester Dr	36451 Valley Ridge Dr	\$118,000	53903 Springwood Dr	\$25,000
211 Barrington Rd	25390 Wykeshire Rd	\$189,000	SOUTHFIELD	
1439 Kirkway Rd	Lathrup Village		28209 E Kalong Cir	\$110,000
285 Barden Rd	17545 Roseland Blvd	\$98,000	21754 Frazer Ave	\$32,000
87 Boulder Ln	MILFORD		30161 Marshall St	\$55,000
142 E Hickory Grove Rd	840 Annie Lang Dr	\$385,000	23012 Plumbrooke Dr	\$72,000
4402 Ramsgate Ln	215 Franklin St	\$222,000	28540 Selkirk St	\$29,000
1735 Tiverton Rd Unit 10	1433 Hunters Lake Dr	\$413,000	21700 W 11 Mile Rd	\$2,050,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	800 Milford Glen Cir	\$288,000	21270 W Eight Mile Rd	\$124,000
1346 Ardmoor Dr	192 Turnberry Ct	\$244,000	WHITE LAKE	
2835 Chestnut Run Dr	1302 Yellowstone Valley Dr	\$25,000	490 Burgess Dr	\$379,000
1908 Eagle Pointe	NOVI		8706 Cooley Beach Dr	\$155,000
	50719 Amesburg Dr	\$530,000	2008 Drury Ln	\$115,000
	24576 Bashian Dr	\$45,000	814 Farnsworth Rd	\$370,000
	50685 Calvert Isle Dr	\$505,000	9463 Marina Dr	\$43,000
	50721 Calvert Isle Dr	\$635,000	1490 Midwood Dr	\$160,000
	24468 Cavendish Ave E	\$425,000	10225 Pontiac Lake Rd	\$110,000
	50875 Chesapeake Dr	\$625,000		
	23418 Cranbrooke Dr	\$124,000		

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ACROSS
1 Corduroy ridge
4 Limestone formation
8 Fired
12 Wall climber
13 Valhalla ruler
14 The —, the merrier
15 Overly glib
16 Like a chipmunk (nyph.)
18 Nasty laugh
20 Russian range
21 Halloween decor
23 Really big tees
24 Is or was
27 Beluga delicacy
29 Like some candy
33 Conquistador's quest
34 Quaint lodging
35 Molecular biology topic
36 Secure a contract

DOWN
1 Slashes
2 Terrible czar
3 Eight binary digits
4 Hooded snake
5 Citrus drink
6 Airline ticket word
7 Terminate

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

Word Search — Evergreen

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

Sudoku

Word Search

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

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• Flashings • Valleys • Hail
• Wind Damage • Ins Claims
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• Plow Truck Drivers
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MAINTENANCE
Full-time maintenance person needed for retirement community in Westland. Requires general knowledge of preventative and regular repairs, including plumbing, electrical and HVAC. Fax resume to: 734-729-9840, EOE

Help Wanted - General
DRIVERS
Local Transportation co. looking for professional drivers to drive sedans and vans. All shifts available. A valid MI Chauffeur license or CDL. Exc. driving record. Must be able to pass a criminal background check and drug screen. Must have exc. customer service skills and a professional attitude. Apply in person anytime.
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13420 Wayne Rd., Livonia MI 48150

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GRAPHIC ARTIST/ SCREEN PRINTER
Fluent in Adobe Illustrator. Canton: 734-416-9941

Retail: Better Health-Novi
Grocery Stock/Receiver Prepared Foods & Meat Counter. Email: Jobs@thebetterhealthstore.com

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Help Wanted - General
LEGAL SECRETARY/ LEGAL ASST.
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PLOW TRUCK DRIVER NEEDED
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Candidate sought for the position of Warehouse Manager for a nationwide office furniture installation company. Responsibilities include: managing daily warehouse activities, shipping, receiving, tracking equipment, fleet management & maintaining client inventory. Communication skills, a valid driver's license, computer skills and positive attitude a plus.
Apply in person Mon-Fri. 8am-5pm: 29988 Anthony Dr., Wixom, MI 48393 or send resume to hr.mi.resume@gmail.com

Help Wanted - Office Clerical
CLERICAL, FULL-TIME
General Office & typing. Mon-Fri. 8-5. Starts at 7:40/hr. Apply at: 987 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. For directions: 734-728-4572

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Ambitious, organized, mature assistant for non-profit. 28 hours/week. Fax resume to: 248-374-0403, or email: nviliefoundation@aol.com

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted - Medical
MEDICAL ASSISTANT
at Holistic Family Practice. Must have exp. interest in holistic/alternative medicine is a must. Resume to: holisticsma@gmail.com

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
For busy internal medicine office in Westland. Exp is preferred. FT, Mon-Fri. Computer skills required. Send resume and references: PCS PO Box 851494, Westland MI 48185.
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For growing dermatology practice for clinical & clerical position. Excellent pay & benefits. Full Time. Flexible hours. Pay commensurate with exp. Email or Fax Resume to: a2derm@aol.com (734) 996-8767

Help Wanted - Domestic
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Novi. 8-10 hrs/wk. \$12/hr. Email: cwq@quinnlawgroup.com

Position Wanted
HOME CLEANING OFFERED
Female student. Thorough, honest, and reliable. \$70 for most sized homes. References available. Weekly or bi-weekly. Please leave a detailed message with your name & number (248)943-4788 or contact me by email: erf105@wayne.edu

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Help Wanted - General Help Wanted - General Help Wanted - General Help Wanted - General

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Another Bernard Davis Estate Sale 313-837-1993 North Rosestate Park 16615 Warwick, Detroit, 48219 Dec. 6-8, 8:45-4, Dec. 9, 12-4 Info go to estatesale.net SEE YOU THERE!

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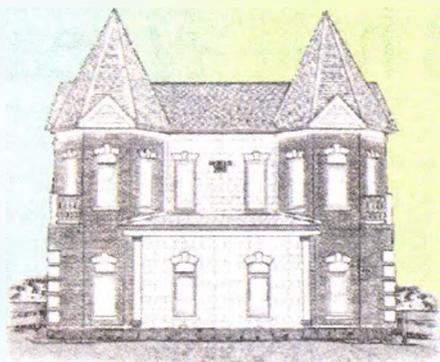
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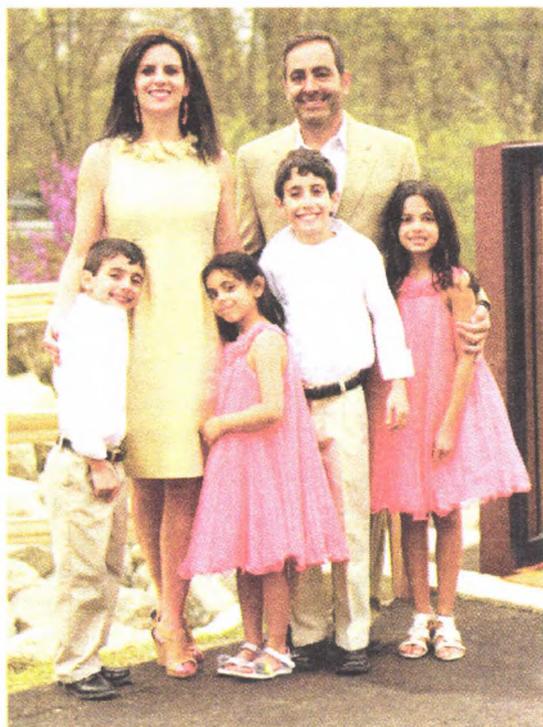
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Celebrate, give back this holiday season

Celebrate the 2012 holiday season in style. It's time to dress up and enjoy the spirit of the season.

Today's *Hometown Life Woman* focuses on what to wear and how to accessorize — jewelry and holiday nails, too.

Holidays are a busy time and often stressful. Columnist Barbara Deyo, who usually offers tips on looking good, takes a different tack and reminds us all



Susan Rosiek

to take time out to concentrate on ourselves. It's good advice for all. There's only a few weeks left of 2012, but still a lot of holiday to celebrate. I encourage you to celebrate the season by patronizing local merchants. The holiday season often spells success or failure for local businesses. We need healthy, successful Main Street merchants.

And as you celebrate with family and friends, don't forget to give back in some way. Food banks, community foundations and social service agencies depend on our generosity. So when you're gift giving this season, don't for-

get those less fortunate.

May this holiday season find you grateful for your many blessings and ready to share with others.

Come back to *Hometown Life Woman* in early January to read about diet, exercise and health tips to make 2013 a year of self-improvement.

As always, I welcome your comments and story suggestions for upcoming issues of *Woman*.

