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Holiday hours

Residents with business to conduct next week at Plymouth City Hall (www.plymouth.ci.mi.us), Plymouth Township Hall (www.plymouthtp.org), the 35th District Court (www.35thdistrict-court.org) or the Plymouth District Library, are going to have to wait until Wednesday to conduct it.

Plymouth City Hall, 35th District Court and Plymouth Township hall will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25, for the Christmas holiday and reopen Wednesday, Dec. 26, at regular hours. Both facilities will repeat the schedule the following week for the New Year's holiday.

The Plymouth District Library (www.plymouthlibrary.org) will close Sunday through Tuesday and reopen Wednesday. It will also repeat the schedule for New Year's.

Trash pickup will also be delayed in the Plymouth community.

Tax time

For several years, AARP has provided no-cost tax preparation for the community, with appointments held at the Plymouth District Library. For the coming tax season, these appointments will take place at the library from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each Wednesday starting Feb. 6 and running through April 10.

All appointments will now be handled by the library. Beginning in January, these appointments will be scheduled by library volunteers. Individuals wishing to schedule an appointment should call the library's special AARP tax line at (734) 453-0750, ext. 229.

Appeals court backs township on tax-assessment wording

By **Matt Jachman**
Observer Staff Writer

The Michigan Court of Appeals sided with Plymouth Township last week in a dispute over ballot language for a proposed tax that had been sought to avoid job cuts in the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

A three-judge appeals panel denied a request by the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township that township officials be ordered to put to voters a plan for a 1-mill, five-year tax to be

levied through a special assessment district, or SAD, to support the fire department.

The battle began a year ago, when the Board of Trustees put on the ballot a proposal for an SAD with a tax of up to 10 mills for department capital expenses plus a millage with no ceiling for maintenance and operations — with the amount to be levied decided annually by the board — rather than the 1-mill, five-year tax described in the citizens group's petitions. It was the CAG petition drive, which gathered

signatures representing the owners of more than 10 percent of the land in the proposed district, that led to the ballot question on creating an SAD. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value.

The creation of a special assessment district with the broader parameters was overwhelmingly defeated by voters in February.

Can't dictate
Appeals Court Judges Kathleen Jansen, David Sawyer and

Karen Fort Hood cited Michigan Compiled Laws 41.801, which describes how townships can create special assessment districts for public safety purposes, in stating that CAG couldn't dictate ballot language.

"We conclude that the plain language of (the law) unambiguously supports the township's position that it is not required to use the language stated in the landowners' petitions," the opinion reads.

Please see **APPEALS, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Enjoying the moment after defeating previously unbeaten Livonia Churchill for the District 2 championship in early November are Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk and his players. The team could have all of its 2012 victories wiped out due to an ineligible player.

Wildcats face forfeits over ineligible player

By **Tim Smith**
Observer Staff Writer

An "unintentional" administrative oversight literally could have record-shattering repercussions for Plymouth High School's varsity football team.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association will determine in early January whether to forfeit the Wildcats' nine victories in 2012 — including two during the post-

season — due to the team having an ineligible player on the roster.

It was recently discovered that a player competed despite being in his ninth semester of high school, a violation of MHSAA eligibility rules.

A formal letter notifying the MHSAA of the rules violation was sent Dec. 13 by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The district filed that report with an appeal

for a waiver of consequences because the violation was inadvertent.

Erin MacGregor, Plymouth-Canton's director of secondary education, said the district has "already put into place safeguards to make sure this doesn't happen again," and hopes the MHSAA will leave the victories in place.

"We think we made a strong

Please see **FORFEITS, A2**

Local reps back Snyder on gun veto

By **Brad Kadrich**
Observer Staff Writer

State Rep. Dian Slavens said she delivered petitions with some 8,000 signatures from people urging Gov. Rick Snyder to veto a Senate bill that would have made it easier for gun owners with concealed weapons permits to carry guns into schools.

On Tuesday, Snyder gave them what they wanted, vetoing the controversial legislation that would have allowed concealed pistol license holders who completed additional training to carry a concealed pistol in schools and other places that currently are off-limits.

"While we must vigilantly protect the rights of law-abiding firearm owners, we also must ensure the right of designated public entities to exercise their best discretion in matters of safety and security," Snyder said in a statement "These public venues need clear legal authority to ban firearms on their premises if they see fit to do so."

Slavens, a Democrat from Canton, couldn't agree more. She said she's gotten hundreds of emails and phone calls from concerned constituents urging the governor not to sign the bill.

She said she also heard testimony in committee from representatives of the Catholic Church, hospitals and day care centers "urging us not to pass the bill" in the first place.

"I don't think, especially with what happened in Connecticut, a church or school is a place for people to be carrying guns,"

Please see **VETO, A2**

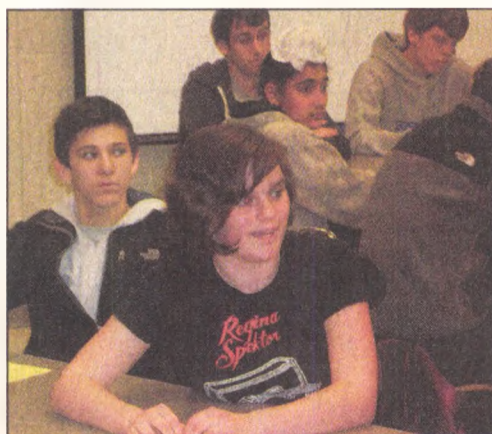
Staff, students seek clarity in Connecticut tragedy

By **Brad Kadrich**
Observer Staff Writer

There are always questions and concerns after a tragedy such as the one that unfolded Friday in Newtown, Conn., a search for answers for how and why something like that could happen.

Rather than wait for them to come, Plymouth High School teacher Beth Savalox decided to send her practical law students on their own quest for answers in a stirring, thought-provoking hour of discussion Monday morning.

Please see **TRAGEDY, A3**



Sarah Reasoner of Canton, a junior at Plymouth High School, said she was "devastated" when she learned of the massacre at a Connecticut elementary school Friday.

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Miracle League dinner looks at Tigers titles

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The Miracle League of Plymouth will pitch a night of fun for Detroit Tigers fans as it prepares for a third season of giving special-needs children the chance to play baseball on their own field.

The league's Thursday, Feb. 7, fundraiser, The Perfect Game, will be a dinner time conversation among former Tigers about the World Series-winning teams of 1968 and 1984, plus statistical comparisons and a computer-simulated matchup between Detroit's most recent world champs.

The event comes just three months before the Miracle League's opening day and two weeks before the current Tigers begin 2013 spring-training play in Florida.

"It's never too early to think about baseball," said Debra Madonna, league president.

The dinner, at the Meeting House Grand Ballroom, will raise money for facilities maintenance and to help keep down costs for players. Since the opening of the specially designed Bilkie Family Field, on Theodore Street behind Central Middle School, in 2011, the Miracle League has completed two seasons and is planning a third.

"That seems like a pretty good reason to get together," Madonna said. The league has drawn players from Midland to Dearborn and many communities in between, plus volunteers to assist players, many of whom hail from the Plymouth-Canton area.

League endowment director Bob Bilkie said he is lining up ex-Tigers from both the 1968 and 1984 teams to participate in the event. Designed to unfold like a conversation



COURTESY MIRACLE LEAGUE

Miracle League SuperHitter Jamie Jones takes the big swing as 'Buddy' Shari Bilkie and umpire Mike Jurlin look on during a Miracle League game this season.

IT'S A 'MIRACLE'

What: Miracle League fundraiser "The Perfect Game"

When: 5:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7.

Why: Raise money for the Miracle League, which provides an opportunity for special-needs baseball players to enjoy the national past time.

Where: Meeting House Grand Ballroom, downtown Plymouth

Tickets: Tables of eight or 10 are available. For more information or to reserve tickets, send an email to info@miracleleagueplymouth.org or visit www.miracleleague-plymouth.org/events.

around the dinner table, the discussion will also be shown on big-screen monitors in the dining room to bring it closer to guests who might be sitting farther from the panel.

"We're all fans," said Bilkie of the Tigers championship teams, "whether they're in a year you remember or you were there at the game."

Tickets for the dinner are \$125 each; there will be no auctions, raffles or other fundraisers during the event. The price includes hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. Sports broadcaster Eli Zaret will be the master of ceremonies.

The Miracle League will begin registration for the 2013 season in the weeks after the fundraiser, and opening day is scheduled

for Saturday, May 4.

Madonna said the Miracle League's aim is to provide players with an experience that goes beyond baseball to include things such as Halloween trick-or-treating, a Christmas time party — this year's was on Wednesday — and professionally made baseball cards players can give to family members and friends.

"What we're trying to do is not only support the baseball season, but create a real family for the players and their families," Madonna said. Events such as the holiday party are made possible with the help of local sponsors, she said.

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VETO

Continued from page A1

Slavens said. "I was really pleased, very happy to see he (vetoed) it."

Bill failure

Snyder said his veto was primarily based on the bill's failure to let designated public entities such as schools, day care centers and hospitals opt out of the new concealed carry provisions. Currently, Michigan law does not prevent a concealed pistol license holder from openly carrying a pistol in these zones.

According to state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, that's the inequity the bill was designed to address in the first place, and the reason he supported it.

"We're all trying to address the same goal, a loophole that allows people to open-carry into a school," Heise said. "Until we solve the problem, a CPL holder can still open-carry into a school, a church or other public facility. That's the issue we were trying to resolve. The Senate came

up with their best attempt to do that, but the governor said there aren't enough safeguards there, and he sent it back for further review."

Snyder had urged S.B. 59 be modified to more significantly restrict pistols in those zones by prohibiting open-carry in such places, in exchange for allowing only concealed pistols to be carried if license holders receive additional training — subject to the right of the property owners to prohibit concealed carrying if they desire. Under the bill as passed, only private venues can opt out, as can college and universities with constitutional autonomy.

Review need

Friday's horrific school shootings in Connecticut also highlighted the need for a thorough review of the proposed law, Snyder said.

"This type of violence often leaves society with more questions than answers," Snyder said. "The reasons for such appalling acts usually are numerous and complex. With that in mind,

we must consider legislation like S.B. 59 in a holistic manner. While the bill's goal is to help prevent needless violence, Michigan will be better served if we view it through a variety of lenses. A thoughtful review that examines issues such as school emergency policies, disenfranchised youth and mental health services may lead to more answers and better safeguards."

Heise said the governor's veto, despite the fact the legislation had significant Republican support, showed the checks-and-balances system works.

"The governor had concerns about the ability for public institutions, specifically schools, but also potentially libraries, to declare themselves gun-free zones under this bill," Heise said. "I think it was a good call. The governor will now send the bill back and we will either take no action or we'll have to amend it to accommodate the concerns he has raised."

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APPEALS

Continued from page A1

The decision was issued Dec. 13, less than a week after the judges heard arguments from attorneys representing CAG and the township.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said the board and its legal counsel had been confident in its interpretation of the law.

"Now this has been confirmed by not only the circuit court, but by the state of Michigan Court of Appeals," Reaume said Monday.

CAG disappointed

The appeal had started last December, when Judge Gershwin Drain, in Wayne County Circuit Court, denied CAG's bid to have SAD ballot language adhere to the 1-mill, five-year tax propos-

al described in its petitions.

"The township board was never in favor of increasing taxes," Reaume said. "They always were in favor of concessions by the firefighters, not automatically raising taxes to continue to provide the wages and benefits, at that time, for the firefighters."

The Feb. 28 SAD vote, during the state's Republican presidential primary, came after a two-year battle between the township and unionized PCFD firefighters over concessions sought by the township and proposed job cuts. Two days after the creation of an SAD was defeated, six firefighters were laid off and Station 2, on the township's northeast side, was closed.

In an email, CAG member Tom Kelly said the

group was disappointed in the decision, and noted that about 4,000 people had signed its petitions for a SAD vote with the 1-mill, five-year limitations on the tax.

"We are disappointed that six township board members can negate the petition signatures of 4,000 people," Kelly wrote, referring to the 6-0 vote last December that put the issue on the ballot.

The PCFD now has 13 full-time firefighters, plus Chief Mark Wendel and a fire inspector and 11 part-time firefighters. Huron Valley Ambulance, a paramedic service that does most of the township's patient transports during medical emergencies, has increased its presence in the township since the layoffs.

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FORFEITS

Continued from page A1

case," MacGregor said. "We'll have to wait and see."

The association's executive board will decide the Wildcats' fate.

"The school district was very forthright, very good communication," said Thomas Rashid, MHSAA associate director. "They contacted us upon discovery and we believe they've handled it very well."

"We know it's always a very difficult situation. But we know everybody (in P-CCS) believes in following the rules and doing things right and we are pleased with that."

Parents received a letter dated Dec. 17, signed by MacGregor and Business Services Executive Director Brodie Killian,

detailing the situation.

"This eligibility issue was discovered after the season was over and was completely unintentional," the letter to parents stated. "This was the result of an oversight at the administrative level and the appropriate corrective measures have been implemented."

"Coach Mike Sawchuk and his staff also had no knowledge of the situation until well after the season ended."

Also in the letter, parents were notified that Sawchuk discussed the situation with the team Monday.

"While we understand the boys are disappointed and concerned, it is incumbent on the District to protect the identity of the student involved," it stated.

The ineligible player "was unaware that he was

in violation of the rule and feels terrible about this situation," the letter explained.

He'd be 'sad'

Plymouth senior quarterback Jamarl Eiland expressed disappointment Tuesday that what the Wildcats accomplished in 2012 could be wiped off the books.

"We were pretty disappointed when we heard the news," he said. "Nobody on the team was aware and he (the ineligible player) wasn't aware. It was a mistake."

Eiland added that the team "did the right thing all year, and I don't think they should take the wins away."

If the MHSAA did, however, Eiland emphasized that all the hard work put in since early August would not be for naught.

"I wouldn't feel like

it was for nothing," he said. "I'll be disappointed, but everybody knows what happened. I'll be sad if they take the trophy away or we don't get to hang a banner."

Plymouth finished second in the KLAA South Division and then won the District 2 title.

Another key senior, linebacker Matt Janke, said it's "a very unfortunate situation and I think it inadvertently gives Plymouth football a bad reputation regarding something (players and coaches) had absolutely no knowledge of."

Janke said Sawchuk has "always been a huge advocate of doing things the right way" on and off the field.

"If there's one thing I've taken away from these past four years," Janke said, "it's that there's only one way to get it done,

and that's through hard work and dedication."

He added that his heart "goes out to my fellow teammate because I know he must feel terrible even though there is nothing any of us could've done."

Cut and dried

According to the MHSAA rules handbook, the penalty for "accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players ... shall require that team victories are forfeited to opponents."

If the executive board decides to forfeit the games, wins would be tacked on to the final records of Plymouth's opponents. Individual statistics and awards would not be impacted,

Rashid said "it's almost always accidental" that school districts have ineligible players and that forfeitures happen annually.

"It's not uncommon in every season that ineligible players are used and when that happens, there's forfeiture," Rashid said.

Victories over Lansing Sexton, Milford, Livonia Franklin, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, two against Canton (one in the regular season, one in a pre-district game), Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill in the district finals are in danger of being forfeited.

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With license at stake, bar is defended, decried

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Fans of the Rock Bar and Grill in downtown Plymouth came to its defense Monday evening as city officials considered steps that could cost the three-year-old establishment its liquor license.

The Rock, on Penniman Avenue, is under scrutiny for its links to a series of alcohol-related incidents, ranging from noise and litter complaints to traffic crashes, drunken-driv-

ing arrests and fights among people who had reportedly been drinking there. The Plymouth City Commission is considering recommending to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that the Rock's license to sell alcoholic drinks for on-premises consumption be revoked.

But commissioners took no action Monday, with officials saying another public hearing would be held during the next meeting, on Tuesday, Jan. 7, to give the attorney represent-

ing the Rock, Scott MacDonald, a chance to respond. Due to a conflict with another meeting, MacDonald was not able to attend Monday's hearing, said City Manager Paul Sincock.

The commission did take public comment Monday, however, and several patrons of the Rock described it as a positive place with an attentive waitstaff that adds to the downtown nightlife.

"I have nothing but really great things to say," said Andrea Stadricar of West Bloomfield, who said the Rock

is "welcoming" and "safe."

Tom Duggan of Plymouth said he is a "frequent guest" at the Rock and that a manager there once gave him a lift home "when I got too much in my cups." Another time, he said, the Rock arranged for a taxi ride for a patron who'd had too much.

Not all the public comment was positive. Janet Adkins, who lives in a condominium nearby, said the Rock is the frequent source of loud music at night, music that can even be heard

in colder weather, when both her windows and the bar's are closed.

"I find that a big nuisance," Adkins said. She also said she has watched people "stumble out" of the Rock. "It's not that I want to drive business out, but I want this to be a nice town," Adkins said after the hearing.

Commissioners made no comments during the hearing. MacDonald could not be reached for comment.

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No one hurt in township house fire

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Firefighters from several area departments responded to a house fire on Plymouth Township's west side Sunday afternoon, extinguishing a blaze that was limited to the kitchen and its contents.

The occupants had left the house by the time firefighters arrived and no injuries were reported, said Chief Mark Wendel of the Plymouth Com-

munity Fire Department. The fire was at a house on Ann Arbor Road west of Ridge; it was reported shortly after 1:30 p.m., Wendel said.

The PCFD responded with an engine from each of its two stations, and firefighters called for mutual aid from neighboring communities while still en route, Wendel said.

"When we know we have something significant going on, like a structure fire, we're

going to get some help out there as fast as we can," the chief said.

In addition to the two PCFD engines and seven firefighters, Northville and Canton townships and the city of Northville — which provides fire-fighting service to the city of Plymouth — sent an engine and firefighters, Wendel said.

The fire had started on the stove and spread quickly to other parts of the kitchen, the chief said. "It was pretty cut and

dried as far as a house fire," he said.

The fire itself was put out quickly, but firefighters remained on the scene for more than three hours to ventilate the house and perform salvage and cleanup duties, Wendel said. The PCFD cleared the scene at 5:20 p.m.

Wendel said he wasn't sure what housing arrangements the home's occupants had made.

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CRIME WATCH

Cash lifted at Computware

An Illinois man reported the theft of cash from his wallet after losing the wallet Saturday at Computware Arena on Beck Road.

The victim told police he was in town to attend a son's hockey game and discovered the wallet was missing while at the arena Saturday evening, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. He and other players' parents searched for the wallet without success, he said.

On Sunday, police learned the wallet had been found near some Dumpsters by arena employees and returned to its owner. But the money in it was missing, he reported.

The man told police other parents chipped in to pay for his trip home.

Police said arena employees were to review surveillance videos of the arena for any clues.

Garage break-ins

A Cadillac was vandalized recently when the garage in which it was being stored was broken into.

A window on the car, kept in the garage of a house on Joy Road, was broken after

the vandal or vandals got in by climbing through a window that had been boarded up, police said. The incident occurred between Nov. 28 and Dec. 11, the report said.

Nothing was reported stolen from the car.

A garage door was damaged during a break-in attempt early Friday, but the garage was not entered and nothing was reported stolen. The incident occurred at a house on East Hills Drive, north of Powell Road and east of Napier, on Friday morning, a police report said. An officer noted pry marks on the door jamb, and the door was slightly open, but a security device kept it from being opened completely, police said.

Vehicle burglary

Change was reported stolen Saturday from a car parked outside the Plymouth Manor Apartments on Lilley.

The theft occurred between 10:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday, a police report said. Other things in the car had been rifled through, but nothing else was reported stolen.

The car had been left unlocked, police said.

— By Matt Jachman

TRAGEDY

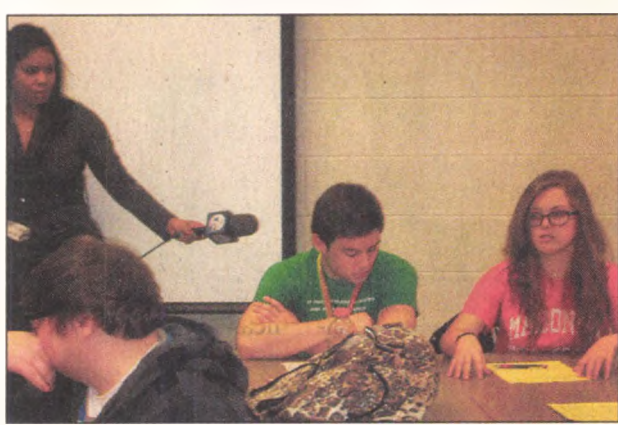
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Probing a half-dozen questions ranging from a simple recitation of facts to motives behind the shooting that killed 28 people, including 20 6- and 7-year-olds, students engaged in animated talks they said afterward helped lift the fog of tragedy at least a little.

Savalox knew a 50-minute class wasn't going to produce solutions, but she said the discussion was absolutely worthwhile.

"I think it's safe we aren't going to leave here with a lot of answers," said Savalox, who is also Plymouth-Canton's National Honor Society advisor. "It's important to discuss causes and prevention, as well as the process. The discussion itself is valuable. They may not figure out how they feel until they answer it."

The discussion in Savalox's classroom was just one of several ways the district dealt with the tragedy this week. The reaction started Saturday morning, when Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Hughes emailed a letter to parents reassuring them the district is doing "everything we can to keep them safe."



Salem High School senior Amanda Tabbey (right) said understanding human nature could help understand why tragedies like the school shooting in Connecticut happen.

A moment of silence was observed in all district buildings Monday morning and teachers, counselors and social workers were watching for, and talking to, students who seemed to be struggling in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Teachers and administrators also once again reviewed the district's emergency response plan, something officials said they do frequently.

"We talk about how to improve security constantly," said Frank Ruggirello, the district's director of community relations. "We didn't pull the emergency plan out Friday and blow the dust off of it. The number one priority is to keep students and staff safe when they're in our buildings."

Meanwhile, Savalox prepared six different topics of discussion, including facts and motives, and divided her students into groups to discuss them individually, then brought them together as a group to see what they came up with.

Salem High School senior Amanda Tabbey, a Plymouth resident, loves to talk about psychology, and she thought trying to understand human nature is a necessary part of understanding why the incident happened.

"I thought it was good," Tabbey said of the discussion. "It should be used in schools around the country. Students all over the nation should be able to sit in groups and communicate."

Discussing it is something Plymouth High School junior Sarah Reasoner didn't think she'd be able to do after initially hearing the news Friday. But there she was Monday, helping lead the talk.

"When I heard about it, I was devastated," said Reasoner, a Canton resident. "It's like, when it happens in an elementary school, you realize it can happen anywhere."

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

POTTERY CLASSES

Date/Time: Starting Jan. 8
Location: Village Potters Guild, 340 N. Main in Plymouth.

Details: The Village Potters Guild begins with 15 week classes open to adults who are just beginning their interest in clay all the way through to those who are very experienced in pottery. There are 2 classes offered on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Instructors will provide demonstrations and hands-on assistance in hand-building and wheel throwing techniques as well as glazing. Specialized sessions for raku, pit firing or maybe horse-hair firing will also be included during the term. The guild also offers an independent study class that meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.. Artists with intermediate to advanced skills are welcome to participate in this student directed class.

Contact: For more information or to register for classes, contact Debbie at

(248) 417-2484 or visit the website at www.villagepottersguild.org.

PCAC EXHIBITS

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

SEWING GUILD

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

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth

Details: Meetings of the Plymouth-Canton Neighborhood Group are open to sewists of all levels. The Jan. 3 meeting features "Creating and Applying Bias Binding." The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer." The March 7 meeting features "3D Flying Geese."

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

Blue Care Network of Michigan announces open enrollment for its Personal Plus product:

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DISCOVER
REMARKABLE

Dads become WATCH D.O.G.S. at Walker-Winter

Walker-Winter is going to the dogs — the WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students), an innovative program being used by schools across America to help positively impact the lives of students by having a committed involvement of fathers and father figures.

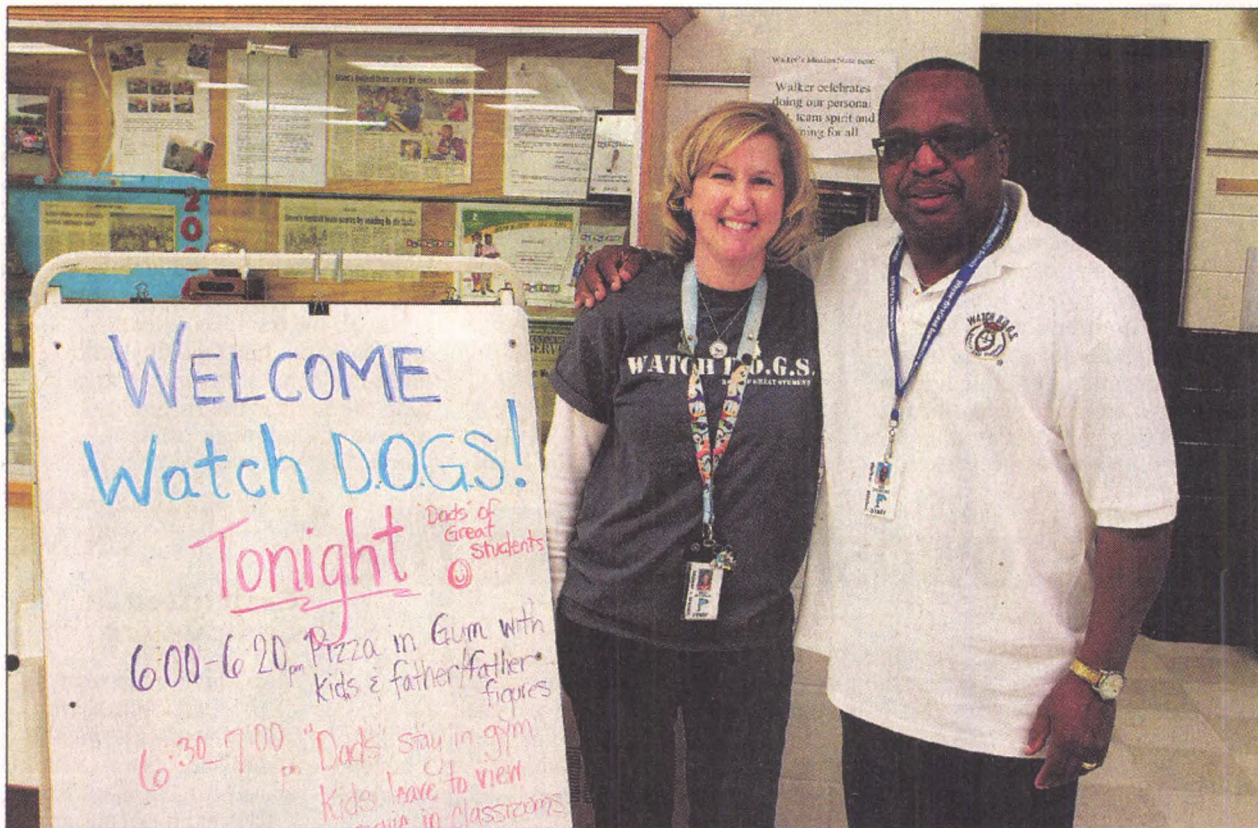
The goal of the program is to have men spend at least one day at the school to be a positive male role model for all of the students and to provide an extra set of eyes and ears.

Walker-Winter is the first school in Wayne-Westland to begin using this program, which offers a chance for fathers, grandpas, uncles, step-dads and adult brothers to spend a day helping out.

WATCH D.O.G.S. hosted their first annual Dads and Kids Pizza Night on Dec. 5 and had more than 100 dads. They were treated to pizza and had a chance to mingle with other families. Then the kids watched a movie while the WATCH D.O.G.S. program was explained to the dads.

"Our attendance was excellent," said Walker-Winter Principal Julie Mytych. "We had over 84 father and father figures and 108 students in attendance."

WATCH D.O.G.S. was started by the National Center for Father-



Principal Julie Mytych welcomes top D.O.G. Andrew Dobbins Sr. to Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton.

ing. The mission is to improve the well being of children by inspiring and equipping men to be more effectively involved in the lives of children.

"All we ask is for you to spend one day of your valuable time at school," said Mytych. "Each watch dog will help out greeting students in the morning, supporting students in classrooms, in the lunchroom, at recess, during specials and in the hallways. Our dads are asked to be a positive role model for all of our students." Top DOG Andrew Dobbins, Sr. is a lunchroom volunteer and grandfather of two former Walker-Winter students leads the group.

"I would like to challenge all male role models to step up to the plate," Dobbins said. "The time is now; our students of today will be our leaders of tomorrow, so man up."



Mytych and Dobbins pose with several men who will be WATCH D.O.G.S. at the school.

The team is made up of one dad from each grade level. It is their job to recruit and communicate with other male role models. Mytych's goal is to have every dad or father figure volunteer

one day at the school. "They will make a positive impact on kids," she said, adding that "more would be great too."

Mytych recruited her father, brother, members from the Canton Kiwan-

is Club and even a local police officer and firefighter.

WATCH D.O.G.S. has two main purposes - education and safety in schools. They will provide a fathering pres-

ence and a positive and active role model for students. While at Walker-Winter they will monitor the school property, mentor kids in small groups and help plant the seeds of success, Mytych said.

WATCH D.O.G.S. was founded by Jim Moore, a concerned father who chose to take action in response to a 1998 middle-school shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

There are multiple benefits of the program. Students gain a positive male role model. Schools gain an extra set of eyes and ears. The presence of a father or father figure enhances a sense of security at the building for students and staff and helps create an environment conducive to learning.

Fathers also get a glimpse of their students' everyday world and learn about the increasingly complex challenges and decisions today's youth are facing. They gain a greater awareness of the positive impact they can have on their student's life in three critical areas including academic performance, self-esteem and social behavior.

The WATCH D.O.G.S. program has been recognized by the United States Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and has been involved in the U.S. Department of Education's P.F.I.E. (Partnership For Family Involvement In Education) and the Department's Safe School Summit.

The WATCH D.O.G.S. program has received the endorsement of the National PTA organization and was asked to be a charter member of the PTA's M.O.R.E. program (Men Organized to Raise Engagement).

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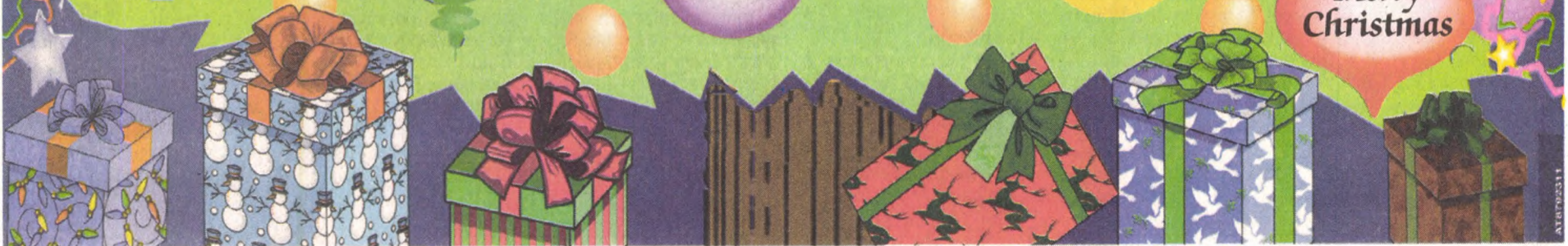
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Happy Hannukah

Happy Holidays

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Merry Christmas



Dear Santa,



Dear Santa, my name is Sydney, I'm from Plymouth, Michigan. I have a few questions, first, my sister said your elves dance to Gangnam Style, is that really true? Also, do your reindeer eat baked beans and then get gassy? Do the elves fart glitter? Do you have any pink reindeer?

I hope you and Mrs. Clause are doing well. Santa, can you send prayers to people who are sick please. Also my best friends dad has brain cancer can you tell God to please heal him because he just went into chemotherapy. Thanks Santa, you're awesome!

Love, Syd

P.S. tell the reindeer I said Hi!

Dear Santa, I am being a good boy because my elf is watching me. I was afraid to tell you at the mall what I wanted so my nanna is writing this letter.

I would like a Thomas the Train Table and Chairs and anything from Cars, I also love watching DVDs.

I am so excited for Christmas!!!!

Love, Luca xoxox

Dear Santa, Hi, how are you? I've been a good girl! After thinking hard, I would really like a really cool monster doll! For my sister Jenna, she would like a Dora doll. Mom would like a dress that's purple. And last, my daddy would like a new truck.

I hope you enjoy all the cookies.

Olivia Lee

Dear Santa, You are awesome! Can you bring me a masked Kane? A pack of those Rey Mystirio pant that have 300 of them! those rock'n root gitars, a Brok Lesner

Andrew McClaren

P.S. You are the best!!!!!! I love you

Dear Santa, I love you! Can you give me a fish. I have been a good girl. Can you give me some red dresses. Santa you are the best.