Susan Rosiek
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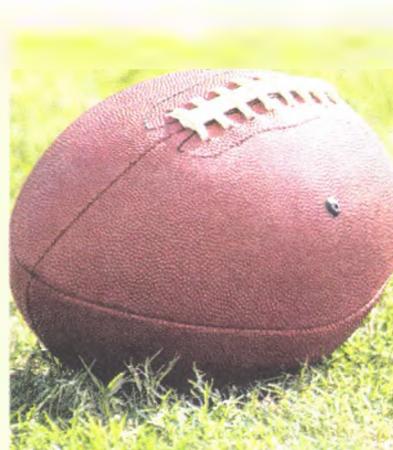
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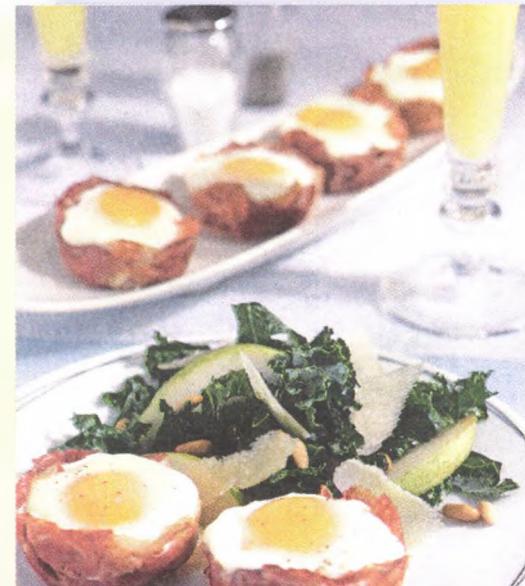
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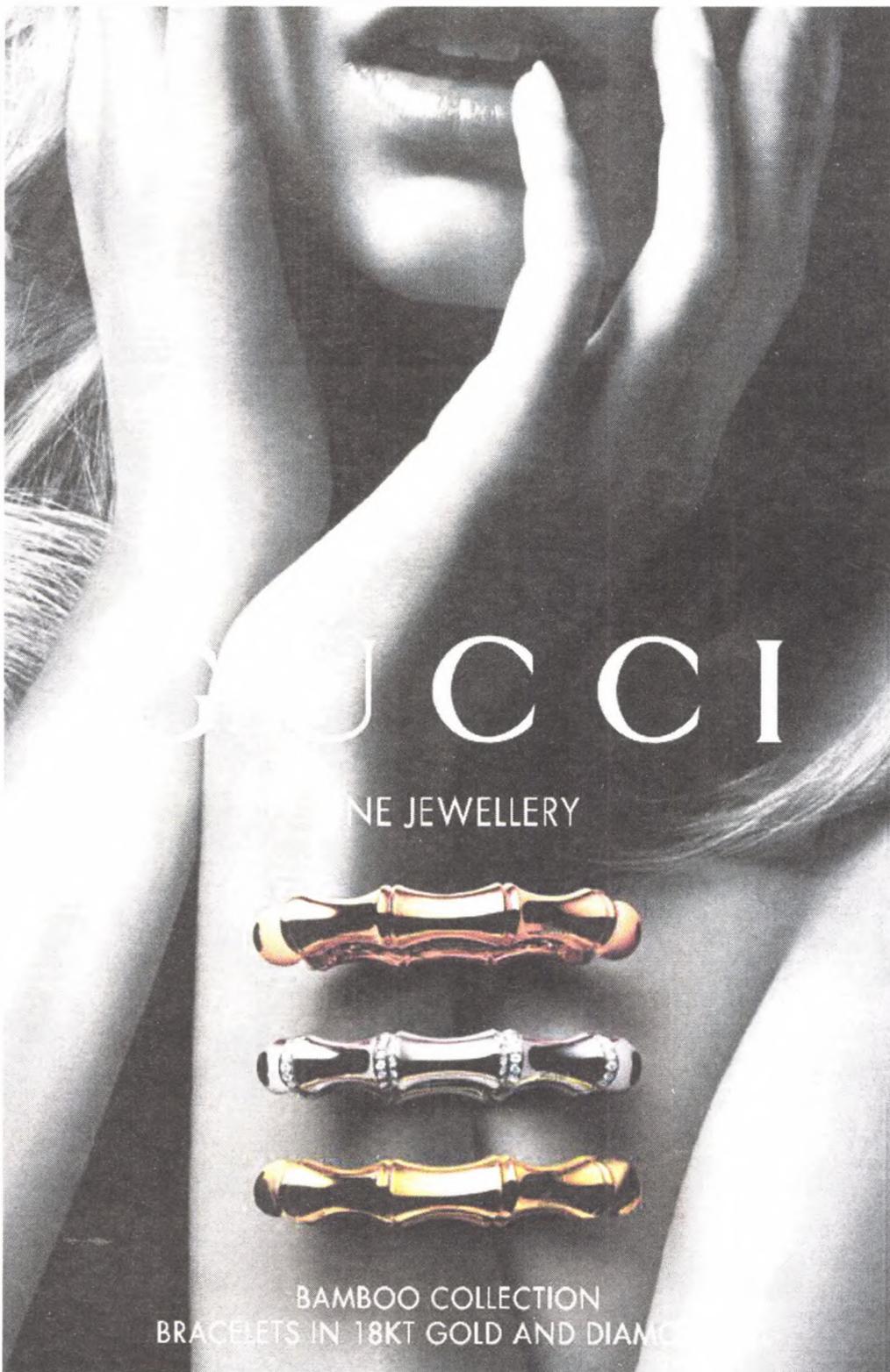


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How 5 minutes can change your life

By **Barbara Deyo**
Guest Columnist

I think most of us know that when we look better we feel better, but how about feeling better makes you look better?

When we feel better mentally and physically, it shows — not only on our faces, but the way we carry ourselves, our posture and overall “aura.” I can’t stress enough the importance of taking the time to take care of you.

You don’t have to be expecting to glow.

Recently, my boyfriend and I took a couples yoga class from my favorite teacher, Raina, at Center for Yoga in Birmingham. Some wise words she shared with us really resonated with me. She suggested simply setting aside five minutes a day to slow down and just be with your partner. Look at each other. Hold hands. Share something together. Talk. Listen. Just be.

Here are some extremely simple things we can do to improve our overall health and well-being and look better in the process.

Breathe

Yes, just breathe. Deep breathing does more than calm you down. In fact, I could probably write an entire column about the benefits of deep breathing. It strengthens your immune system. It helps you sleep better. It improves your concentration. It eases pain. It releases toxins. It helps with weight management. It improves your posture. It makes your heart stronger. It strengthens your lungs. It reduces anxiety. It brings clarity to your brain.

So, every day, at minimum, set aside just five minutes and breathe — deep breaths — three seconds in and three seconds out through your nose.

Bathe

Soaking in a hot bathtub — even just for five minutes, if that’s all you have

— will relax you, softens the skin, and increase blood flow, giving your skin an all-over youthful glow. Bathing loosens and relaxes the muscles, soothing aches and pains. By adding Epsom salt and baking soda, you can create your own detoxifying hydrotherapy.

Stretch

My grandmother always told me to make sure I do my calisthenics every day — which she got up and did every single morning until she was 90. It is imperative as we get older to make sure we move our bodies. And this is where the coined phrase, “Use it or lose it” comes into play. When mobility is limited in certain areas of the body, it causes the body to be “unbalanced” and more susceptible to injuries. Recent studies have found that stretching can improve artery function and lower blood pressure.

Smile

Never underestimate the power of a smile. Not only does it make you more attractive and youthful — as the muscles we use to smile lift our face — I just read a study that showed that simply smiling reduces stress and lowers blood pressure! If you are feeling down, try putting on a smile, it can actually trick your mind into changing its mood to a happy one. Smiling releases endorphins, natural pain killers, and serotonin — making you feel better.

Drink

Water, that is. I think the general population walks around dehydrated. I know I do. Water — H₂O — is something we cannot live without. It is actually a component of our blood. Your body needs hydration to function properly. It’s really that simple. Drink more water and see how much better you look and feel. It also reduces bloating and puffiness.