Love, Saleshi Patil

P.S. I will hug you! Santa I love you vare much. I love you Santa!

Dear Santa, How are your reindeers this year? Can you bring my dad a tire? Can you bring me a star wars toy? I will give your reindeers carrots.

Love, Kunal Patel

P.S. Have a safe trip. How are your elves doing this year?

Dear Santa, I left a toy for you and a cookie. I have bin a varey good girl and my sister to. Can you give my mom a necles? How do you no where I live? Can you give my dad a new car? he love car. Can you give my sister a doll? Have a good Christmas. Oh yeah, I have a cookie for you.

From Anna Nechifolr

Dear Santa, You are cool. You are awesome. I want a 3DS. I want BayBlades. I like you Santa. How is Rowdolf and pranser and Dancr and Litsin and comite and Qpid. don't crash into any airplanes.

Love, Neil Neshipandle

Dear Santa, you are a nice guy! Please git my dad a new truck? Can you git me a Wii? P.S. Have you checked on Rudoff?

From Evan Pierfelice

Dear Santa, How are you doing? My sister wants a American Girl doll. My mom wants a golden necklaces. My dad would like a new hamr. Santa Claus I want a real dog and a Ipad. What would you like, Santa?

Love, Sofia Gonzalez

Dear Santa, I will love if you gif my bozr call of duty 2. Wil y ou giv my mom a red dress and my dad tools. I will giv you cookies.

Love, Maya Mitts

P.S. You are awesome. I love you.

Dear Santa, You are the best! You are awesome! Can you give a huskee for my sister Ava Spiteri! You are cool. Give me two reindeer. I love you so much. Can you give me a toy snak from the zoo!!

Love, Alina Spiteri

Dear Santa, I like you! I'm a varey good girl. Youer varey nice. Can you bring me toy car. Can you get me a slerpe maker. You rock. All lev you some coces and milk. Can you bring my cat a stuff toy.

Love, Adalyn Cowan

Dear Santa, You are awesome! Me and my sister want a Wii. I will leave cookies. How is Rudolph doing? Please bring my mom prfum. Please bring me a new basbol glove.

Love, Ethan Wendland

Dear Santa, You rock! Bring my sister a Lepstr. Will you bring me a Wii? Will you bring my mom a new shirt? You are swet. P.S., Peace out.

Love, August Ericson

Dear Santa, How are you doing? Wil you get my broth a Xboxs? Wil you get my mom a pair of errigs? Wil y ou get me a Wii? I'll put sum cokes out for you.

Love, Nolan Garbacz

P.S. I hop you have a safetrip.

Dear Santa, You are the best in the whole wide world. And you are awesome! Could you bring byrce a Wiiu? Could you bring dad a bed? Could you bring mom a key. P.S. Will you bring me a new bed? Have a saf trip.

Love, Mackenzie Clark

Dear Santa, You are awesome! My mom want sheets. I want ninbgo. I want helicopter snake. My sister Madeline Marie Delfin would like Dora playhouse. Have a safe trip.

Love, Ethan Delfin

Dear Santa, I like your long beard. I like your reindeer. My mom would like earrings. My dad wants a brown steemshrt. I would like a shirt with sparkles. Could you please bring my sirs a shirt. My brother would like a fin shirt? Give me hot coco. I will lev you some coco. Have a good trip.

Love, Claire Martin

Dear Santa, I love you. Will you bring my dog a chewtoy. Can you get me an American Girl doll. Will you give my my Tiger tickets? I wode like a Tiger hat. Bring Josh a Tiger hat.

Love, Miranda Sanford

P.S. I love you big guy!

Dear Santa, Could you plesr bring me a baby Olive? Could you plesr bring Katey a cat. She is 10. My dad wode like a new watch. My mommy wode like jolry. I will leve you a cuddly blankit and a cup of coco. Could you bring me cat books? Your beard is cute! Love,

Leah Mackenzie Borkowski

Dear Santa, I love you. You are awesome. You are nice. You are jolly. Can you bring my mom a ring?

Jameson Kinnelly

P.S. I love you!

Dear Santa, You are awesome awesome awesome. I love you. Yore my favrit persin. I like you. How are the randear. Wots yore favrit colar? Do you like me? please get my mom and dad a new TV. I love you. Can you get me a Rabbit and for me and mom and dad a new house.

I love you ver ver ver moch! Tell Roodof that thar will be carits on the tayboll.

Love, Kaelyn Miostek

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom jewelry. Please bring my dad a tool set. Please bring Elena a baby doll. Please bring Luke a toy. Please bring me a Cabbage Patch kid.

Julia Allen

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom a bug trap and an ant trap and my sister Daisy a pink kity and Santa could you please bring me Super Mario Galaxy!

Dallas Coleman

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom a bead for her bracelet. Could you please bring my dad building kits for our model railroad. Could you please bring my

sister a fur real pet. Could you please bring me a lego set.

John Curtright

Dear Santa, Please bring my dad a passport and my mom a ice cream machine and my sister Serenity a bracelet. Bring my sister Sienna a doll and Chase a new bottle.

Could you please bring me a Sky Landers Giants.

Reese Schaecher

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom an I-Phone and my dad wants an X-box. My little sister wants a dog TV video and I want a fortune cookie maker and Monster High dolls.

Adelle Dolik

Dear Santa, Could you bring my mom a new car. My dad would like new shoes. my big sister makeup, my little sister wood like a doll. I wood like Super Mario Brothers. My grandpa and grandma would like medicine.

Vanshika Dheer

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom new slippers. Could you please bring my dad a computer. Could you please bring my brother a X-Box 360. Could you please bring me the Amazing Spider-Man movie that has a Spider-Man mask.

Love, Jason Rudolph

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom a laptop and bring my dad a new car and can you bring my brother a new toy car and bring me a toy Ipad. Could you bring my grandpa and grandma some new slippers.

Srujan Kuruba

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom a phone. My dad would like a remote control car. Brynn wants a baby toy. Laurel wants Bratz-Zilla. Please bring a Bey Blade for me.

Brody Klein

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom an Ipad. Please bring my dad an Ipad and Samanvith my brother Sky Landers Giants. Could you please bring me an ice cream machine.

Sirini Mekala

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom new pots and pans and slippers and a bucket and new boots and jewelry adn suitcase and a TV. Could you please bring my dad a new copmputer. Could you please bring me a Lalaloopsy.

Sivani Manoj

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my dad money for Disney-world and my mom would like Super Mario Galaxy. And for me I would like 3DS XL.

Joshua Smith-Bomar

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom a new car. Could you please bring my dad a X-box. Could you please please bring Evan Captain Rocx. Could you please bring me some Skul Landers.

Carter Riggs

Dear Santa, My mom would like new shoes. My dad would like fancy shoes. Me Evan would like a Bey Blades and Transformers. My dog would like a squeaky toy. Santa would you please please give me another chance to be on the good list.

Evan Thomas

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mommy some candles for my mommy. Could you please bring me a cotton candy maker. Could you please bring my brother some games. Could you please bring my dad some games.

Averi Roller

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom an Ipad. Could you bring my dad money for Disney World. My brother Celach wants the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid book. I want Sky Landers Giants.

Cleary Allen

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom new shoes. Could you bring my dad a flat screen TV. My sister wants a stuffed bunny. My brother wants Sky Landers Giants. Please bring me a ATM machine. Thank you.

Love, Amber Greenshields

Dear Santa, My mom would like shoes. My dad would like to have a short work day. My brother would like to be taller. Please bring me a remote contorl car. Thank you.

Andrew Poh

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom some mouse traps. Could you please bring Luke a new DS. Could you please bring Jade a big radio. Could you please bring me Baby Butterscotch.

Jessica Hunt

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom a mouse trap and an ant trap. Could you bring my dad a gun. Could you bring my brother a stuffed animal dinosaur. Could you bring me a ice cream machine.

Tyler Vergin

Dear Santa, Could you please bring my mom a an trap and a fly trap. Could you bring my dad some batteries and some money. Could you please bring my sister Madeline some Pinkalicious dresses and some

Pinkalicious doll. Could you please bring my sister Fiona some winter dresses and some bottles. Could you plesae bring me six passports and mouse trap.

Olivia VanHouten

Dear Santa, Could you please bring slippers for my mom and movie songs for her Iphone. Could you please bring my dad more magnets and new shoes. Could you please bring my sister a Winks Club Doll and more games for her DS. Could you please bring me Super Mario Sticker Stars.

Krish Trickannad

Dear Santa, Hi, how are you doing? How do you git down the chimney with the big bag of gifs? Please bring me the Mids of Moeu. Tell your wife hi for me. My dad wants a X-Bucs 360.

Carter Botts

Dear Santa, Hi, how are you? I bet you have been really busy! How are you and your elves and your wife? Santa, can you please bring me a easy bake oven. please bring my sister a caging colr snowmen. Can you please bring my mom a babay batl. Can you please bring matthew a baby toy can you please bring my dad work pants.

I hope you have a saf trip.

Love, Savannah Brenner

Dear Santa, How are you? Can you please bring me some crafts? And my sister a My Little Pony please? My mom would rally like a pan can you please bring it? My dad wants a leg star wars fiter, can you bring it? I hope you have a safe trip.

Love, Eliannah Foster

Dear Santa, My mom wants a laptop. My borrr wants a big tall bear. My dad wants a video gam and my mom wants a par of sliprs. I wanta a kitn and my dad wants mor pants. My dad wants a calklatr. I wanta Brbrb. I hope that you like the cookies. I like Santa's hat. I want a compar.

Alexis Hack

Dear Santa, How are you? My brofher wants a dinosaur. Please bring my mom earrings. I want games. Ho Ho Ho.

Aidan Haske

Dear Santa, Hi Santa. I hop you are having a grat time at the nor pol. I want a remot kinch monstr thror.

Are the elves wrking hard? I love Crimis. You bring us a lot uv stuff. Dear Santa, Crimis is awesome. I love you so much. you are so nice to me. Santa is cool.

Parker Hilfinger

Happy Holidays from these Plymouth Area Businesses!

We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in 2013!

A portion of the proceeds from this page will be go to:

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Seasons Greetings

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Happy Hannukah

Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas



Last-minute shopping help

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

You waited until the last minute to do your holiday shopping, didn't you? Otherwise you wouldn't continue reading. Fortunately, there are plenty of app developers, retailers and online stores that are prepared for this exact dilemma: the last-minute holiday rush.

Here are some shopping tips and advice to help you finish your shopping with time to spare.

Take advantage of your Smartphone or tablet by downloading any number of free apps that will help you through this hectic time. The Black Friday Survival Guide app, for example, allows shoppers to view leaked and verified deals in real time and create personal shopping lists.

There's also the Shopp Savvy app, which can be downloaded on your Verizon Smartphone. This app lets shoppers scan bar codes on items to check prices and compare the best in-store and online deals. It is available on Android and Apple devices.

If you need to crunch numbers, consider downloading a discount and tax calculator from your Smartphone's app store. Using an app like this will allow you to estimate how much items will cost and how much a sale will



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

store. The "Find My Car" app was named one of the "Top Ten Apps That Will Change Your Life" by the *Wall Street Journal*. It uses location services to help you find your car in a crowded lot. You can also jot down a note in your phone's notepad, or record a voice memo to help you remember what lot you parked in.

Even if you don't know what to buy for the person on your list, there are websites that can help. If the recipient is on Pinterest, visit their page and take a look at what items they are "pinning" or commenting about.

Websites such as amazon.com and sharperimage.com have comprehensive gift guides for anyone on your list. Gifts.com even has a personality test that buyers can fill out to help narrow down the options by age, gender, interest and hobbies.

Once you find the right gift, you might get lucky and not have to visit the store. Many large retailers such as nordstrom.

actually save.

There are also apps such as the "Find My Car" app that can help you when you get outside of

com and zappos.com, and sunglasshut.com offer free shipping and free exchanges every day. Amazon provides free shipping on orders over \$25.

The eBay site, which also offers free shipping on certain purchases may even have gifts that are sold out elsewhere. It may cost a premium price, but if you're looking to snag a last-minute video game system or other such coveted gift, eBay will have it.

When dealing online, remember there are plenty of safe ways to pay. Use your online payment system such as PayPal, Square or a gift certificate. You can even have your credit card company produce a one-time-use number to avoid fraudulent purchases in the future. Just be sure not to use your debit card as the fraud protection generally isn't as solid on those types of cards.

Lastly, if the holiday stress really hits you hard before, during or after your shopping is completed visit drinkmixer.com and find the quickest recipe for adult eggnog. If you've waited this long, you might need it.

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

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Jeanie Deraniyagala opened Gift Shop — Jeanie Derani in August 2005.

Online firm offers variety of gift choices

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Jeanie Derani: It's an online operation. Also do Trade Shows, Business Events, Retail, Wholesale and Agents - Personal Delivery; Gift items for birthdays, weddings, Thanksgiving, Christmas, anniversaries, raffles, all seasonal and annual events, Office celebrations, Family events.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Jeanie Derani: After working in varied companies in U.K. and the United States which gave me experience in management, supervision of staff, visiting companies, sales and customer service experience, paved the way to make the decision to venture into a business of my own.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Jeanie Derani: With company relocation of job from England to the U.S. Our first residence in Michigan, with my husband and three children, happened to be Canton. Canton was in close proximity to the company my husband worked for after re-location. I went to work in several companies in different areas away from Canton. Children settled in Canton Schools after relocation from England schools.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Jeanie Derani: There are rare specialty elo-

GIFT SHOP — JEANIE DERANI

Business name and address: Gift Shop — Jeanie Derani, online

Your name: Jeanie Deraniyagala, president

Your hometown: Canton

Business opened: August 2005

Number of employees: 3 (plus operation cost from warehouse)

Your business specialty: Gifts, art and novelties for office, home and garden decor. Specialty gift items for any occasion, celebration or event.

Business phone: (734) 459-4290

Website: www.giftshopjeanie.com

quent collections with a classical pleasing touch. These are replicas of varying gift items with an American, European & Asian impact and accent. Prices are challenging with varying discounts on large orders. Day-to-day gift items available elsewhere in the open market, but at low competitive prices with relative discounts. Discounts offered at different seasons. Shipping to private or business.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Jeanie Derani: It's been up and down, inconsistent.

Observer: How has the economy affected your business?

Jeanie Derani: The recent economy did affect the business, as people were not prepared to spend on specialty goods, as they were seeking only the immediate needs. It did not affect me much as specialty classical items do not decrease in value. However, the second category

items had fluctuations as the purchases were not all that high. Had to give additional offers, due to stock storage issues and the demands were changing.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Jeanie Derani: Keep on advertising, networking. Keeping long standing customers happy with pleasant contacts providing more information while at the same time seeking new customers. Do market research. Long Term Investments for the future.

Observer: What's in store in the future for your business?

Jeanie Derani: Increase the website to a new line of products with several Links, Facebook, SEO. More contacts with different suppliers. Comprehend current market trend and changes that need to apply. Cost/effectiveness of entry to some new products. Web management. Seeking reliable sources. Being patient for future economy goals. Go Global.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Citizenship scholars

The Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, along with their contributing members, are teaming up again to reward five Plymouth/Canton students with Student Citizenship Award Scholarships.

This past year, the chambers awarded Citizenship Award Scholarships to five deserving Plymouth/Canton students. Officials from both chambers are now looking for help, in the form of donations, to recognize

the next group of students who are "making outstanding effort contributing to our communities."

For more information or to help with donations, call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040, or the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, (734) 453-1540.

Kickoff breakfast

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce officials will present the chamber's five-year plan at its annual kick-off breakfast takes place 7:30-9 a.m. Jan. 23, at the Inn at St. John's (corner of Five Mile and Sheldon Roads).

At the breakfast, the new Board of Directors will also be announced and upcoming events will be highlighted.

The breakfast cost will only be \$5 for an outstanding full meal. To RSVP, please respond no later than Jan. 18 to teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.

High tea

Sweet Afton Tea Room has 2012 Holiday High Tea tickets now on sale. This event sells out for all dates each year, so to avoid disappointment call (734) 454-0777 or (313)

300-1672 to reserve tickets, \$38 for adults and \$25 for children under 10.

Board appointment

Gov. Rick Snyder announced two appointments and four reappointments to the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission.

One of those reappointments was that of Anand Kumar of Canton, controller of Auto Club Trust Bank. He has worked for the Auto Club Group since 1996, serving in various leadership positions, including membership product manager, regional business manager, chief financial officer and director of finance. Kumar is a certified management and chartered accountant. He earned a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Madras in India.