Stand tall

Slouching: Not only does it look unattractive — it also causes aches, pains, poor mobility, stiffness and — guess what else? Tight breathing. Good posture

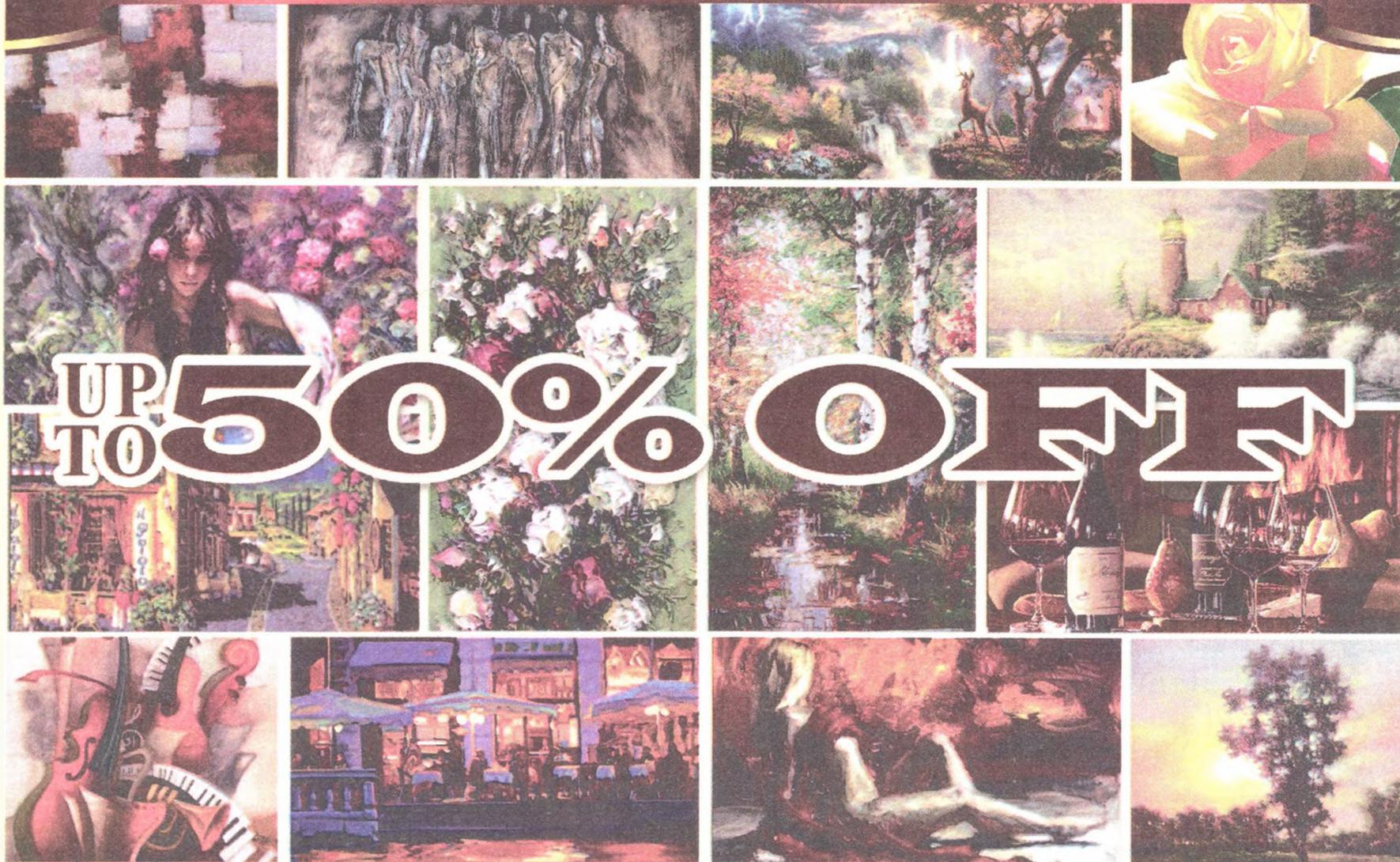


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What women want for Christmas



By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

They say that diamonds are a girl's best friend but are diamonds really all they want for Christmas?

The answer may surprise you.

"I don't have to have a \$10,000 bracelet," said Sue Tomei of Plymouth. "I really don't care how much a gift costs. It's just nice to have something special from my husband to let me know that he thought about me.

"It doesn't have to be expensive or extravagant — just as long as it's not boring and sensible," she added.

Redford resident Julie Cassar said, "Gifts that are slightly frivolous, super fun and ultra-personal are always the most special to me. It doesn't have to cost

a lot, or be something big. It's the personal touch that makes it so fabulous."

Deb Bronson-McGrath, owner of South Lyon's Winterpast boutique, agrees.

Something that "touches the heart of a woman" has much more meaning to a woman than something that is just expensive, she said, adding that the real value of a gift lies not in the price tag, but in the amount of consideration that goes into giving the gift itself.

"I think if you are giving a gift to a woman, the thoughtfulness that goes behind a gift is just as important as the gift itself," said Bronson-McGrath.

"For instance if someone loves owls — and someone remembers that and picks up something with owls on it for her — perhaps a small pair of earrings or some

stationery — then it is evident that they have her in mind and they are really thinking about her," she said.

Since most women are natural "nurturers," almost everything they do is about people other than themselves.

"Even when we go grocery shopping, we pick up food off the shelf that we think other people in our family would like: the favorite box of cookies or special cereal that we know our son who is coming home from college will enjoy," she said.

"When people take the time to think about what it is that we like, they are nurturing us in return and the gift is made more special as a result," she said.

Cassar said she, too, appreciates gifts that reflect her interests or hobbies.

"I love when someone remembers something I've mentioned or talked about when they think of getting a gift for me. For example, I am a True Blood fanatic (the HBO series based on The Southern Vampire Mysteries series of novels by Charlaine Harris) and one year, my friend got me a True Blood T-shirt. It was so awesome. It was something I never would have thought to get for myself, but I absolutely loved it and was so surprised! It wasn't the typical candles, or body lotion or whatever," she said.

If you are still looking for some gift suggestions for a special woman in your life, there are a few things that she may enjoy.

"I love my Kindle Fire," Tomei said, "It's lightweight and fits in my purse and I can search the Internet or read books on it."

She also recommends giving that special someone a little "bling."

"'Bling' is always in and it doesn't have to be expensive but something fun always works," Tomei said.

"Wearing something that your special someone picked out for you becomes even more special because you know that they liked it, too," she said.

Bronson-McGrath said that her store, Winterpast, stocks several items that she believes would make nice presents for women without breaking the bank.

"We have some unique jewelry items that are really reasonably priced. You don't have to spend \$90. You can spend much less and still get something you really like," Bronson-McGrath said.

"For instance, we have several pieces of jewelry by an artist in Denmark. Even though he has become quite popular, he still makes everything by hand, so you are really getting some one-of-a-kind pieces," she said.

Some of the pieces include a ring with tiny tiles and embedded crystals — "it has a 1920s kind of feel" — as well as hats from LA Garment District.

"One of the hats that I think is just beautiful is a velvet cloche in soft pink or heathered grey. It has subdued crystals set inside flowers on the right side of the hat for a little bit of sparkle," she said.

Gift certificates for services such as spa treatments or hair and manicures are also more than welcome, Tomei said. "It's nice to get a gift for something that you might not necessarily buy for yourself," she said.

For a really unique gift, handmade items also send a strong message of love.

"I absolutely love a handmade gift. It not only reflects a certain personal flair, it also reflects something even more valuable — time. A true reflection of love and kindness," Cassar said.

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What do your hands say about you, your age?

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

If the eyes are a window to a woman's soul, then it probably follows that the hands tell the rest of the story.

The question remains, then, what story do your hands tell about you: Are they soft and smooth, reflecting an easy life of luxury?

On the other hand, are they chapped and rough — the result of heavy chores?

More importantly, do you like what your hands say about you?

If you followed your mother's advice to always wear plastic gloves when doing housework or even the advice of your dermatologist to be sure and cover your hands with sunscreen when you go outdoors, chances are your hands look great.

However if you are like most of us, it is almost a certainty that are your hands are a show-and-tell that is almost impossible to hide.

Hands, said Julie Sosnick co-owner of Progressive Laser in Birmingham, are one of the first places that show visible signs of aging.

"You can tell a good deal about someone by their hands: what kind of life they lead, how well they take care of themselves. The hands are a real giveaway," Sosnick said.

"Our hands are on display all of the time: they reveal our true age no matter what steps we take toward a more youthful appearance," she added.

The reasons that the hands show such visible signs of aging include sun exposure, exposure to chemicals and the actual aging process itself, she said.

Decreased levels of estrogen contribute further to thinning and drying of the skin as well.

"The appearance of our hands is really contingent on our lifestyle and our habits," Sosnick said.

Hands age, too

As we age, changes taking place in our skin cells also play a large role in the appearance of our hands, said Dr. Michael Freedland, a board-certified plastic surgeon in Bloomfield Hills.

The effects include brown spots, uneven pigmentation, skin cancers, thinning skin and prominent veins.

In addition, "When we get older, the skin starts to thin out. It loses tone and takes on a paper-thin appearance," he said.

As the fatty tissue disappears, it can result in the type of bony hands only seen on the evil queens of the Disney animation genre, Freedland said.

If a quick glance at your hands reveals that you fall into this category and are increasingly bothered by the appearance of your hands, you are not alone.

In fact, if you have managed to conceal signs of aging on your face through vigilant care or successful cosmetic procedures, your hands may be undoing all of your hard work by revealing more than you like.

According to Robert Bernard, M.D., president of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, "When the hands look years older than the face, that's a tell-tale sign that someone has had facial rejuvenation surgery."

"You can get a great facelift that takes years off, makes you look much more youthful. When you are at a party and you go to grab a drink, though, your hands can tell the truth about your real age," Freedland said.

That is all changing, however.

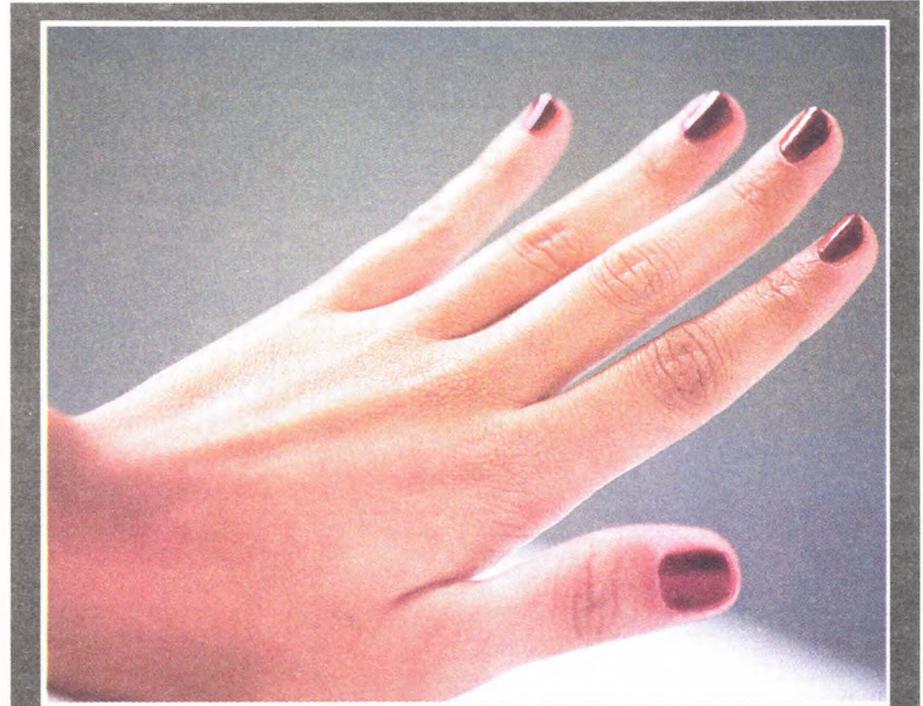
Local cosmetic surgery professionals say that they have seen a rise in the number of patients seeking to rejuvenate their hands through cosmetic procedures and restore them to their youthful appearance with a good deal of success.

"People are starting to realize that indeed, it does matter what their hands look like. And they are starting to do something about it," Sosnick said.

New techniques

Fortunately, new techniques in cosmetic surgery have expanded to include treatments for everything from age spots and redness to erasing large veins and "plumping" and softening hands for a more youthful appearance.

Please see **HANDS**, 11



Nails complete holiday look

If you are planning to make a fabulous splash during the season's round of holiday festivities, be sure to pay attention to the biggest statement-making accessories you have: your nails.

Making sure your nails look their best is a big boost to any holiday ensemble — and one of the least expensive.

In fact, think of your nails as a fashion-finishing touch, advises Pam Ettinger of South Lyon.

"I really try to keep my nails looking nice — especially during the holidays," Ettinger said. "It is important to me that my nails look good. They are a reflection of me."

This year's holiday nails are more sophisticated: think sleek metallics and deep, bold jewel tones, said Kerri Pollard, co-owner of Agio Spa Di Reposo in Plymouth.

"It's a great way to add a little color, almost like another accessory, to your holiday outfit," Pollard said.

Not only will a manicure address your nails, it is also great a way to get your hands in shape for the busy season.

A proper manicure will address important issues such as cuticle care and dry skin, Pollard said.

"A great manicure will also include a paraffin treatment to drive moisture into your hands and seal it in," she said. "You want to treat your hands the way you treat the rest of your body and make sure that you do not neglect them."

"Make sure your hands are as ready as the rest of you to meet and greet throughout the whole season," she said.

— By Jill Halpin

Holiday fashion: Own your look this season



Add this Michael Kors sequined blazer to a sleek pair of pants for an easy way to take your holiday sparkle from day to evening. Available at area Parisian stores in Livonia and Rochester Hills.



For some sparkle sure to make your outfit stand tall at holiday gatherings, try this crystallized stiletto with a strass-embellished sole by Lanvin. Available in pewter metallic at Tender in Birmingham.



This Anne Klein sequined dress in gold combines just the right amount of glitz and glamor to make it a perfect fit for holiday parties. It is available at area Parisian stores in Livonia and Rochester Hills.



'Tis the season for fur. Add a fur collar or fur vest like this one in bright red to make a merry and festive holiday ensemble. Available exclusively at Tender in Birmingham.



This oval bracelet with rhinestones and rhodium plating is perfect for adding a bit of bling to any holiday wear. It is available at Bling Boutique in Milford.



This statement-making necklace, a mixture of beads and a rhinestone flower, is sold as a set with matching earrings at Bling Boutique in Milford.



By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Fashionistas, take note. —
The season that you have been waiting for all year long is finally here and it is time to glam it up big for the holidays.
From office cocktail parties to special gatherings with friends and family, this month is all about merrymaking — and looking great.
It is not always easy however, especially when tight schedules have us running from one place to another with barely enough time to catch our breath let alone change from jeans and a ponytail into holiday attire.
Even though time is short, you can still manage to look great by incorporating some no-fail fashion must-haves into your wardrobe this party season.
Of course, the holidays are always about sparkle and this year it is no different.



It is time for holiday sparkle. From office parties to special gatherings with friends and family, this month is all about merrymaking — and looking great.

Sequined jackets, dresses and skirts have already started to make their appearance in stores for women in all shapes, sizes and ages.
"Sparkle at any age is great! I think if you keep it classic, it is for you. For instance, to a classic pencil skirt and jacket or pantsuit, add a sequined tank," for a timeless and ageless look, said Susan Head, fashion manager of the Bon-Ton Stores, the parent company of area Parisian stores.
"Adding a black sequined jacket to a pair of jeans or casual pants can allow you to take an outfit from day to night," said Amanda Britcher, co-owner of Gigi's Mode in downtown Plymouth.
"Women of all ages can pull off a little sparkle. That is what is so great about it," she said.
"You can add youth by adding sparkle — you can wear less makeup and still attract a lot of attention," Britcher said.

Accessories

"Sparkle could also be an accessory. Again, take

a classic silhouette and add a great handbag with sparkle or a fabulous heel. I would do one or two things that sparkle and not overdo it," Head added.
Janet Egan of Bling Boutique in Milford also recommends pairing a statement-making piece of jewelry to any outfit to enhance your look.
"A great piece — maybe it's a necklace, ring, bracelet or pair of earrings — really 'blings' up an outfit," Egan said.
"When you have a great statement piece you don't really even need to wear other accessories," she said.
The wonderful thing about bold, sparkly jewelry is that "it gives you an opportunity to use what you already have in your closet and make it look fresh and new for the holidays. You can take something basic, like a simple black top or dress, and turn it into something stunning for an evening out. It's amazing what you can do with the right piece," she added.

Egan cautioned against overdoing it with the "bling," however.
"You really don't need a whole lot to look great. You definitely don't want to do all four (ring, bracelet, necklace, earrings) pieces in big and bold sparkles all at once," she said.
A beautiful cuff bracelet paired with small earrings or an opulent necklace with a small diamond stud pair of earrings is enough to bring some glamour even to a pair of jeans.
"It's just astounding how adding a bold bit of jewelry can impact your appearance," she said.
Accessorizing certainly can change a look dramatically, Head agreed.
"Taking a simple look and adding a great necklace, a pair of heels and an evening bag can all add to an evening or holiday look. It's a simple way to turn up the holiday spirit," she said.

Please see FASHION, 22

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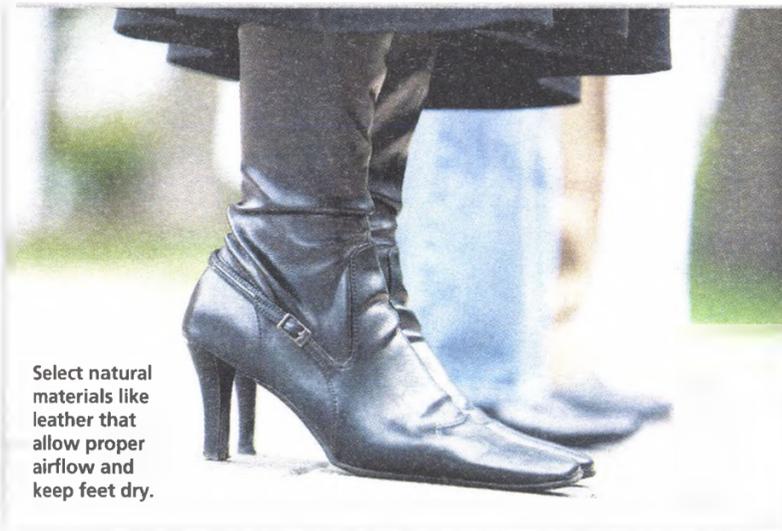
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Select natural materials like leather that allow proper airflow and keep feet dry.