The 21-member commission advances the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans in Michigan.

"These appointees bring years of diverse and outstanding experiences to the commission," said Snyder. "They are great choices for these roles and I am thankful for their willingness to serve."

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Brighton Center 5757 Whitmore Lake Rd, Ste 900 Brighton, MI 48116 T: (810) 220-5793 F: (810) 220-5805	Livonia Center 37250 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154 T: (734) 462-3240 F: (734) 462-3831	Novi Center 39885 Grand River, Ste 300, Novi, MI 48375 T: (248) 615-0282 F: (248) 615-0415
Canton Center 49650 Cherry Hill Rd, Ste 230, Canton, MI 48187 T: (734) 495-3725 F: (734) 495-3734	Livonia East Center 29528 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152 T: (734) 422-0802 F: (734) 422-0875	White Lake Waterford Center 9178 Highland Road, Ste 2 White Lake, MI 48386 T: (248) 698-1277 F: (248) 698-2089
Commerce Center 8896 Commerce Rd, Ste 1 Commerce Township, MI 48382 T: (248) 363-2115 F: (248) 363-2308	Milan Center 870 E. Arkona Rd, Ste 110, Milan, MI 48160 T: (734) 439-2200 F: (734) 439-2204	Wixom/Walled Lake Center 29822 Wixom Road, Wixom, MI 48393 T: (248) 926-5826 F: (248) 926-5830

www.plymouthpts.com 6:00am-7:00pm M-F • Sat am

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Blue Care Network of Michigan announces open enrollment for its non group product:

NON GROUP

Open enrollment dates are January 1 - January 31, 2013 for a February 1, 2013 effective date.

Please contact Blue Care Network's Customer Service department at 1-800-662-6667 for additional information.

Blue Care Network of Michigan

A member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan

AT6782394

ACO Home, Garden & HARDWARE

LAST MINUTE Gift Idea SAVINGS!

Sale Thurs. Dec 20 thru Christmas Eve!

A Must For Christmas Morning!

IRONBUILT Trash Bags

- 100-Ct, 30-Gallon
- 150-Ct, 13-Gallon

\$5

Reg. to \$9.99

WOW WHAT A PRICE!

RAYOVAC 30-Pk. AA/AAA Batteries

999

Reg. \$14.99

SAVE \$5

SAVE UP TO 60%

ACO Home Black 20-Gallon Storage Tote

399

Reg. \$4.99

- Snap locking lid
- Affordable storage!

HOT BUY!

Made In The USA

Great Gift Idea!

SAVE 50% after Mail In Rebate



PEAK #PKCOAO
600 Peak Amp Jump Starter
 • Rechargeable, cordless
 • Up to 300 instant starting amps

Sale Price **34⁹⁹**
 Mail-In Rebate **-\$10**
24⁹⁹ Reg. \$49.99

PEAK Automotive Electronics

Up To 40% OFF

Our Everyday Low Prices

Stunt Buggy

- Remote control
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1699

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WOW WHAT A PRICE!



A HOLIDAY FAVORITE!

SANDERS fine chocolates

Bumpy Cake

Devil's food cake with ribbons of creme, covered in rich chocolate icing.

Dessert Topping

Assorted flavors, 20-Oz.

599

Reg. \$9.99

499

Reg. \$5.99

While quantities last. Sorry, no rain checks.

ACO GIFT CARDS...THE PERFECT GIFT!



1,500-Watt Infrared Rolling Mantel

- Realistic electric fireplace with brightness settings
- Fully-assembled & ready-to-heat
- Solid woods, real wood veneers and metal housing

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LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR!

SAVE \$72⁹⁹

Alert Works® Severe Weather Radio



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Gives updates & info when severe weather is in the area.

SAVE \$10

Realtone™ Retro Alarm Clock/Radio

- Dual alarm settings
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1899

Reg. \$24.99

All Other Timex Alarm Clocks Are Also On Sale!

SAVE \$6

Stafford® Men's Underwear

- Undershirts
- Boxers
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\$4

Reg. to \$9.99

Selection varies by store. While quantities last. Sorry, no rain checks.

OVER 50% OFF!

EUREKA Optima Vacuum

- 12 amps max power
- Optimal power & storage

\$30

Reg. \$69.99

While quantities last. No rain checks.



Wooden Folding Chairs

Your Choice

2888

Reg. \$39.99

Folds Easily!



Ladies Snuggle Socks

- Extra long, non skid
- Assorted colors

399

Compare at \$9.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0001 Expires 12/24/12



Push or Faux Fur Throw Blankets

Big 50" x 60" Size!

Your Choice 777

Compare at \$19.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0002 Expires 12/24/12



Oversized Memory Foam Bath Mat

Compare at \$29.99

Size: 32" x 24"

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ACO COUPON 6293-0003 Expires 12/24/12



Women's Tank Sleep Dress or Shower Wrap

With headband

Your Choice 899

Compare up to \$29.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0004 Expires 12/24/12



Fasgo 2-Liter Bottle

- Assorted flavors
- Plus deposit

80¢

Reg. 99¢

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Butane BBQ Lighter

- Child resistant
- Refillable

99¢

Reg. \$1.99

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Uncle Rays Potato Chips

8.5 to 9-Oz.

5/\$5

Reg. \$1.49 Each

ACO COUPON 6293-0007 Expires 12/24/12



Bounty 8-Pack Basic Paper Towel

8-Pack Basic Paper Towel

599

Reg. \$7.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0008 Expires 12/24/12



HILLS BROS Coffee

33-Oz. Can

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150-Oz. Jug

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Melts snow & ice to -25° F

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Duraflame Fire Logs

6-Pack, 3-lb.

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See store for details. Not responsible for printer errors. Quantities limited on some items. Selection may vary. Some items not always as pictured. No rain checks. © 2012 ACO Hardware, Inc.

OUR VIEWS

Holiday spirit More important to hold family close

As we celebrate another Christmas and holiday season, it is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love.

However, not everyone has that luxury. Because of a gunman in Newtown, Conn., the families of some 26 victims — including 20 first-graders from Sandy Hook Elementary School — are spending the holiday season grieving, planning and attending funerals. They're not opening presents or attending religious services or sitting down to the family meal.

And it isn't only victims of violence who don't have their families with them at this special time of year, a season built around family and love and understanding and peace.

Many people, for reasons as varied as medical and financial, don't have families around them with whom to spend the holidays. They crowd into our food pantries and soup kitchens, our churches and our shelters. Or, even worse, have no place at all to go.

Thankfully, there are heroes determined to ease the pain and suffering. There are people reaching out to the survivors in Connecticut, showing support in any small way possible. There are people standing at Salvation Army Kettles, ringing bells, and, of course there are those responding to the bells by dropping in their donations.

Countless stories crop up every year of these good-deed doers. And there are countless more about whom stories never see the light of day, folks who help simply because they want to, and can.

This is also not the season to focus solely on the down side, because there is so much good to go with it. The Newtown massacre is about the victims, but also about the heroes. The principal who flung herself at the gunman in an attempt to stop him. The teacher who shielded her students with her own body, and paid the price for her protection with her life. The students themselves, who found their way out of darkness and into the arms of those who love them the most.

Each year, we rouse ourselves during the holiday season to listen to the better angels of our nature. It doesn't always take a tragedy of the proportions of Newtown to make us feel the love.

But in the wake of that tragedy, it seems even more important than ever to remember what this season is all about.

Give the gift of information

Time is running out. Christmas is right around the corner. If you are like us, you probably have a bit of shopping left to do. You'll likely be scrambling over the next couple days, trying to get something for those few people on your list who might be difficult to buy for. You know, the ones who already have everything, or the ones for whom you're not quite sure what to get.

We have a suggestion for you if one or more of those people live locally. Give them the gift that will keep on giving for the rest of the year. A gift that — week in and week out — will inform them about what's happening in their town. What the city council or township board is up to. What policies are being put into place by the local school board. How the high school sports teams are doing. Where and what crimes are happening in their community. Why construction barrels are popping up down their street. Who their neighbors are and what they're up to. What kinds of businesses are in town, and what kind of deals they are offering.

That and much more is exactly what they'll get with a gift subscription to this newspaper.

O&E Media newspapers have been covering western Wayne County and portions of Oakland County for generations. We know our towns — Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield, Canton, Clawson, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Huntington Woods, Livonia, Milford, Northville, Novi, New Hudson, Pleasant Ridge, Redford, Royal Oak, Southfield, South Lyon, Wayne, Westland. In fact, we know our towns as well as anyone, and we're dedicated to making sure our readers know them, too.

We are dedicated to helping our towns thrive and remain great places to live and work. Not only do we continue to produce quality print products that are delivered to our subscribers, but we also have a growing presence on the Web at www.hometownlife.com. Our journalists are out on the street, using technology and social media to report the news that's important to our readers, and making we're doing it on a daily basis.

However, we also need the support of the community. Purchasing a gift subscription for a special person in your life helps us continue our mission. And, unlike a tie or pair of socks that might get tossed in a drawer and forgotten, a gift subscription to this newspaper will be delivered to their homes every week for the rest of the year.

A subscription costs just a few bucks a month and for new subscribers we'll throw in a \$10 gift card to a local store, which might just help with the rest of your shopping list. And you can even do it over the phone by calling (866) 887-2737.

The entire O&E Media organization wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. We are proud to serve this community, and are privileged to have you as a reader in print and on the web.



COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you want for Christmas?

We asked this of children in Redford, Westland and Garden City.



"I want snap-back hats, clothes and money and a phone, a better one than I have now."

Zack Orsette
 Garden City



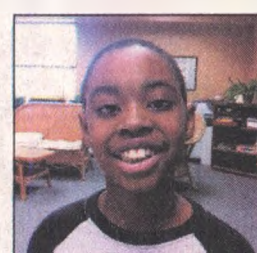
"I want a tablet, just a tablet, and some clothes from Aeropostle, Justice and Hollister."

Hannah Bolton
 Garden City



"I want ice skates so I can go skating and I need tickets to go to the indoor rink."

Nina Tilley
 Westland



"I want a Wii U system and a 3DXL. These are awesome games that you can play whenever and wherever you want."

Jael Snowden



"Ice skates and roller skates mostly. That's all I want."

Mason Tilley
 Westland



"I want an Air Hogs Hover Assault. It's a very cool airplane with wheels and little balls that shoot out."

Justin McCullough



"I want an Xbox 360 from Santa. I also want Blades Blades; it's a battle toy. I have been a good boy. I can't wait for Santa!"

Jeremiah Robinson



"I want a laptop because my computer at home does not work. I really want a computer to play music, play IXL math, Raz Kids, and play games over break."

Asia Waters

What is the best Christmas present you ever received?

This question was asked at the Livonia Civic Center Library, the Canton Public Library and the Plymouth District Library.



"A Kindle. I like the fact that I can take it with me when I want to read."

Tom Ziober,
 Livonia



"About four years ago, my mother was ill with a serious illness, but it turned out well and she got healthy. She was really weak, but she recovered."

Mark Gorey,
 Livonia



"My first bicycle. It was fun and I used it to travel."

Walter Lyzohub,
 Livonia



"When I was a little kid it was a little stove and refrigerator set, and the dishes that went with it."

Phyllis Moran
 Canton



"A trip to swim with the dolphins in the Bahamas that I got from my parents when I was in fourth grade."

Natalie Morello
 Plymouth



"Probably a watch. It has a calendar and it's still working fine."

Al Radze,
 Florida



"I got a new BMW as a birthday and Christmas present from my husband this year."

Erin Brockenshire
 Plymouth



"I can't narrow it down to just one. Every year is good."

Nancy Smith
 Canton



"My engagement ring."

Donna Fairley
 Plymouth



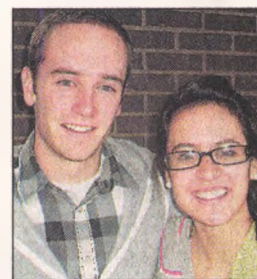
"My wife knitted me a blanket."

Mike Callahan
 Canton



"My husband got me a trip to the Bahamas. We left on Christmas morning."

Barbara Nichols
 Canton



"We're going to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and our parents bought our tickets home."

Logan and Heidi Lewis
 Canton

Bring Joe's Home for the Holidays!



Wine & Beer Now Available at Joe's Meat & Seafood
Featured Sale Wines Only Available at this location

Joe's Meat & Seafood

33066 W. Seven Mile Road • Livonia, MI • 248-477-4323 • Hours: Mon.- Sat. 9am-8pm • Sun. Dec. 23 9am-8pm • Mon, Dec. 24 9am-6pm

 <p>14 Hands Cabernet \$10⁹⁹ <i>Suggested pairing</i> USDA Choice Angus N.Y. Strips</p>	 <p>Francis Coppola Claret \$13⁹⁹ <i>Excellent with</i> USDA Choice Angus Beef Tenderloin Roast</p>	 <p>Root 1 Cabernet \$9⁹⁹ <i>Suggested pairing</i> Standing Rib Roast</p>	 <p>A by Acacia Pinot Noir \$12⁹⁹ <i>Try it with</i> Crown Roast of Lamb or Pork</p>
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MEAT

Now Taking Orders for... Standing Rib Roasts, Pork Crown Roasts, Lamb Crown Roasts, Tenderloin Roasts and Holiday Hams

<p>USDA Premium Choice Angus Standing Rib Roast \$8⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>USDA Premium Choice Angus Beef Tenderloin Roast \$14⁹⁹ lb. Save \$3.00 lb.</p>	<p>All Natural Fresh Crown Roast of Pork \$3⁴⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>All Natural Fresh Crown Roast of Lamb \$14⁹⁹ lb. Save \$5.00 lb.</p>
<p>USDA Premium Choice Angus New York Strip Steaks \$8⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>USDA Choice All Natural American Leg of Lamb \$5⁴⁹ lb. Save \$1.50 lb.</p>	<p>Lamb Shanks \$5⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>Fresh All Natural Pork Boneless Roast or Bone-In Center Cut Chops \$2⁶⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>
<p>House Specialty Fresh City Chicken \$6⁹⁹ lb. Pork & Veal • Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>Joe's Fresh Housemade Hot or Sweet Italian Sausage \$2⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>Dearborn Kielbasa Sausage Holiday, Smoked, and Fresh Polish \$4²⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>Alexander & Hornung Honey Spiral Ham <small>Made in Michigan</small> \$2⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>

 <p>Double Decker Pinot Grigio \$9⁹⁹ <i>Try it with</i> Red King Crab Legs or Lobster Tail</p>	 <p>Cline Zinfandel \$8⁹⁹ <i>Suggested pairing</i> Pork Roast or Pork Chops</p>	 <p>Kendall Jackson Chardonnay \$12⁹⁹ <i>Excellent with</i> Fresh Atlantic or Wild Sockeye Salmon</p>	 <p>Rudolf Muller Riesling \$9⁹⁹ <i>Suggested pairing</i> Honey Spiral Ham</p>
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SEAFOOD

Stop In and Try "Fruitti Di Mare"...A Fresh Seafood Salad

<p>North American Lobster Tails \$5⁹⁹ ea. 4 oz. avg. weight • Save \$1.00 ea.</p>	<p>For All Your Holiday Parties!</p> <p>Made to Order Fresh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrimp Trays • Shrimp-Crab Trays <p>Traditional Holiday Smoked Favorites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoked Salmon • Smoked White Fish • Smoked Great Lakes Herring 	<p>Fresh Cooked Ready to Eat Large Shrimp Save \$2.00 lb. \$12⁹⁹ lb.</p>
<p>Red King Crab Legs \$16⁹⁹ lb. Whole Legs • 20-24 ct. • Save \$2.00 lb.</p>		<p>Jumbo Shrimp Save \$2.00 lb. \$19⁹⁹ lb.</p>
<p>Joe's Seafood Dips & Spreads \$6⁹⁹ each All Varieties • Save \$1.00 ea.</p>		<p>Colossal Shrimp Save \$2.00 lb. \$25⁹⁹ lb.</p>
<p>Wild Caught Sockeye Salmon \$13⁹⁹ lb. Save \$3.00 lb.</p>	<p>Snow Crab Clusters \$9⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.</p>	<p>Fresh Atlantic Salmon \$6⁹⁹ lb. Save \$2.00 lb.</p>

Joe's Meat & Seafood Wishes You and Your Family a Happy Holiday!



Bring Joe's Home for the Holidays!

Pick up one of our own Fresh Fruit or Gourmet Gift Baskets. Gourmet chocolates, gift certificates or a poinsettia to complete your holiday shopping. Every table needs a festive holiday centerpiece. Let our designer create something beautiful just for you!