Are your feet in the right boots?

Now that winter is near, it's time to check boots for proper fit and condition. Chances are — it is time for a new pair. When shopping for any footwear, keep in mind protection, support, comfort and stylishness.

The Michigan Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) has this boot selection advice to share:

- Be sure your boots are insulated and waterproof. Even if the boot maker says the boots are waterproof, still treat them with a waterproofing product. The body has to work harder to compensate for moisture, so you want to minimize as much moisture to your foot as possible.

- Select natural materials like leather that allow proper airflow and keep feet dry. Although rubber boots will keep you dry, rubber does not breathe. Make sure that any rubber boots purchased are fully lined to help absorb foot moisture.

- Boots with rigid shaped soles limit natural foot movement and provide little, if any, arch support. Add cushioned insoles and arch supports.

- The best traction is received from boots with rubber soles and deep grooves.

- Styles with narrow toes and high heels often cause pain and numbness. Select a lower heel or stacked style for additional support. Choose a style with plenty of toe room, a firm heel counter and traction to ensure stability.

- To provide warmth, ski sock liners are a way to keep feet warmer without adding bulk. They are available at sporting good stores and are worn under regular socks.

- Above all — listen to your feet. If they are not comfortable, the footwear selected is not the best.

Shopping tips

- Try boots on later in the day as feet tend to swell throughout the day.

- Try the style on with the thickness of socks you expect to be wearing with the boot.

- Most individuals have two different size feet. Buy for the larger sized foot.

- Boots should feel comfortable as you try them on. No "breaking in" period should be necessary.

Source: The Michigan Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA). For more information on foot care go to www.mpma.org.

HANDS

Continued from page 10

"It is possible to change the appearance of your hands. If you have neglected them in the past you can't necessarily back up the bus or turn the hands of time all the way back but you can take some steps to make a dramatic difference and enhance the look of your hand," Freedland said.

Cosmetic procedures include IPL, infrared-pulsed light treatments, laser skin resurfacing, microdermabrasion, chemical peels and injection of dermal "fillers" such as Radiesse®.

Fat harvested from another part of your body can also be injected into your hands to plump them up, Freedland said.

"These are procedures that will rejuvenate your hands and can make a significant improvement in your overall appearance," he said.

IPL treatments involve tiny beams of concentrated light directed at your skin in pulsing motions to stimulate collagen production. IPL is most effective at addressing issues such as melasma — age spots — and can take away redness and even spider veins, Sosnick said.

The procedure may require two to six treatments lasting approximately 20 minutes to be most effective. The result can be smoother skin and evening out of skin color and tone, she said.

Other laser skin resurfacing treatments are also very effective at tightening skin by boosting production of collagen and elastin and also treat vascular issues such as age spots and spider veins through the destruction of targeted cells, Sosnick said.

Laser treatments

These types of laser treatments can be used alone or in conjunction with other procedures such as dermal fillers or creams based on specific needs, Sosnick said.

Microdermabrasion is a superficial skin polishing that improves the appearance of aging skin with immediate results. Maintenance treatments may be necessary.

Chemical peels involve a mix of chemicals applied to remove tired, top layers of damaged skin, leaving behind smoother skin and lightened spots and even out skin tones, Sosnick said.

"This is a great way to get rid of hyper pigmentation," Sosnick said.

Injections of skin-plumping synthetic dermal fillers, such as Radiesse®, will plump up the hand and hide prominent bones and veins.

"Dermal fillers can be an affordable, non-invasive and safe method to treat aging hands, with longer lasting results," Sosnick said.

One of the most effective methods of hand rejuvenation is the injection of fat taken from other parts of the body through liposuction into specific areas of the hands.

"We can't do a 'hand lift' the same way we do a facelift, but what we can do to get the same permanent results is to inject the tiny drop-

lets of body fat into the hands and let it take hold," Freedland said.

Although the procedure can be costly — upward of \$5,000 because it involves the anesthesia used during liposuction — the effects are long lasting, he said.

"It really is very effective in restoring that youthful look," he said.

Freedland cautions that even after undergoing one of these procedures, it is still important to maintain a skin care regimen for your hands that includes frequent applications of both hand creams and sunblock.

"These are the two main things you can do on a regular basis so to help your hands look their best," he said.



Making sure your nails look their best is a big boost to any holiday ensemble — and one of the least expensive.

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Hand-crafted holidays

Plates of melt-in-your-mouth cookies; baskets of warm, spiced breads; tins of dark, creamy fudge ... the holidays are full of delicious and inspired ways to share the spirit of the season. If you're planning on making sweet holiday gifts this year, why not add an element of style by presenting your goodies in a hand-crafted holiday gift basket that's easy to make and fun to give.

"When you take the time to make a gift, the person receiving it feels special and your thoughtfulness really shows," said Cheryl Indelicato, third generation vintner and proprietor of HandCraft Artisan Collection Wines. "And, gift baskets like these can be made with simple, beautiful things you have around the house or are easy to find." Here are some easy, festive ideas to get you started:

- Reuse decorative boxes, bags and baskets that you already have. Line them with colorful shredded paper, or even seasonal fabric, and add a handmade label.
- Package your sweet treats in holiday tins, simple wood or paper boxes, or even mason jars.
- Add cheery finishing touches with colorful ribbons, holiday greenery, or pretty ornaments.

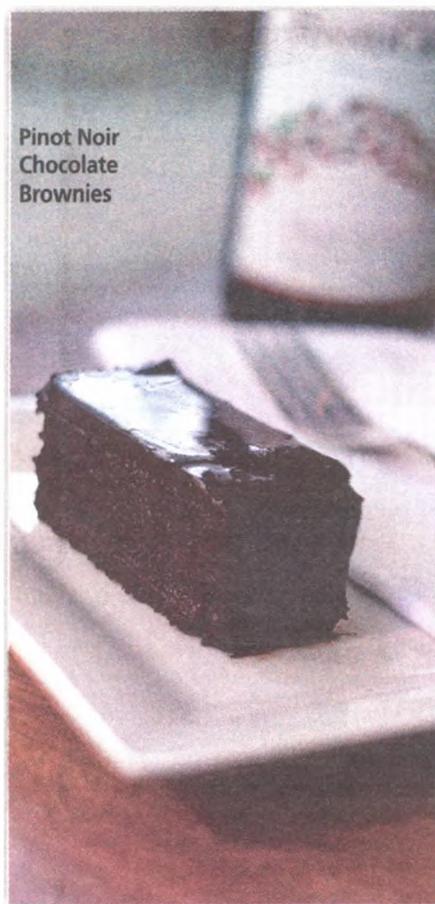
This Pinot Noir gift basket idea is inspired by HandCraft Artisan Collection wines which include four distinctive California wines to enjoy while celebrating with friends and family.

1. Start with a bottle of Pinot Noir. This medium bodied wine is elegant, supple, smooth and balanced – delicious by itself or perfect with food. Gorgeous cherry, vanilla and strawberry aromas are followed by ripe black cherry, sweet spice, vanilla and chocolate flavors. The finish is soft and lingering with a perfect integration of structure, fruit and spice.

2. Next, make some delicious treats, such as: Pinot Noir Brownies (see recipe), white chocolate chip bar cookies, homemade caramels with sea salt, dulce de leche or caramel sauce.

3. For a beautiful presentation, tuck the wine and your wrapped treats into a metal tin or basket and add some holiday greenery.

For more recipes and information about wine, visit www.handcraftwines.com or www.facebook.com/handcraftwines.



Pinot Noir
Chocolate
Brownies

Pinot Noir Chocolate Brownies

Yields 16 to 20 brownies

2 eggs
 ¾ cup sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 ½ cup butter, melted
 2 tablespoons Handcraft Pinot Noir
 ¾ cup Ghirardelli sweet ground cocoa
 ⅔ cup unbleached all-purpose flour
 ¼ teaspoon baking powder
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ½ cup chopped walnuts
 Preheat oven to 350°F.
 Combine eggs with sugar and vanilla; add butter and wine. Stir cocoa with flour, baking powder and salt.
 Combine with egg mixture; add nuts.
 Spread into greased 8 x 8-inch pan.
 Bake 25 to 30 minutes.