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 HOURS: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9 AM - 8 PM • SUNDAY DEC. 23 9 AM - 8 PM • MONDAY DEC. 24 9 AM-6 PM

PRODUCE

Spanish Clementines \$4.99 5 lb. box	Delmonte Cantaloupes 2/\$4	New Crop California Navel Oranges 99¢ ^{72 ct.} lb	California Broccoli 2/\$3	Louisiana Sweet Potatoes U.S. #1 69¢ lb	California Romaine Hearts 2/\$4
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JOE'S MEAT & SEAFOOD

See The Previous Page for Our Complete Meat and Seafood Holiday Ad!

USDA Premium Choice Angus NY Strip Steak \$8.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb	USDA Choice All Natural American Leg of Lamb or Lamb Shank \$5.49 lb Save \$1.50 lb \$5.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb	Dearborn Kielbasa Sausage Holiday, Smoked, & Fresh Polish \$4.29 lb	Fresh Cooked Ready To Eat Large Shrimp \$12.99 lb Save \$2.00 lb	Wild Caught Sockeye Salmon \$13.99 lb Save \$3.00 lb
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DELI

Hoffman's Hard Salami Save \$1.50 lb \$5.49 lb Cheddar Cheese Save \$2.50 lb \$6.99 lb	Boar's Head Ovengold Turkey \$7.49 lb Save \$2.50 lb	Dietz & Watson Corned Beef \$9.99 lb Save \$3.00 lb	Joe's Signature Turkey Pastrami \$5.99 lb Save \$2.00 lb
Aged All Natural Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese \$14.99 lb Save \$5.00 lb	Boar's Head Muenster Cheese \$4.99 lb Save \$2.50 lb	Joe's Signature Honey Smoked Roasted Ham \$5.99 lb Save \$2.00 lb	Krakus Ham \$5.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb

"Bring Joe's Home for the Holidays"
 FRESH DECORATED WREATHS AND GREENERY. BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS. GLORIOUS GOURMET & BOUNTIFUL FRESH FRUIT BASKETS. GOURMET CHOCOLATE AND EXQUISITE CENTERPIECES FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TABLE... COME IN TO SEE OUR AMAZING SELECTION!

GROCERY

XOCHITL Holiday Tortilla Chips \$3.99 Bag
C.F. Burger Egg Nog Quart Size • All Varieties 2/\$5
Kitchen Basics Cooking Stocks 32 oz. • All Varieties 4/\$10
French's French Fried Onions 6 oz. Canister 2/\$7
Heinz Homestyle Gravy 12 oz. Jar • All Varieties 3/\$5
Reddi Whip 6.5 oz. • All Varieties 2/\$5

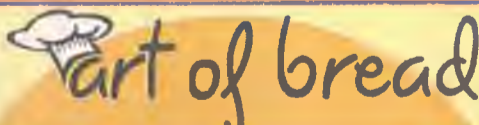
Everyday GOURMET

Chef's Brown Sugar Honey Glazed Spiral Ham Save \$1.00 lb \$6.99
Individual Mini Quiche Florentine or Lorraine Save \$1.00 ea. \$3.99 each
Sweet Potato Casserole Save \$1.00 lb \$4.99 lb
Scalloped Potatoes \$5.99 lb
Cranberry Brie En Croute \$10.99 each

BAKERY

All of Our Treats are Baked and Prepared at Joe's
 Order your Wreath Cake, Red Velvet, Yule Log, Peppermint, Cheesecake Bars, Gingerbread Cupcakes, Holiday Decorated Pops, Egg Nog Creme Brulee, Butter Cookies, Kolaski, Fruit Cake & Assorted Mini Pastry Trays

JOE'S GOURMET CATERING & EVENTS
Holiday Season Is Here!
 Oh my! Don't panic over planning that special holiday cocktail party or end of the year corporate event. This is the perfect time of the year to appreciate your employees and spend time with family & friends. Joe's Gourmet Catering & Events will take all the pressure and panic out of planning! Visit us at www.Joesgourmetcatering.com or call Laura at 248-477-4333 x226



Stop in and Taste the Difference of Fresh Baked Breads.
 Order your holiday breads and rolls early for easy pick up.

- Stollen
- Italian
- Wheat
- Vienna
- Egg Bread
- Triple Berry
- Apple Cobbler
- Pumpernickel
- Cranberry Walnut
- Cinnamon Raisin

CAFE

Joe's In Store Fresh Roasted Coffee Holiday Flavors on Sale:
 "Candy Cane, Nutty Ole St. Nick, or Gingerbread"
\$8.99 lb
 Save \$1.00 lb

Gourmet Gifts and Fresh Fruit Baskets for Everyone on Your List

- Season Sampler Basket.....\$39.99
- Holiday Spirits Baskets.....\$59.99
- Nut Trays.....\$29.99
- Gift Wrapped Candy & Nut Boxes Starting at.....\$8.99

Festive Poinsettias
 Starting at **\$3.99** each
 While Supplies Last
 Don't Forget to Pick Up a Fresh Centerpiece for Your Holiday Hostess

HOLIDAY WINE PICKS

Martin Ray Cabernet Save \$6.00 \$17.99
Leelanau Winter White Save \$2.00 \$5.99
Justin Cabernet Save \$6.00 \$19.99
Chateau St. Michelle Riesling Save \$2.00 \$8.99
Founders Beer on Sale Six Pack Only! \$9.99 +DEP
Leese Fitch Wines All Varietals! \$7.99

Joe's Produce Thanks You for Your Patronage & Wishes You & Yours a Happy Holiday!



Ashley Baker (No. 13) of Salem attempts to dribble past Plymouth's Kylie Robb (No. 4) on Tuesday night.

Wildcats nab first victory

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Jada Woody scored 20 points Tuesday to lift Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team to a hard-fought 35-32 victory over Salem in a KLAA crossover contest.

The win was the first for the Wildcats after four tough losses. Salem is still looking for its initial win of the season, taking a 0-5 record into the holiday break.

"We had a hard time getting in our rhythm today because our big players were in foul trouble from the get-go," Plymouth coach Bob de Bear said. "I give Salem a ton of credit. They fought hard. It was one of those Park rivalry games."

He added that the way the Wildcats broke open a close game in the fourth to get past the visiting Rocks could help down the road. Salem hung on 25-24 after three quarters and the teams traded the lead in the final quarter.

"It's a nice thing to be able to go in and finish off a game, learn how to win close games," de Bear said.

Salem head coach Fred Thomann said his squad turned in a "great effort

Please see HOOPS, B2

Rocks win 'ugly game'

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

During his long tenure as Salem's varsity boys basketball coach, Bob Brodie has witnessed plenty of games against Park rivals that wouldn't make the highlight reel.

Tuesday's KLAA crossover contest at Plymouth fit right in with that assessment, with plenty of turnovers and off-the-mark shooting (about 30 percent for both teams).

It took a late surge from the Rocks to defeat the Wildcats, 39-37.

"You know it's always going to be a struggle," Brodie said. "We've played this game so many times, the rivalries between Canton, Plymouth and Salem. You expect that type of thing."

"It's not a real pretty game half the time. It's always an ugly game because the kids are playing so intensely."

One to forget

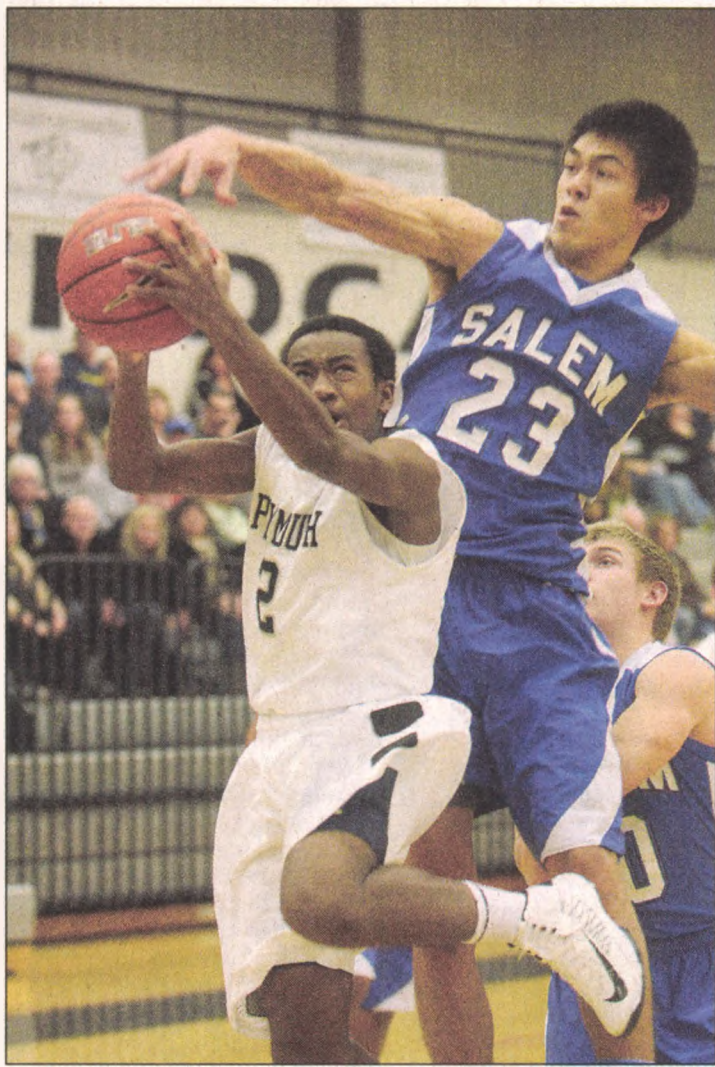
Holding a similar view, Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup lamented the lack of energy his team displayed, primarily over the first three quarters — which ended in a 26-26 tie.

"We didn't bring energy for three quarters of the game," Soukup said. "We stood around. The fourth quarter was played at a pretty good pace, a pretty good level."

"But the first three quarters of basketball I wouldn't clip it and send to anybody."

Both rivals turned up the full-court pressure in the final quarter, which featured Salem taking a 37-30 lead with 3:20 left.

That led to a rally by the Wildcats, storming back to even the score with a minute left on a layup by forward Deji Adebisi (six



Salem's Chris Dierker (No. 23) shows his jumping ability as he tries to thwart a shot by Plymouth's Randall Aikins (No. 2) on Tuesday night.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

points, six rebounds).

The Rocks (3-1 overall) answered with 35 seconds remaining to take the lead for good. Forward Chris Dierker fired a pass to forward Cam Werner for a layup.

Plymouth guard Jake Divens dribbled the ball, waiting for a good look to either shoot or pass, but the chance never came thanks to defensive shadowing by guard Kevin Mack.

Strong finish

Only five seconds were left when the Wildcats

called a timeout to set up an inbounds play. Salem wouldn't budge that time, either, as the final seconds elapsed.

"Our defensive intensity had to step up," said Mack, who scored nine points.

"The game was close and we knew it was going to be a tough fourth quarter. We wanted to step it up and grind out the win."

According to Brodie, "The key was our total team defensive energy. We upped our pressure a little bit ...

Please see UGLY GAME, B2

WAYNE COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chiefs, 'Cats 2-3 at county meet

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Canton's varsity wrestling team came on strong to overtake Plymouth for second place at Saturday's Wayne County Championship at the HYPE Recreation Center in Dearborn Heights.

The Chiefs finished with 158 points to Plymouth's 156, both

trailing tournament champion Livonia Franklin's 180 points.

Salem and Livonia Clarenceville tied for 18th place with 37.5 points.

"We trailed Plymouth entering the placing round and we knew that we had a chance to surpass them if we had an excellent round," Canton head coach Cory Mancuso said. "We didn't have

the perfect round that we wanted, but we did manage to win five out of our last nine matches to finish in second. My coaching staff and I are very pleased with our team's performance."

Finishing first in their weight classes for the Chiefs were: Richard DeMarois at 119, defeating Plymouth's Trey Berry by a 2-0 score; 125-pounder Ben Grif-

fin, with a pin in 21 seconds over Dearborn Heights Annapolis's Austin Hussing; and returning state champion Alec Pantaleo at 145, with a 19-6 major decision over Wayne Memorial's Allen Parker.

Other Canton placers included Ryan Siegler (fifth at 130), Marc

Please see COUNTY, B3



Goalie Rich Guglielmi makes a save during a Plymouth game last season. The 2012 grad will face Salem's alums on Friday night.

Hockey alums up for benefit game

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

They'll be traveling from near and far to compete in Friday's alumni hockey game between Plymouth and Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center. "Being able to get back on the ice with the boys is going to be awesome," said Plymouth goaltender and 2012 grad Rich Guglielmi. "I can't wait to

be in the locker room with my former teammates."

Also pumped up is Salem 2009 alum and current assistant coach Dave Russell, a four-year varsity player who was a forward for the Rocks and considered the "hardest-working player" by head coach Ryan Ossennmacher. "I heard about the alumni game

Please see ALUMNI, B4

Letter perfect

Plymouth's Foster happy with college choice

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Ever since Zoe Foster and her family can remember, she's worked tirelessly to excel on the soccer pitch.

Foster, 17, has done just that since she was a little kid, including right on up to her current club and high school teams — the Michigan Hawks and Plymouth Wildcats, respectively.

Now, the high scoring senior forward/midfielder will have the chance to keep up that hard-driving pace at Siena Heights University. Last week, the Plymouth senior made it official by signing her national letter of intent to go to the Adrian (Mich.) college.

"This all started when she was 6 years old, playing club soccer," said her father, Neil Foster of Can-



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Zoe Foster will go to Siena Heights.

ton. "We've gone to tournaments all over the country and it's all towards this goal, for her to play at the next level. I'm definitely excited about this."

So is Plymouth varsity girls soccer coach Jeff Neschich, who attended the signing ceremony.

Please see SIGNING, B4

Wings alums in O'Rourke benefit game

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association in association with the Joe Kocur Foundation for Children will be staging a charity hockey game at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Compuware Arena to benefit the family of fallen West Bloomfield police officer Patrick O'Rourke.

A team composed of local law enforcement officers will also be participating in the contest, while special guest vocalist Karen Newman will be on hand to sing *The Star-Spangled Banner* prior to puck drop.

There also will be a 50-50 raffle and a chance for fans to bid on game-worn Detroit Red Wings alumni jerseys.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased at www.JoeKocurHockey.Eventbrite.com or at the Plymouth police department.

Among former Red Wings slated to play in the game are former "Grind Line" members Kocur, Darren McCarty, Kirk Maltby and Kris Draper; NHL Hall of Famers Dino Ciccarelli, Larry Murphy and Igor Larionov; and former stars Chris Osgood, John Ogrodnick, Jiri Fischer and Foster Hewitt Memorial Award recipient Mickey Redmond.

Honorary coaches for the Wings alums will be Hall of Famers Ted Lindsay and Bill Gadsby.

Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to *Observer* sports editor Tim Smith, who can be reached at (734) 469-4128 or tsmith@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Sunday editions of the *Observer* is 10 p.m. Friday. The deadline for Thursday editions is 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Jeff Jones pitcher clinic

Detroit Tigers pitching coach, along with the Livonia Stevenson baseball program, will stage two sessions of pitching clinics Sunday, Jan. 20, at the high school fieldhouse.

Session 1 (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. until noon, followed by Session 2 (13-18) from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Former pro pitcher Dave Marcon, a member of the Stevenson coaching staff and owner/scout for Indy Pro Showcase, will also assist Jones in covering the proper throwing mechanics, fielding, warmup and drills for pitchers.

The cost is \$40 person. For more information, call Stevenson head baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623 or email Berry3724@aol.com.

Canton boys fall short

Canton dropped a 38-35 decision to host Northville Tuesday night in a KLAAs crossover varsity boys basketball game.

PREP HOOPS
The Chiefs (2-2) led 12-8 after one quarter, but the Mustangs bounced back in the second to lead 21-19 at halftime.

That edge held up for the rest of the game.

Jordan Nobles led Canton with 13 points. Greg Williams tallied 10 points while Scott Gring contributed five points and a team-leading eight rebounds.

Canton will host Birmingham Seaholm at 7 p.m. Friday in the final pre-holiday contest.

PCA hot streak

Plymouth Christian Academy's offense clicked on all cylinders Tuesday against Genesee Christian, as the Eagles earned a 70-58 victory. Three Eagles hit double figures in scoring to offset a 35-point night by Genesee's Hunter Shelby.

Leading PCA (3-0) with 16 points was Alex Huber. Matt Sumner contributed 14 points and eight rebounds while Daniel Jipping tallied 13 points and eight rebounds.

On Saturday afternoon, PCA earned a 49-41 win over Lenawee Christian. Mick Noel paced the Eagles with 18 points.

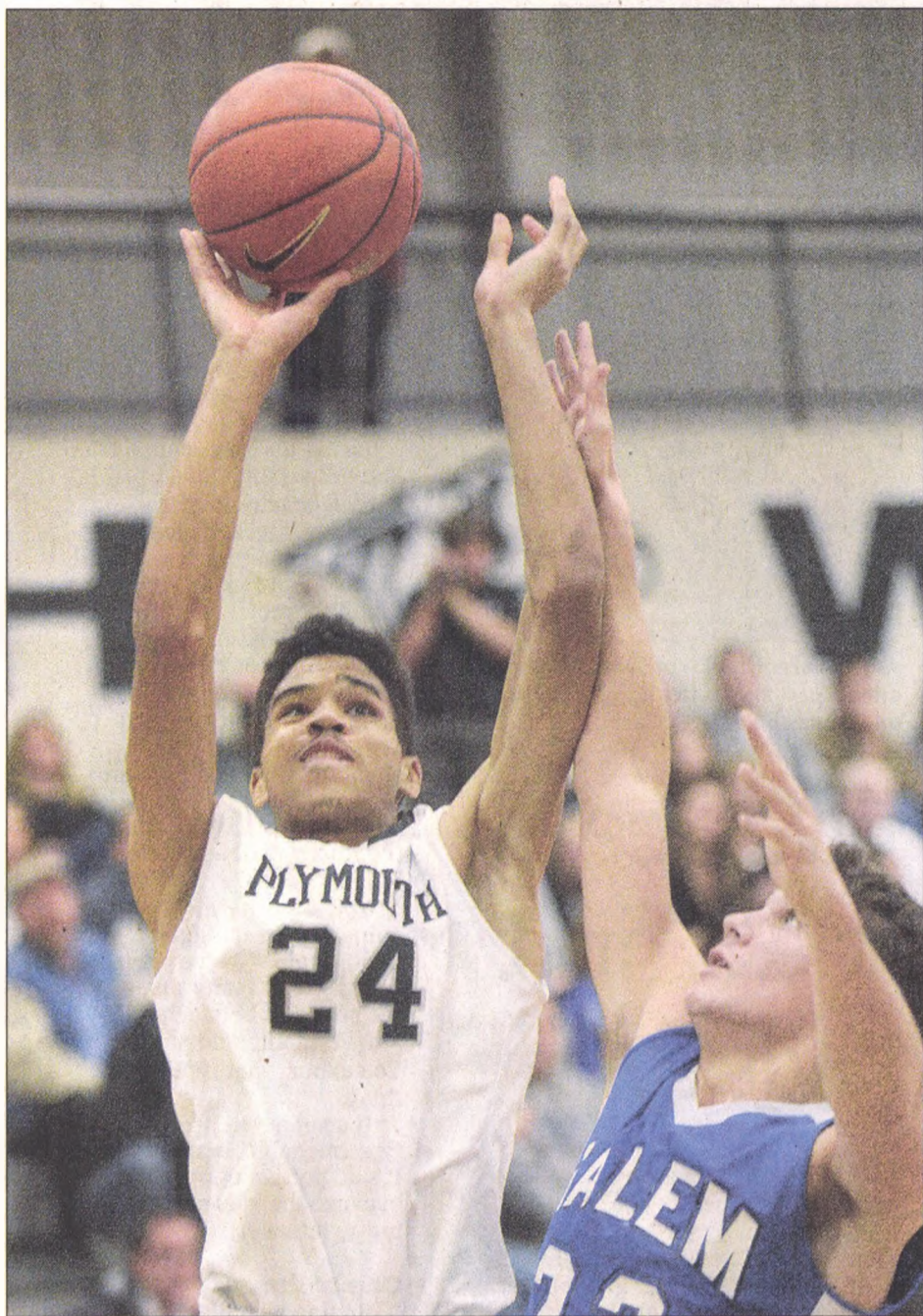
Northville was led by Kendra Brenner and Brittany Berhulka, with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

"I thought we got out to a great start," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "We sort of hit a wall (the) end of the first into the second. The kids did an outstanding job in the fourth, holding them to five points."

Samulski cited the team defense and strong work on the glass. "I thought the kids were great on the boards all game," he said. "Defensively the girls should be proud of what they are getting done and that's a credit to them and their hard work."

The Chiefs will visit Farmington Hills Mercy at 7 p.m. Thursday in the final game before the holiday break.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking to sink a shot Tuesday is Plymouth's Shane Clark (No. 24) while Salem's Cam Werner (No. 22) closes in on defense.

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

tonight. It came down to making one more shot and we just couldn't get it to go."

Thomann said his team is improving and on track to being "a very good basketball team this year."

The Wildcats stayed in the game in the second half thanks to Woody, who scored all five of her team's points in the third quarter. She also connected on three clutch free throws in the final 2:45 to help keep Salem in the rear-view mirror.

"I know she (Woody) was good, she got to the rim a few times and created that contact," de Bear said. "She had a great game."

Woody hit 7-of-12 free throws and pulled down six rebounds.

The coach also said 6-5 junior center Shelby

Cheston (eight points, eight rebounds) chipped in with some important put-backs and rebounds.

Top Salem contributors were forward Breanne Beaver (eight points, eight rebounds), Jamura Wilson (six points), Haley Rogers and Hannah Nowaske (five points each).

Chiefs prevail

A big fourth quarter Tuesday lifted Canton to a 45-36 win over Northville in a KLAAs crossover girls contest.

The visiting Chiefs outscored the Mustangs 14-5 in the final quarter to break a 31-31 deadlock.

Leading Canton (3-2) was Paige Aresco with 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Taylor Hunley added 11 points and four boards. Other players chipping in included Rachel Winters (eight points, three steals) and Alanna Brown (seven points).

UGLY GAME

Continued from page B1

cut off their passing lanes at times."

Salem hit only 12-of-42 shots from the floor (29 percent) and forward Chris Dierker made just 4-of-12 field-goal attempts. But Dierker did manage 10 points, along with seven rebounds and five blocked shots.

Austin Whitted and Nate Sass collected seven and six points, respectively, for the Rocks.

Plymouth was paced by Brendan Swanson and Josh Priebe, each tallying eight points.

"Salem had one more make in the bag than we did tonight," Soukup said.

Meanwhile, Mack had another reason for wanting his team to ward off the Wildcats, who dropped to 2-2 on the season.

"I just wanted to come back from the Canton loss (Friday)," Mack said. "I didn't want to be last in the Park. We've got a lot of pride here."

"We had a great year last year and we want to keep it going."

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Going up for a basket Tuesday night is Salem's Connor Cole (No. 32), while Plymouth's Deji Adebisi tries to stymie the attempt.

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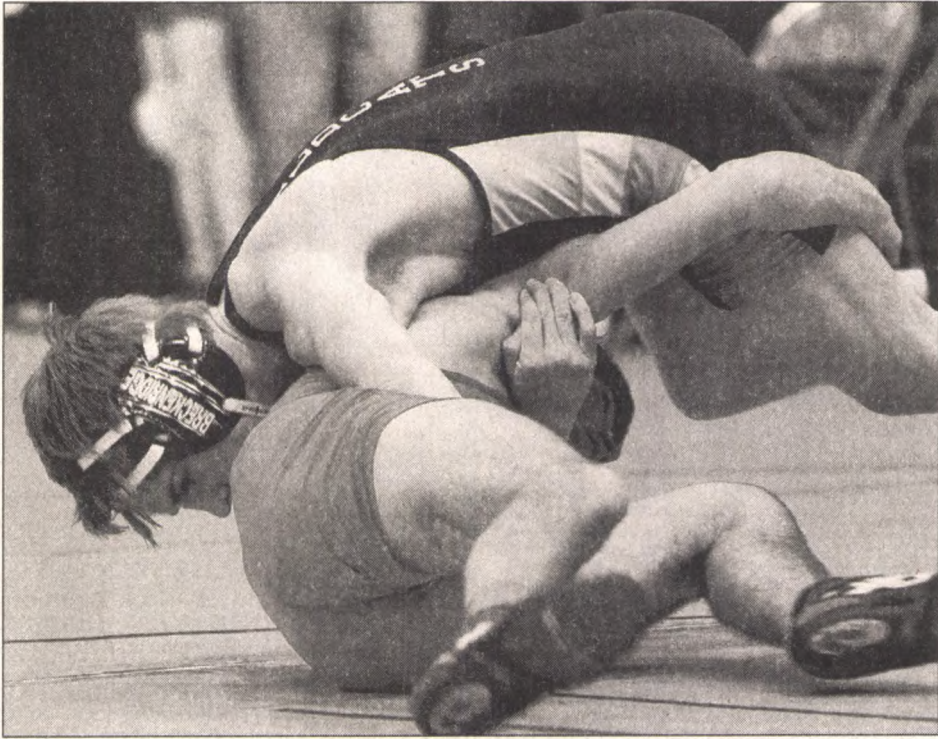
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ROB SHAVER

Taking down an unidentified Canton opponent at Saturday's Wayne County Championships is Plymouth's Alec Breckenridge (top), who won the championship at 140.

COUNTY

Continued from page B1

Przyblyski (third at 135), Jevon Hill (sixth at 171), Allan Beckman (eighth at 189) and K.J. Wooley (fourth at 215).

DeMarois was named the Lower Weight MVP; Griffin is 13-for-13 this season, winning each time via the pin.

Mancuso noted that Pantaleo won his third county championship by recording 44 takedowns in four matches.

Plymouth power

For the Wildcats, firsts were registered by Mohamad Youssef at 103 (with a 17-5 major decision over Franklin's Jack Newa) and Alec Breckenridge at 140 (a 7-2 decision over Riverview's Brandon Garcia). Youssef and Breckenridge remain undefeated this season.

Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said his

team continues to show talent up and down the lineup, with Trey Berry (112) and Jon Conn (135) falling short in the finals and finishing second.

Others placing for Plymouth were Hussein Youssef (fifth at 145), Spencer Schiftra (seventh at 125) and Joey Shaver (seventh at 160).

"(Shaver) has been wrestling very well this season," Guernsey said. "He worked very hard in the off-season to get to the point that he could anchor our upper weights and the hard work has paid off. He had a real good shot of winning in the quarterfinals on Saturday against a tough Woodhaven wrestler." Guernsey added that freshman Dylan Dwyer "looked strong, but fell short of placing."

Salem recap

Finishing second for Salem was Tyler Gross at 171. He defeated

Wayne Memorial's Sam Ekanem earlier, but lost 8-5 in the finals to Woodhaven's Derrick Hillman.

"I think if Tyler comes out more aggressive in the first, he can turn things around," Israel said.

The Rocks had a fifth-place finisher in 189-pounder Mitchell Gross. He pinned Trenton's Tyler Purcell in 4:42.

"Again, with a few tweaks, I think Mitchell can do great things this year," Israel said.

Going 0-2 at 112 was Alex Arble, but Israel said "his record doesn't reflect on how good he can be."

Israel said the rest of the young squad went to the New Boston Huron Duals, "had some tough matches and overall did well without some of the starters in the lineup."

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PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

WAYNE COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS Dec. 15 at HYPE REC. CENTER

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Franklin, 180 points; 2. Canton, 158; 3. Plymouth, 156; 4. Westland John Glenn, 143; 5. Trenton, 124; 6. Wyandotte, 118; 7. Brownstown Woodhaven, 113.5; 8. Dearborn Fordson, 102; 9. Wayne Memorial, 98.5; 10. Belleville, 92.5; 11. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 84; 12. Riverview, 70; 13. Northville, 68; 14. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 56.5; 15. Romulus, 49; 16. Garden City, 45.5; 17. Lincoln Park, 39; 18. (tie) Livonia Clarenceville and Salem, 37.5; each; 20. Dearborn Divine Child, 30.5; 21. Grosse Pointe North, 30; 22. Livonia Stevenson, 29; 23. (tie) Dearborn Heights Robichaud and Highland Park, 23 each; 25. Grosse Ile, 19; 26. Romulus Summit Academy North, 18; 27. Grosse Pointe South, 7; 28. Dearborn, 1.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

103 pounds: Mohamad Youssef (Ply.) won by major decision over Jack Newa (LF), 17-5; **3rd place:** Lamont Cannon (HP) won by major dec. over Moody Nasser (DHC), 16-1; **5th place:** David Knapp (DHA) pinned Jim Behe (N'ville), 1:40; **7th:** Marina Goocher (Riv.) p. Jake Kurkowski (DDC), 3:27.

112: Kyle Gillies (WJG) won by technical fall over Nick Robertson (LF), 16-1; **3rd:** Austin Rice (Wyan.) won by major dec. over Shawn Cohan (DHA), 8-0; **5th:** Matt Horne (Wood.) p. Aly El Kalouby (DHC), 0:59; **7th:** Dominic Sanders (WM) dec. Ian Collier (Trenton), 6-4.

119: Richard DeMarois (Canton) dec. Trey Berry (Ply.), 2-0; **3rd:** Maverick Johnson (Trenton) dec. Austin Koehler (Belleville), 7-6; **5th:** Dylan McLeod (LP) dec. Tim Way (WM), 7-1; **7th:** Devin McClain (Wood.) p. Will Dunn (DDC), 2:06.

125: Ben Griffin (Canton) p. Austin Hussing (DHA), 0:21; **3rd:** Quinn Dupraw (WJG) dec. Joshua Vandyar (Bell.), 7-6; **5th:** Myles Burrage (Rom.) dec. James Rodgers (LP), 5-1; **7th:** Sean Chrislip (Wyan.) dec. Tyler Mulligan (WM), 5-4.

130: Dan Martinez (LF) won by major dec. over Hassam Ajami (DF), 18-7; **3rd:** Teddy Lossing (Riv.) won by default over Sejad Al-Hussain (DHC); **5th:** Ryan Siegler (Canton) dec. Jamonty Houze (Bell.), 5-4; **7th:** Brett Quinn

(WJG) dec. Spencer Compo (N'ville), 5-0. **135:** Quentin Santiago (Wyan.) won by major dec. over Jon Conn (Ply.), 13-2; **3rd:** Marc Przyblyski (Canton) won by tech. fall over Mikey Weiss (C'ville), 15-0; **5th:** Eddie Alcodray (DHC) dec. Kawan Lawrence (DHR), 11-5; **7th:** Quinn Chapman (LP) p. Mai MacDonald (DDC), 5:14.

140: Alec Breckenridge (Ply.) dec. Brandon Garcia (Riv.), 7-2; **3rd:** Moe Salame (DHC) dec. Kevin Hart (DDC), 5-4; **5th:** Tim Adkins (Wyan.) p. Joe Pila (DHA), 0:39; **7th:** Marcus Jordan (WM) p. Hunter Manke (Bell.), 4:56.

145: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) won by major dec. over Allen Parker (WM), 19-6; **3rd:** Victor Lindsey (DF) p. Paul Menth (GPN), 4:56; **5th:** Hussein Youssef (Ply.) dec. Tyler Solnikowski (LF), 7-2; **7th:** Tarek Bazzi (DHC) dec. Dakotah Martin (Riv.), 7-5.

152: Josh Wooten (Bell.) dec. Gabe Wykle (Trenton), 8-4; **3rd:** Fernando Marquez (Wyan.) won by injury default over Nick Frazier (LF); **5th:** Alex Coe (N'ville) dec. Andrew Lock (GPN), 4-2; **7th:** Ali Rashard (HP) p. Hassan Habboud (DF), 4:23.

160: Jordan Atienza (LF) p. Yayha Talab (DF), 4:42; **3rd:** Mickey Sutteen (Wood.) dec. Aaron Bibik (C'ville), 10-5; **5th:** Shane Danyko (Trenton) p. Will Herring (Bell.), 2:20; **7th:** Matt Wisniewski (GC) dec. Wilbur Mason (DHR), 9-8.

171: Derrick Hillman (Wood.) dec. Tyler Gross (Salem), 8-5; **3rd:** Sam Ekanem (WM) p. Bret Thurstman (LF), 1:54; **5th:** Hasam Ateyia (DF) p. Jevon Hill (Canton), 0:50; **7th:** Patrick Harbin (HP0 p. Matt Cylla (N'ville), 0:24.