Pinot Noir Icing

4 tablespoons unsalted butter
 1 ounce unsweetened chocolate
 4 ½ tablespoons granulated sugar
 3 tablespoons HandCraft Pinot Noir
 Melt butter over medium heat. Reduce heat to low and add chocolate, sugar and wine. Continue heating over low heat stirring often, until mixture is smooth – don't let it boil.
 Spoon hot icing over fresh brownies and let stand for a minimum of an hour; 12 hours is best.

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Fantasy football: Just like the real thing, there's always next season

Editor's note: Michelle Munoz, a 26-year-old free-lance writer from Farmington Hills, was profiled in the September edition of *Hometown Life Woman* about her interest in sports, football and especially fantasy football. A lifelong sports fan, Munoz developed her interest in football watching games and rooting for the Dallas Cowboys alongside her father in her hometown of Maumee, Ohio. Munoz started her fantasy football play while a college student. It has grown since then as a way to connect with old friends, while enjoying a sport she absolutely loves! We asked her to update readers on her progress as fantasy leagues head into the playoffs. See her column below.

By Michelle Munoz
Guest Columnist



Michelle Munoz

Every fantasy football season is different, but every fantasy football season is the same.

Every season there is a player I drafted that I thought would be fantastic and wasn't, one I passed up on that ended up actually being fantastic and a league I lose all hope of winning by Week 4.

But that sameness is what makes fantasy football so fun. No one really ever knows who will be a breakout star, who will completely miss the mark and how any one fantasy team's roster will perform as a whole.

The truly unique aspect of this fantasy season for me has been sharing a team. Some bad math on my part led to my family's league having 13 teams. Every head-to-head league needs an even number of teams. Since I was the one who made the error, I decided to join forces with my fiancé. Luckily for both of us, it has worked. We are at the top of the league.

This year I entered four leagues. One I've been doing since 2007 has transformed into an international league as the commissioner moved to Australia. Another was started by a friend I worked with at *The Sporting News* and includes my fiancé.

I started my family league in 2009 and

there has been a different winner every year, which is exactly what I had hoped would happen. My fourth league is mostly high school friends, and it is the only league where I am the only woman.

The fantasy playoffs (which do not coincide with the real playoffs) are about to begin, and I'm hopeful for my teams. Three of my four teams will make it into the playoffs (pending a disaster) and I have learned a few things: pay attention, stay diligent and do not procrastinate.

This is not an inherently male game. Sure, most football fans are men, but that does not make them experts in fantasy football. Knowledge of the game and knowledge of the players is crucial, but it doesn't stop there.

Just like every year I've played, my downfalls have come at my own hands, not any player's. Setting lineups five minutes before kickoff, not knowing which of my players was injured and not thinking to scan the free agent list enough are what usually cost me games.

Heading into the final weeks of the season, I have my regrets and mistakes I have vowed many times to correct. But no matter how many mistakes I have made, I will always be back next season.

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Sudoku

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 22

Holiday brunch

What a spread!

A holiday celebration at home should be as much fun for the hosts as for friends and family. With a little advance planning, the goal of effortless entertaining is suddenly within reach.

First, make it brunch, typically lighter and simpler to prepare than dinner. Buffet style is another smart choice — just arrange the dishes on pretty holiday linens and invite guests to serve themselves.

Half of the work is done when you go with full-flavored imported Italian cheeses like Parmigiano Reggiano, Grana Padano and Montasio, and air-cured hams like Prosciutto di Parma and Prosciutto di San Daniele. As PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) products, they belong to a special group of high-quality European foods that can be made only in specific geographical regions.

Four dishes that add up to a no-stress brunch buffet:

— A frittata with the deeply savory flavors of Prosciutto di Parma and Parmigiano Reggiano cheese. It's equally delicious warm or at room temperature, whichever is more convenient.

— Thumbprint biscuits featuring melted Montasio cheese in the indentations on top — a clever touch for biscuits made with ready-made dough.

— Another brilliant two-ingredient recipe consists of eggs baked in Prosciutto di San Daniele "cups." They are crisp, creamy and irresistible.

— Festive garnishes for a salad of deep green kale leaves, tossed with orange vinaigrette, include Grana Padano shards, pears and pine nuts.

For more information on the PDO system and holiday recipes using these legendary cheeses and hams, visit www.legendseurope.com.

Eggs Baked in Prosciutto di San Daniele Cups

Yield: 12 portions

12 slices Prosciutto di San Daniele
12 large eggs

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Fold one slice of Prosciutto di San Daniele in half crosswise to make a rectangle. Fit into a muffin cup.

Crack egg into lined cup. Repeat with remaining ham and eggs.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes to desired doneness.

Kale Salad with Grana Padano and Citrus Dressing

Yield: 5 cups

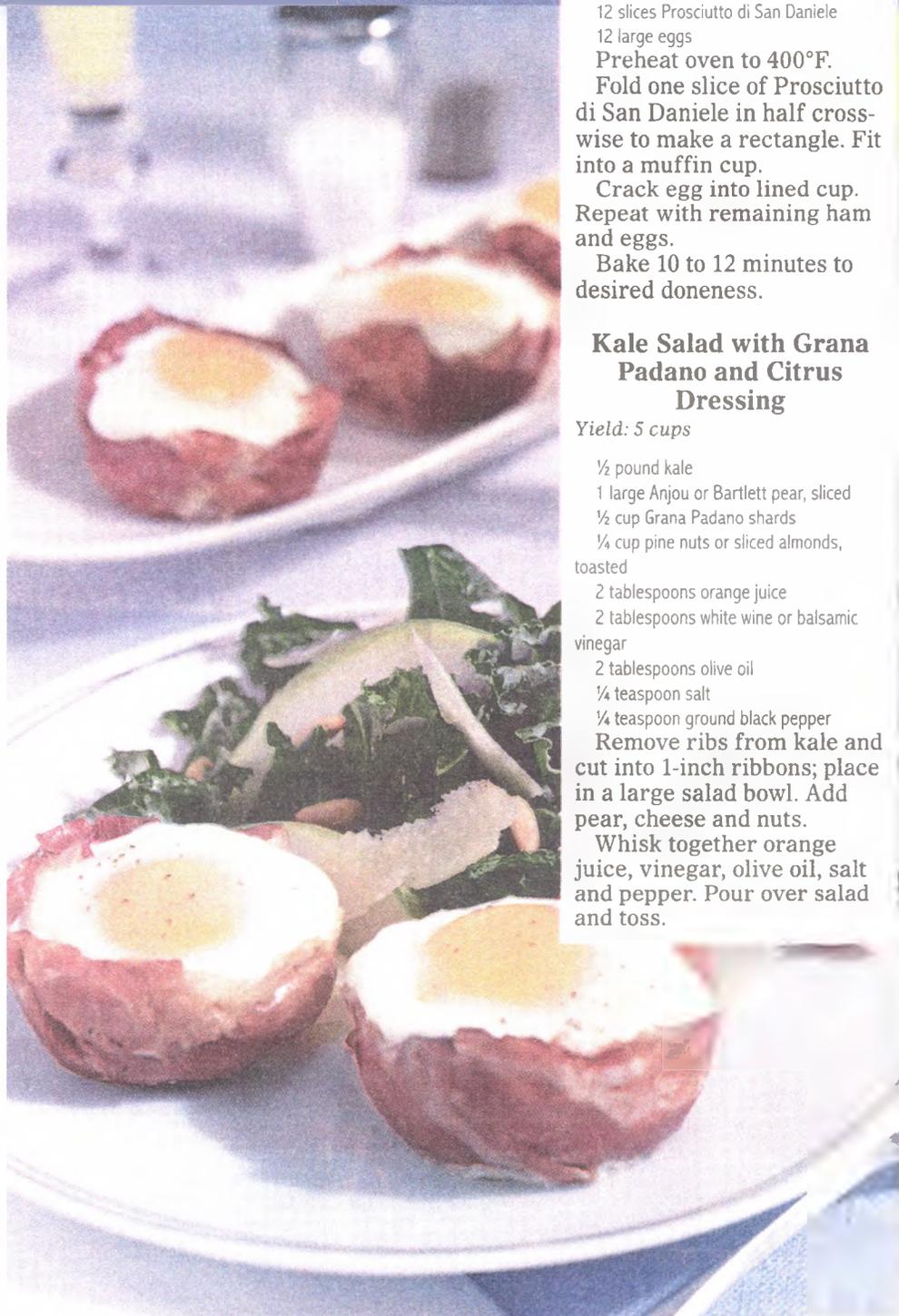
½ pound kale
1 large Anjou or Bartlett pear, sliced
½ cup Grana Padano shards
¼ cup pine nuts or sliced almonds, toasted

2 tablespoons orange juice
2 tablespoons white wine or balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons olive oil
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

Remove ribs from kale and cut into 1-inch ribbons; place in a large salad bowl. Add pear, cheese and nuts.

Whisk together orange juice, vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper. Pour over salad and toss.