189: Allen Steele (LF) won by major dec. over Joseph Chatman (Rom.), 12-1; **3rd:** Adam Druz (GC) dec. Chris Trombley (GI), 4-1; **5th:** Mitchell Gross (Salem) p. Tyler Purcell (Trenton), 4:42; **7th:** Shehab Natour (DF) won by major dec. over Allan Beckman (Canton), 8-0.

215: Jordan Brandon (WJG) p. Chris Gutmann (Wood.), 2:50; **3rd:** Donald Giese (GC) p. K.J. Wooley (Canton), 0:30; **5th:** Tyler Casteels (WM) p. Jakob Cain (DHA), 5:39; **7th:** Ryan Groves (C'ville) dec. Alex James (DHR), 8-2.

285: Dylan Morantes (WJG) p. Vincent Pizzo (Wyan.), 1:36; **3rd:** Tom Stackpoole (Trenton) dec. John Logan (Riv.), 4-3; **5th:** Aaron Mauldin (WM) dec. Jon Wines (N'ville), 8-3; **7th:** Mo Bazzi (DF) p. Nick Edney (GC), 3:45.

Seniors to lead Chiefs

A large senior contingent will be called upon to lead the Canton varsity boys swim and dive team during the 2012-13 season, which begins Friday at the Wildcat Relays.

SWIM PREVIEW

For head coach Dave Le, senior co-captains C.J. Hayes, Nick Valli and Mike Wilyard will provide leadership and versatility.



Also bringing plenty of experience are seniors Chris Jenner, Josh Joy, Nick Lacich, Saul Park, Souvik Roy, Ryan Sheeler, Alex Sogge, Kyle Spence and Brian Tolinski. There are 50 swimmers on the team, which will look to improve upon last season's record of 5-5 overall and 4-1 in the KLAAs South Division. "It will be a challenging and exciting year," Le said. "With so many new swimmers and divers, it will be fun to watch their progress and find which event is best for them." Friday's Wildcat Relays will take place beginning 6:30 p.m. Friday at Salem's pool.

John Glenn bowlers top Chiefs

Despite being undefeated, not is coming easy for the Westland John Glenn boys bowling team.

The Rockets improved to 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the KLAAs Central Division to beat host Canton at Super Bowl Lanes, 17-13.

Glenn won the Baker portion to take a 6-4 lead losing the first game, 192-238, but winning the second, 205-156, and the overall pin count by three, 397-394.

The Rockets then won the first match game, 986-955, but Canton started out hot in the second with strikes from all five bowlers to win 1,006-989.

But Glenn earned the victory by a mere 14 pins. Canton (3-2, 1-2) was led by Alex Champagne's 227-192-419 two-game set. **JOHN GLENN 20, PLYMOUTH 10:** A short-handed Westland John Glenn boys bowling team improved to 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the

KLAAs Central Division with Monday's win at the Novi Bowl.

Glenn won the total pin count with a 986-1,075-2,064. The loss drops Plymouth to 3-2 overall and 1-2 in the KLAAs Central.

SALEM 22, PLYMOUTH 8: On Friday, the Rocks (4-0) were paced by sophomore Nolan Rudis (225-203-428), junior Brandon Allison (205-196-401) senior anchor Kevin Williams (232 in final game) and senior Jimmy Bowling (199-194-393).

For the Wildcats, Donald Blevins rolled a high game of 212 while Evan Grimme posted a consistent 194 in each game for a 388 series.

Salem girls win big

Freshmen Katherine Kehoe (167-206-373) and Rachel Lopez (199-160-359) sparked the 3-1 Rocks to a 26-4 win over Plymouth Friday.

Chipping in was senior Kristin Larkins, with a 190 in her opening match.

The leading scorer for the match was Plymouth's Emily Fraser, who posted a 182-217-399 series. Caitlyn Webb tallied 184 in her second game.

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Stingy Wildcats keep rolling

Plymouth's varsity hockey team handed Hartland its first loss of the season as the Wildcats earned a hard-fought 3-0 road victory.

The Wildcats killed off 10 penalties, including three five-on-three disadvantages, and sophomore goalie Eric Vandenberg made 26 saves to give Plymouth its second consecutive shutout victory. The result improved Plymouth's overall record to 7-1-1.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy and we didn't help ourselves by taking 10 penalties," head coach Gerry Vento said, "but I tip my hat to our penalty killers, especially our goalie, Eric. He was our best penalty killer, and best player on the ice tonight."

Senior forward Nick Schultz opened the scoring in the first period with his 12th goal of the season, on a play set up by junior forwards Mike Schultz and Zack Tavierne. Mike Schultz banked in his 11th goal of the season, a power-play tally early in the second period, assisted by Nick Schultz and senior defenseman Dean Gunther.

Later in the period, senior forward Jordan Lopetrone scored his third of the season, set up by junior Conor Browne and senior Spencer Godin.

"I thought we did a good job of controlling the play when it was five-on-five, and hopefully the players realize you can't game plan to kill off 10 penalties in order to win a game," Vento added. "One thing I was very happy with was our compete level. I think they knew this was a measuring stick game and we battled hard."

Aided by the power-play chances, the Eagles outshot Plymouth 26-25.

'Cats rout Lake Orion

The Wildcats blitzed Lake Orion on Saturday for a 9-0 victory in a mercy-shortened game at the Arctic Edge Arena.

Senior forwards Nick Schultz and Mitch Claggett scored in the first 1:03 of the game, forcing Lake Orion to call a timeout. The Wildcats never looked back.

Schultz finished with four goals and three assists in the contest. His line mate and brother, junior Mike Schultz, accumulated six assists. Claggett finished the game with a hat trick and two assists.

"Obviously, getting off to a quick start was a key to the game, but I was very happy with the way we stayed focused on putting a team away when the opportunity presented itself," head coach Gerry Vento said. "It seems like we are playing with a lot of confidence and having fun."

The Wildcats outshot Lake Orion 23-6 in the two-period game. Sophomore goalie Jared Maddock earned his second shutout of the season.

Rocks rally to win

In what Salem head boys hockey coach Ryan Ossenmacher called his team's "grittiest game of the year," the Rocks rallied in the third period for a 5-4 victory over South Lyon last Friday night at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Senior forward Alek Zultowski was in on the scoring of every goal, with one marker and four assists.

The Rocks trailed 4-3 after two periods but drew even on a goal by Justin Katulski, from Zultowski and Jason Newel.

The winner followed, with Zultowski converting a feed from captain Kyle Downey.

Newel (one goal, two assists) scored in the first, from Noah Saad and Zultowski. Salem's next two tallies, both in the second, were netted by Downey (from Zultowski and Jake Sealy) and Sealy, from Newel and Zultowski.

Salem outshot the Lions 29-24, with Parker Godfrey making 20 stops for the victory.

"Our players battled very hard throughout against a very good South Lyon team," said Ossenmacher, whose team will host Plymouth at 8:30 p.m. Friday.

That game is the third in a triple-header (following the Plymouth-Salem prep teams at 5:30 p.m. and alumni teams at 7 p.m.). Fans are encouraged to bring canned good items to PCC for admission to the first two games, with those items to be distributed by Gleaners Food Bank. There will be a \$5 charge for the varsity game, however.

Salem also played Livonia Franklin on Wednesday, but that took place after this issue of the Observer went to press.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior Zoe Foster (front) signs her national letter of intent to play women's soccer at Siena Heights University. Standing behind her (from left) are Saints head coach Scott Oliver, parents Neil and Daren Foster, Plymouth girls soccer coach Jeff Neschich and district co-athletic director Sue Heinzman.

SIGNING

Continued from page B1

"It's excellent for her to sign with a university this early," Neschich said. "She's well deserving of this honor. She's had a great career here at Plymouth High School."

Pressure points

According to Zoe Foster, one of five current Plymouth players already lined up to play college soccer, getting the official paperwork done and over with is good because "I get to plan now, I know where I'm going so it definitely takes the pressure off."

The 5-5, 130-pounder knows something about pressure. With the Michigan Hawks 96 Black team, she was a finalist in this year's U-16 Disney Showcase. Earlier in her club career, she helped teams win the Mead Cup, Jefferson Cup and Crew Cup.

Don't forget her freshman season at Plymouth, when she scored the winning goals in the district and regional finals to spark the Wildcats' march to the Division 1 finals. By the way, she played in that tournament with a cast on her arm.

Foster's speed, zig-zagging creativity and fine touch around the goal appealed to Siena Heights women's soccer coach Scott Oliver, who was on hand at the signing ceremony.

"On the field there's definitely an explosion there," said Oliver, who began recruiting Foster when she was a sophomore. "She definitely has all the ball skills and that dynamic ability to take over a game and make great plays."

He noted that Foster will have "every opportunity" to see significant playing time for the Saints as a freshman, whether at forward or as an attacking midfielder.

"She'll definitely be in one of our attacking slots," Oliver said. "Either attacking midfielder or forward, however we do it. But that's what she's great at."

Perfect match

Foster fits the needs on Siena Heights' roster, and the college is just what

ALL ABOUT ZOE

Who: Zoe Foster, Plymouth senior and varsity girls soccer player.

What: The 17-year-old last week signed her national letter of intent with Siena Heights of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. She will play either forward or attacking midfielder for the Saints and probably pursue a degree either in nursing or forensics.

Preps: Foster, a two-time scholar-athlete who carries a 3.4 grade-point average, will be entering her fourth season as a starter for the Wildcats. In 2010, as a freshman, she scored the winning goals in the district and regional finals as Plymouth reached the Division 1 finals. She was named to the 2012 All-Observer and all-KLAA teams and will be team captain in 2013.

Club: Foster has played for club teams since she was 5 or 6, largely with the Canton Soccer Club, Novi Jaguars and Michigan Hawks (her current team). Accomplishments include competing at the 2009 Warrior Classic, Mead Cup, Jefferson Cup, Crew Cup and was a finalist at the 2012 U-12 Disney Showcase.

Home: Her parents are Daren and Neil Foster of Canton. Siblings are Garrett Foster, 19 and Ryan Kottke, 30.



Plymouth's Zoe Foster (No. 10) is pumped up to play women's soccer at Siena Heights University.

she ordered, too.

"I'm really excited, Siena Heights is a great school," Foster said. "When I went there (for a campus visit) the thing that set Siena Heights apart from everybody else basically is the girls on the team."

"You really couldn't beat it. It felt like home to me, so that's why I picked it."

Her parents (Neil and Daren) also are enthusiastic about that choice.

"It's an hour drive," Neil Foster said. "It's a place where we'll be able to see her play any game in the conference. That was one of the factors in her decision, to stay close to home."

"And they've got a great academic program that she's interested in, both in criminal justice (forensics) and nursing. So it's a good fit."

Among other teams in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletics Conference is Madonna University.

"I'm looking forward to beating them (the Crusad-

ers)," said Foster, chuckling.

She has company

Meanwhile, Foster isn't the only future college player on the 2013 Wild-

cats.

Others at least verbally committing include Madi Lewis and Alyssa Dillon (University of Michigan), Maria Farmer (Saginaw Valley State University) and Stephanie Dillon (Miami of Ohio) although Neschich expects even more players to follow suit.

The Wildcats' coach said he isn't surprised to see so many of his players having enough success to garner the interest of colleges.

A key reason for that is those players are advanced in the sport by the time they become high school freshmen due to club soccer, he explained.

They also share an indefatigable work ethic and the kind of competitive streak that coaches — and dads — like to see.

"Zoe never misses practice," Neil Foster said. "I know when there's all the conditioning drills she goes as hard as she possibly can. She's been accused of going too hard at times by teammates."

"Every day I watch her out on the field I'm proud of her. She puts it out there and this has been a day that we've been looking forward to."

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ALUMNI

Continued from page B1

because I am still connected with many Salem hockey families and everyone has been talking about it," Russell noted. "I know it will be a great opportunity to catch up and play with old teammates."

"If I didn't play, I would really regret it, because it should be a great time."

The alums are lacing them up again for the 7 p.m. contest as the second part of a doubleheader where spectators will be asked to bring up to five canned goods for admission. Those items will be donated to Gleaners Food Bank.

At 5:30 p.m. will be the Plymouth Prep and Salem Prep teams in a match-up; the alumni game will follow.

Then at 8:30 p.m., the current varsity teams will square off. But a separate \$5 admission will be required for that game.

"The fact that this game is going to help raise canned goods for Gleaners makes this event just that much better," Guglielmi said. "It's really a great thing what we're doing here."

Both Guglielmi and Russell won't be traveling too far to get in on the action.

Guglielmi is coming in from Saginaw Valley State University, where he will be playing baseball in the spring. Russell is attending Eastern Michigan University.

Some players are traveling quite a distance to be part of the game. Making the trip from Houston will be 2007 grad Justin Desilets, who will share goaltending duties with Guglielmi and Justus.

For Salem, 2009 alum Kyle Zink, a defenseman, is traveling all the way from Geilenkirchen, Germany — where he currently is serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Meanwhile, Guglielmi insisted his baseball coaches are fine with



Dave Russell, a 2009 Salem grad, will skate in Friday's alumni game.

him playing in the hockey game.

"The (Saginaw Valley) coaching staff does know I'm playing and they actually encourage players to play in alumni games and have fun with their former teams," he explained.

Young alums

Largely because Plymouth's program is only a decade or so old, the game will feature only players from the past decade including a number of 2011 and 2012 grads.

One of Guglielmi's teammates from last season — high-scoring forward Zach Gambrell — is lined up for the contest.

Eight Plymouth players who were seniors in 2010-11 are on the roster: defensemen Justin Bauer, Tyler Lazorka, Kevin Matusiak; forwards Ryan Renault, Tyler Sanders, Sean Smiatacz, Chase Zebari; goalie Mike Justus.

Salem forward and scoring machine Mark McGee and defensemen Kyle Eggenberger and Michael Manser graduated this year while defen-

semen Garrett Berg, Maxx Coral, forwards Connor Berlin, Matt Downey, Nick Hayes and Ryan Quigley are 2011 alums.

The oldest player will be Michael Maurer, a 2003 Salem alum. Defenseman Aaron Cheesman graduated from Salem in 2004 while 2005 grad Ryan Sharrow is among the Salem forwards in the game.

For Plymouth, in addition to Desilets, forward Ryan Stamm (2006) and defenseman Adam Lazorka (2007) are the veterans.

Rounding out the Wildcats' roster are forward Jake Jossey (2008); defenseman Christopher Merrill and forward Kyle Callahan (2009); forwards Ryan Bauer and Pat Smiatacz (2010).

Also skating for the Rocks will be goalie Joe Moore and defenseman Jason Sharrow, from 2007, along with forward Mark Barkoff, forward Joel Cheesman and defenseman Mike Haburne from 2008.

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Salem looking for progress

Salem's varsity gymnastics team will try to peak at the right time in 2012-13 — namely for the state tournament.

PREVIEW

Head coach Dana Driscoll noted that the Rocks "are struggling to get new routines and skills together. The pieces will continue to come together as the season goes along with the girls' main goal qualifying for the team state finals."

Top returnees from last season's KLAA Lakes Division co-champions (4-1 record) are senior Andrea Merlot-



Salem's Morgan Soper concentrates on her next routine during a dual meet last week against Canton.

ti, juniors Morgan Soper, Paulette Martino, Madeline Burt, Nora Akka-

su and Brooke Allgeyer and sophomore Brittany Ramirez.

Driscoll added that there is plenty of potential among newcomers to the roster.

"We have a large group of new gymnasts ranging from juniors to freshmen," she said. "All are working very hard on getting together routines in order to be able to begin contributing to the team."

So far, the Rocks have posted a 1-1 record in dual meets with their next action slated for Jan. 10 against Walled Lake Maroon/Gold.

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Teri Fry will be lucky if she avoids writer's cramp this week.

She's been signing and selling Plymouth Chamber of Commerce gift certificates for shoppers who want to give their recipients a choice of Christmas presents.

"It's a good thing I don't have much to do this time of year," quipped Fry, Chamber events director. "It's all I've been doing."

Earlier this week she predicted certificate sales would "be non-stop" through Friday, Dec. 21, the last day before the Chamber closes for Christmas.

The gift certificates are so popular, the Chamber sold more than \$60,000 worth last year. Customers like them because they can be used for participating shops, restaurants, bakeries, candy stores, a variety of services, entertainment and the arts.

"Because it's paper and not a debit card, anything over \$50 we suggest breaking into multiples of \$10," Fry noted. "It's easy to spend \$50 or more at a restaurant, but not at Panera."

Shoppers can buy gift certificates in any amount, for use at more than 100 participating locations, including the Plymouth Community Arts Council, (PCAC) Creatopia Paint It Yourself Pottery studio and the Plymouth Historical Museum. Certificates can be used for art classes or camps at the PCAC.