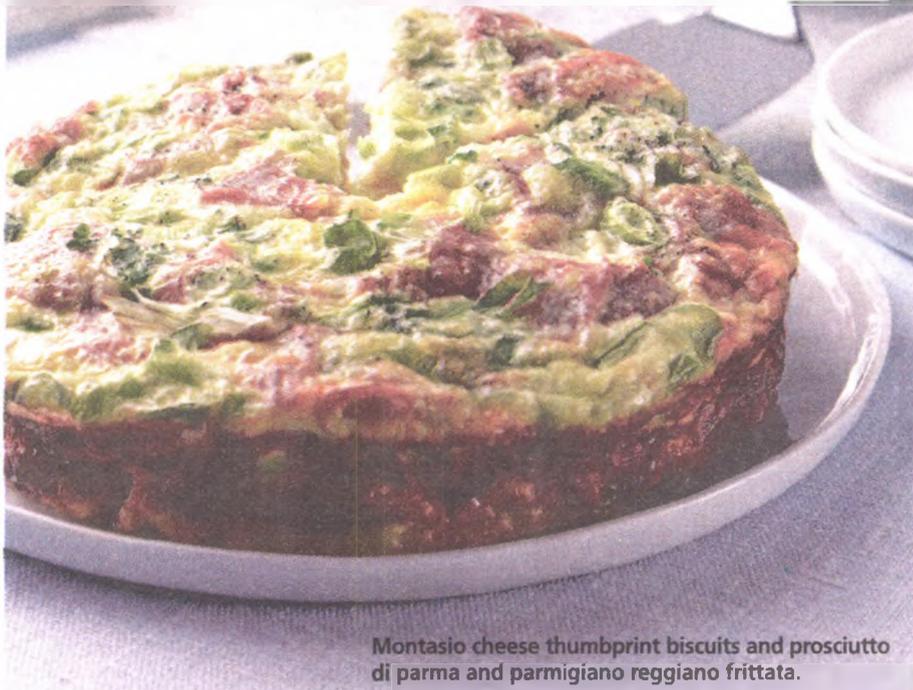
Eggs baked in Prosciutto di San Daniele cups and kale salad with grana padano and citrus dressing.



Montasio Cheese Thumbprint Biscuits

Yield: 8 biscuits

1 package store bought ready-made biscuit dough
 1 cup coarsely grated Montasio cheese
 Preheat oven to 400°F.
 Separate biscuits onto a parchment lined or lightly greased baking sheet. With your thumb, press into center of each biscuit to form a small well. Fill each well with 2 tablespoons of the grated Montasio. Bake until tops are golden, about 8 minutes. Serve immediately.



Montasio cheese thumbprint biscuits and prosciutto di parma and parmigiano reggiano frittata.

Prosciutto di Parma and Parmigiano Reggiano Frittata

Yield: 4 to 6 portions

8 large eggs
 ½ cup whole milk
 ¼ teaspoon black pepper
 3 ounces thinly sliced Prosciutto di Parma, torn into 1-inch pieces
 6 scallions, thinly sliced
 ½ cup (2 ounces) coarsely grated Parmigiano Reggiano
 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
 Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a large bowl, beat eggs and milk with an electric beater until frothy; add pepper. Stir in the Prosciutto di Parma, scallions and cheese. Heat oil in an 8-inch oven proof skillet; add egg mixture and cook over medium heat until edges are set, about 8 to 10 minutes. Place in oven and bake until firm, 15 to 20 minutes.

— Courtesy Family Features

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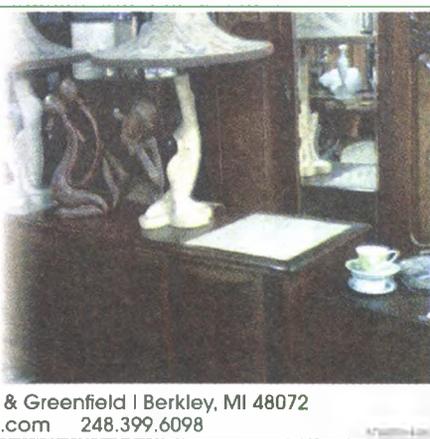
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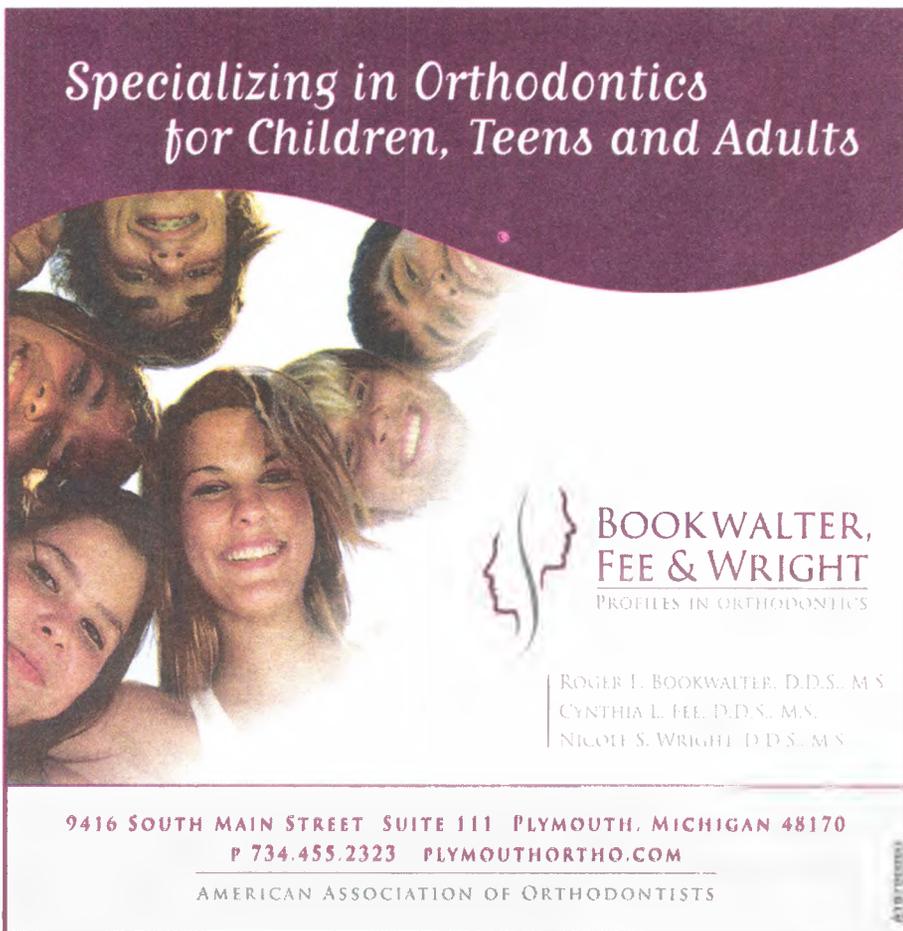
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Holiday gifts baked with love

Nothing says "love" like fresh baked cookies and treats. This holiday season, give the gift of homemade goodness ... and enjoy the time you save on shopping by spending it with your loved ones.

Make it a family bake-tivity

Get the whole family together and create a makeshift Santa's Workshop. Have one person measure all of the ingredients, another can mix everything together, and everyone can have fun decorating to favorite holiday tunes.

Create a gift that keeps giving

Layer the dry ingredients of your favorite cookie recipe in glass jars. Attach copies of the recipe to the jars with bright ribbon bows and voila, you've created thoughtful gifts and cheery holiday kitchen decor.

Refresh holiday favorites

Chocolate chip and gingerbread cookies are classics, but these Peppermint Mocha Chip Cookies might become a fast new favorite. Notes of crisp peppermint perfectly complement the flavors of coffee and semi-sweet chocolate morsels. Add a crushed peppermint to each cookie to create a beautiful and seasonal presentation.

For more holiday recipe ideas, visit www.meals.com.



Peppermint Mocha Chip Cookies

Peppermint Mocha Chip Cookies

(Makes 36 cookies)

¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
 3 cups Nestle Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels, divided
 1½ cups granulated sugar
 3 teaspoons Nescafe Taster's Choice House Blend 100% Pure Instant Coffee Granules
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 1 teaspoon peppermint extract
 3 large eggs
 2½ cups all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 12 soft peppermint candies, crushed

PREHEAT oven to 375°F. Grease or line baking sheet with parchment paper.

MELT butter and 1 cup chocolate morsels in medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly, until smooth.

TRANSFER chocolate mixture into a large mixer bowl; add sugar and beat until combined. Add coffee granules, vanilla extract and peppermint extract; beat just until combined. Beat in eggs. Add flour and baking powder, mixing until all is incorporated. Fold in remaining 2 cups chocolate morsels.

SCOOP dough onto prepared baking sheet, spacing 2 inches apart, using a medium size cookie scoop. Sprinkle each cookie with a little of the crushed peppermint candies.

BAKE for 10 to 12 minutes or until cookies are set. Allow to cool for about 2 minutes on baking sheet and then remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

— Courtesy Family Features

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FASHION

Continued from page 13

Feet sparkle, too!

This year, the sparkle is making its way down to feet.

Shoes and boots in rich metallic leathers, sequins and sparkles as well as metal finishes on the toes and heels are all making a place on the must-have list this season.

Adding a shoe with some sparkle and pizzazz may be just right for the person just “stepping out of the box” for the first time, said Cheryl Daskas, co-owner of Tender Boutique in downtown Birmingham.

“Most people probably will want just a piece of sparkle. If you are the quiet type, maybe just a shoe with a strass (crystal) sole,” will be enough, Daskas said.

Daskas said making sure that your outfit strikes the right chord for the occasion is important as well when adding sparkle.

“If someone was wearing a silver sequin dress, I would suggest a leather boot or a satin stiletto” as footwear. “Depending on the dressiness



of the party, I would look at something matte for a simple house party with your sparkle piece, to more shine (not the same fabric as the sparkle piece) for a more formal event,” she said.

Fur, velvet, velour

It is also possible make a splash in your holiday garb by adding something luxurious such as fur, velour, velvet, satin or leather and pairing it with something feminine like a lace dress or skirt or even a sheer blouse.

Fur, which made a comeback this fall, is still center stage for the holidays, Daskas said.

“This is a big season for fur — try a vest or a collar to make your outfit festive,” she said.

Wearing fur also brings an added benefit, she noted.

“The great thing about wearing either of those pieces is that you don’t have to remove them when you enter the party.”

Head also mentions tuxedo pants or jackets as go-to pieces for go-to holiday wear.

“Jewel tones, such as wine, which is the No. 1 color from ready-to-wear to footwear is also important this season, as are the other jewel tones such as sapphire, gold, emerald,” she said.

The most important must-have for the season is confidence, advises Britcher.

“You need to feel comfortable and feel sexy in what you are wearing. If you look good, you feel good,” she said. With the proper clothing, you can look great and feel great, too, Britcher said.

Is there such thing as too much sparkle?

“I say pile it on,” Daskas said with a laugh.

Daskas also has some special advice for those just adding sparkle and bling for the first time.

“Be confident and ‘Own It,’” she said.



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DEYO

Continued from page 6

ture, on the other hand, makes you feel good. You elongate the spine, taking pressure off the vertebrae. Your muscles are more limber, and you have better mobility and less tension in your neck and shoulders. Beyond that, the way you stand tells people volumes about who you are. Self-assured people walk tall and have a commanding and confident presence when they enter a room.

As busy as we all are, we really can take five minutes and make them count. It can add years to your life, take years off your face and make happily ever after much more realistic.

Barbara Deyo, a health, wellness, and beauty writer, and owner of Deyo Studio for face and body, is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington, Shaun Robinson and more. She has been named Best of the Best by Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave., second floor, Birmingham. Contact her at (248) 203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com.

Sudoku Answers

Beginner

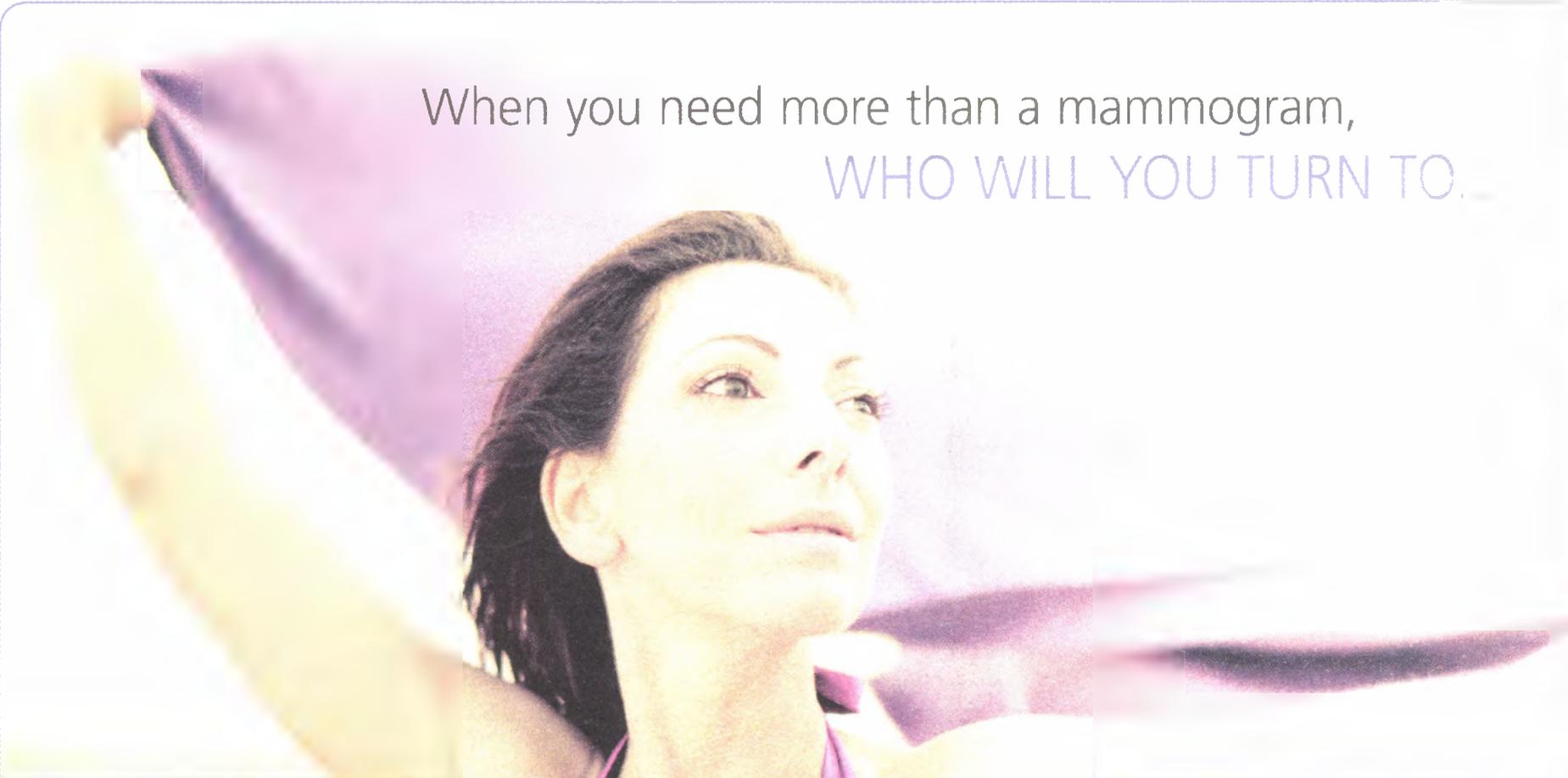
2	4	6	5	8	9	7	3	1
7	8	3	4	6	1	2	9	5
1	5	9	7	2	3	6	4	8
4	2	8	6	3	5	1	7	9
6	7	5	1	9	8	4	2	3
9	3	1	2	4	7	8	5	6
5	1	4	9	7	6	3	8	2
8	6	7	3	5	2	9	1	4
3	9	2	8	1	4	5	6	7

Intermediate

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

Advanced

4	6	5	1	7	8	3	9	2
9	3	8	5	4	2	1	6	7
2	7	1	3	9	6	8	4	5
8	2	9	6	3	7	5	1	4
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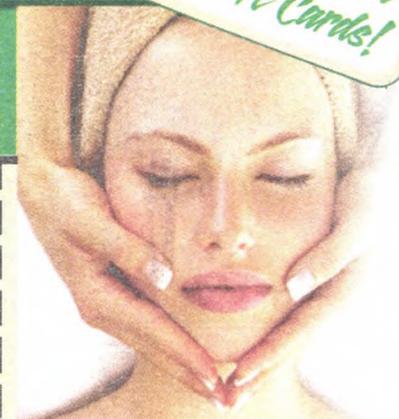
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I told her that I had tried that. I went to Henry Ford Fairlane paid \$1000 for my chin area and had 8 treatments.

I then sarcastically said "Clearly it doesn't work." She promised me that after one treatment I'd see a difference.

I really wanted to believe that it could work. I had my first treatment and noticed a difference. After 3 treatments my friends and co-workers noticed it too. By the time I was done I finally felt like a girl. My self esteem was restored.

It's been three years and I have thanked Beth, Renee, & Fatima every time I see them for taking such wonderful care of me. I referred every woman I know to see them. Laser hair removal is the way to go! I'm having my underarms done now.

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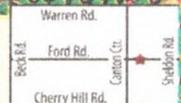
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