Chamber hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

Gift of history

Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, is sold on the Chamber gift certificates.

"It's fantastic. So many places take it — stores, restaurants and we take it," she said.

The Museum sells gift certificates, too. They can be used in the Museum shop — where best-selling items include Daly's Drive-in Burger Sauce and a poster of U.S. presidents — and for Museum admission. Annual gift memberships in the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum offer free admission for a year along with a variety of other perks. Memberships for kids, under 18, are \$15. A single membership is \$25. Members

Gift-giving solved

Let Santa bring arts and entertainment for Christmas



Nan Washburn conducts the Michigan Philharmonic. Gift certificates are available for concerts.



Brittany Davenport (left) of Ann Arbor, Grace Muawad of Grosse Pointe, Taylor Alfano of Livonia, and Amy Lauter of Farmington Hills are in the comedy "1940's Radio Hour," through Saturday, Dec. 22 at the Farmington Players Barn.

who pay \$30 annually may take one guest to the Museum for free. The \$50 annual plan includes free admission for the member and three guests. Other membership categories range from \$75-\$300. Gift certificates are good for one year.

"There are a number of people who buy them, mostly members giving gifts to family members," Kerstens said.

Gift certificates and memberships will be available from the Museum office Friday, Dec. 21. Patrons can view the

current "A Dickens of a Christmas" exhibit 1-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 21-23.

Give live theater

Mary Ann Tweedie, treasurer of the Farmington Players, says the group sells "quite a few" gift certificates for at Christmas.

"I do get a lot of folks from out of town buying for their parents who still live here," she said. "We can sell them any amount. Plays are \$16 and musicals are \$18. If you've got a gift certificate you can exchange it for whatever

day you want to come."

Patrons can buy online or by phone and the certificate will be mailed. Or they can visit the box office, which opens one hour before performances, and take home the gift certificate the same night. The theater wraps up its current production, 1940's *Radio Hour* on Saturday, Dec. 22. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 20-22. The box office will open at 7 p.m. The Farmington Players Barn Theater is located at 32332 12 Mile, in Farmington Hills.

Beautiful music

Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic, says a gift certificate or tickets to any of the symphony's upcoming shows would make a perfect stocking stuffer. Student tickets cost \$10 for each of the first three concerts of 2013 — "Miniature Masterpieces on Jan. 12, 2013, "The French Connection," on Feb. 10, 2013, and "A Beatles Blast," March 9, 2013. Senior citizen (62 and older) tickets are \$25 and general admission is \$30.

Stewart said gift certificates can be used for any concert, although tickets for the Beatles Blast in March are selling fast.

"I don't have many tickets left for that. If you know someone is a Beatles fan, get them right away and in that case, purchase the tickets," she advised.

To buy a gift certificate, call the symphony office at (734) 451-2112 or e-mail to info@michiganphil.org.

Here's a sampling of other gift ideas:

• **The Village Theater at Cherry Hill** in Canton offers gift certificates in any amount for any performance at the theater. They're good for one year and are available by calling (734) 394-5460, ext. 0, visiting the theater box office, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, or at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton.

• **The Civic Theatre**, 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington, sells gift certificates for a movie and popcorn (\$8) and movie only (\$3.50). Check out its movie schedule at www.thefct.com.

• Buy a gift card from the bookstore at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and suggest your recipient use it for the American Harvest Restaurant on campus. Pair the dinner with a concert or play on campus for a complete night out.

GET OUT

Arts Crafts

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013; Faberge: The Rise and Fall, The Collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, through Jan. 21, 2013; Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3, 2013

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

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Dates: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through Jan. 2, 2013

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

Details: An exhibit of paintings and drawing by Jean-Paul Abou-Dib, a graduate

of the College for Creative Studies, with a master's degree in painting from Wayne State University

Contact: (734) 416-4278

Film

FARMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE

Time/Dates: "Red Dawn," screens at 7:15 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 and "Argo" screens at 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20

Location: 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington

Details: \$3.50 admission

Contact: (248) 474-1951

PENN THEATRE

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 22-23

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "The Polar Express," \$3

Coming up: "Argo," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2013; 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29; and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30; "Wreck It Ralph," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4 and 10, 2013,

Please see GET OUT!, B7

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GET OUT!

Continued from page B6

and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 5-6, 2013; "Cloud Atlas," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 12-13

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 4, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 5, 2013

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: "Strangers on a Train," \$4

Coming up: "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," 8 p.m. Jan. 18, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 19, 2013; prizes will be awarded to all Marilyn Monroe look-alikes

Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

Music

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The next performance on Jan. 19, 2013, will feature John Nativ. Tricia Lloyd will serve as host. Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performs; tickets are \$46 for adults and \$36 for Jewish Community Center members

Contact: (248) 661-1900; www.theberman.org

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, Beverly Hills

Details: Tenor Christoph Pregardien and pianist Menahem Pressler perform Franz Schubert's song cycle "Die Winterreise" in its entirety. Tickets range from \$30-\$60; student tickets are available at half price in selected sections of the hall, and \$10 student rush tickets are available at the box office one hour prior to performance

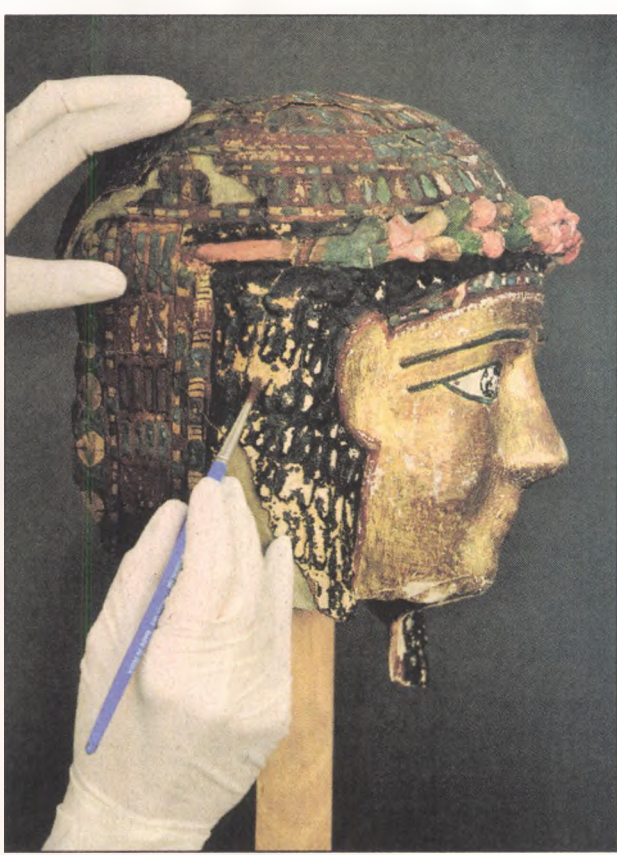
Contact: (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ChamberMusicDetroit.org

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December

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

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans



A cartonnage mummy mask undergoes conservation treatment in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Ann Arbor. The museum's new exhibit is "Conserving Antiquity."

Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Harper and the Midwest Kind Acoustic Show, Jan. 5, 2013; Floyd King and the Bushwackers with the Campfire Compars

es, Jan. 11, 2013; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and The Potter's Field, Jan. 13, 2013; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, Jan. 18, 2013; David Nefesh and Jef Reynolds with Anthony Retka, Jan. 19, 2013; Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellies, Jan. 25, 2013; Billy McLaughlin, Jan. 26, 2013. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted

Contact: (734) 464-6302

WOODWARD CORRIDOR MUSICIANS

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13

Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Chamber music concert features "Site for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio" by Claude Bolling and "Trio in E-flat major, Opus 27," by Frantisek Skroup. Admission is \$10 for adults. Students in K-12th grade are admitted free

Contact: WoodwardCM.org; (248) 546-5818 or LFDean@aol.com

Something different

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.

Contact: (248) 541-5717

FISHING SHOW

Time/Date: 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, 2013; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013

Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi

Details: Vendors, demonstrations, hands-on fun with fishing. Family activities include a casting contest,

fishing from a trout pond, a virtual fishing simulator, and much more. Admission is free on Thursday only for those who bring six cans/boxes or four pounds of non-perishable food items to donate to the annual Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger food drive. The food will be donated to the American Red Cross and area food banks. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children, 6-14; under 6 is free. On-site parking is \$5

Contact: (800) 328-6550; www.ultimatefishingshow

KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, through Feb. 10, 2013

Location: 434 S. State, Ann Arbor

Details: "Conserving Antiquity" focuses on the essential but often hidden work of preserving art and artifacts. Visitors will step behind the scenes and experience the work of conservators, which blends scientific research and hands-on treatment with the study of art, archaeology and history.

Contact: (734) 764-9304; www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey

MAGIC SHOW

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29

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

Details: Aaron Radatz presents his one-man show of magic and comedy, geared to the family. Tickets range from \$18-\$24

Contact: (734) 394-5460 or www.cantonvillagetheater.org



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Red Tart Cherry
Glazed Ham

A sweet and savory

holiday menu

You want to bring out the best for your next holiday gathering, ensuring a memorable meal for family and friends. With a few simple tips and easier-than-you-think recipes, you can do just that.

Entertaining Tips

• **Prep the night before** — Save time by chopping vegetables or prepping glazes the day before. For example, prepare the spread for Goat Cheese Bruschetta with Berry-Thyme Spread the night before. The day of the party, toast baguette slices 10 minutes before guests arrive, and the delicious appetizer will come together in minutes.

• **Allow for creativity** — Allow guests to put their own finishing touches on their dishes by setting out a variety of toppings. Raspberry Almond Waffles provide a base for your friends and family to get creative.

• **Make it a group effort** — Ask guests to bring their favorite holiday side dishes or desserts to complement

the main course to encourage a wide variety. If you're making Red Tart Cherry Glazed Ham as the centerpiece of the meal, let guests know so they can plan accordingly.

Each of these suggestions incorporates a delicious recipe using Smucker's Orchard's Finest Preserves, a gourmet line of preserves made with the best fruit from the best places. The preserves contain only four ingredients, and add rich flavor to both sweet and savory holiday dishes. From classic Pacific Mountain Strawberry Preserves to the new Lakeside Raspberry Cranberry Preserves, there's a flavor that's sure to be a hit with each guest. These holiday recipes are wonderful options to share with family and friends at your next gathering because, during the holidays, only the finest will do.

For more recipes to round out your holiday menu, visit www.smuckers.com.

DRESS IT UP

Here are four delicious ways to dress up your holiday salads. Just start with this basic vinaigrette recipe, and mix in your favorite Smucker's Orchard's Finest Preserves flavor and one other simple ingredient.

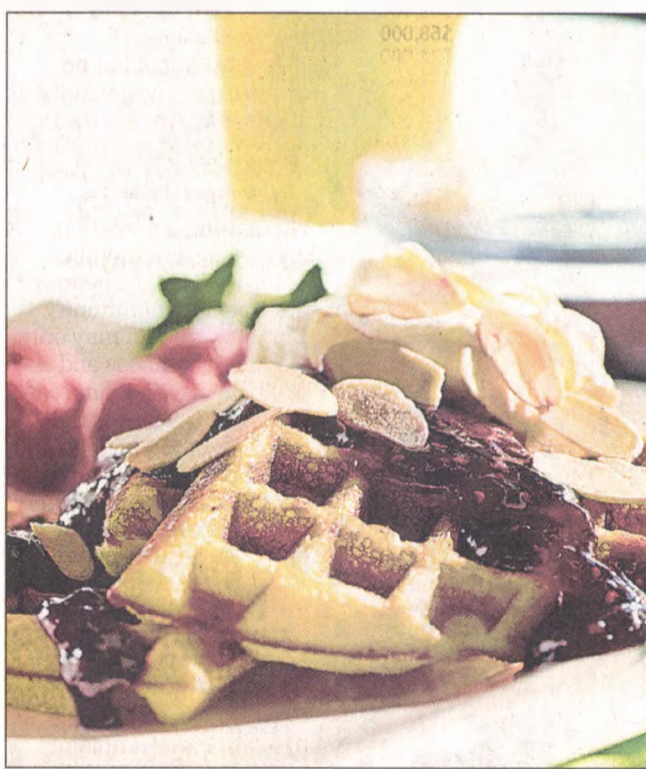
Basic Vinaigrette — Mix 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, 1 tablespoon water, 1½ teaspoons Dijon mustard, ½ teaspoon minced garlic, ¼ teaspoon black pepper, and ½ teaspoon salt. Whisk in ¼ cup canola oil.

• **Strawberry Basil Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Pacific Mountain Strawberry Preserves and 2 teaspoons finely minced basil.

• **Raspberry Cranberry and Rosemary Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Lakeside Raspberry Cranberry Preserves and 1 teaspoon finely minced fresh rosemary.

• **Citrus Ginger Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Pacific Grove Orange Marmalade Medley and 1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger root.

• **Apricot Ginger Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Coastal Valley Peach Apricot Preserves and 1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger root.



Raspberry Almond Waffles



Goat Cheese Bruschetta with Berry Thyme Spread

Red Tart Cherry Glazed Ham

Makes: 16 servings
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 50 minutes

1 4 to 5-pound fully cooked boneless ham, sliced ¼ inch thick
1 12-ounce jar Smucker's Orchard's Finest Michigan Red Tart Cherry Preserves

1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
Dash ground cloves, if desired
2 tablespoons raisins, if desired

1. Heat oven to 325°F. Overlap slices of ham in shallow baking pan; cover with aluminum foil. Bake 50 to 60 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 140°F.

2. Combine preserves, vinegar, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves in a small microwave safe bowl. Microwave on high for 2 minutes.

3. Arrange ham slices on serving platter. Spoon ¼ cup glaze over center of ham. Serve with remaining warm glaze.

Goat Cheese Bruschetta with Berry-Thyme Spread

Makes: 12 slices
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 6 minutes

¼ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Northwest Triple Berry Preserves
1 tablespoon minced shallot
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme, plus additional for garnish
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 8-ounce baguette
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
4 ounces goat cheese
Fresh thyme leaves (optional), for garnish

1. Combine preserves, shallots, balsamic vinegar, thyme, salt and pepper in small bowl.

2. Slice baguette into ½-inch slices. Brush both sides of each slice lightly with olive oil. Heat skillet or griddle over medium-high heat. Grill baguette slices, 4 at a time, 2 to 3 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Place on serving platter.

3. Spread about 2 teaspoons goat cheese over each baguette slice. Top each slice with 1 teaspoon preserves mixture. Garnish with additional fresh thyme, if desired. Serve immediately.

Tip: Triple Berry-Thyme Spread can be prepared up to two days ahead. Cover and chill.

Raspberry Almond Waffles

Makes: 10 (6-inch) waffles
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 5 minutes

Waffles:

1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk, divided
3 large eggs
2 cups all purpose flour
¾ cup water
½ cup vegetable oil
4 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon almond extract
½ cup sliced almonds, chopped
No-stick cooking spray

Topping:

1 cup heavy cream
½ teaspoon almond extract
½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Lakeside Raspberry Cranberry Preserves or ½ cup Smucker's Red Raspberry Preserves
½ cup sliced almonds, toasted
30 fresh red raspberries

For waffles:

1. Coat waffle iron with no-stick cooking spray. Heat waffle iron according to manufacturer's directions. Reserve 2 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk for topping.

2. Whisk eggs in large bowl until fluffy. Blend in remaining sweetened condensed milk, flour, water, oil, baking powder, salt and almond extract just until batter is smooth. Stir in chopped almonds.

3. Pour a scant 2/3 cup of batter onto center of hot waffle iron and close lid. Bake about 3 to 4 minutes or until steaming stops. Use a fork to remove waffle. Repeat with remaining batter.

For topping:

1. Beat cream in medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until stiff peaks form. Add reserved 2 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk and almond extract. Beat until smooth.

2. Spread each waffle with 1 tablespoon preserves. Top with whipped cream, toasted almonds and fresh raspberries.

To toast almonds: Place almonds in dry non-stick skillet. Cook over medium heat, shaking pan until nuts are lightly browned. Remove from pan immediately to avoid over-browning.

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December 2012

TOP TOOLS
GADGETS FOR THE
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travel



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Craftsman
Cap Wrench
Bottle Opener

The holidays are here and for the do-it-yourselfer who always has a list of "to-do" projects to tackle, a new tool makes a great gift. From the weekend warrior to automotive enthusiast, an addition to the tool box is certain to bring a smile to their face.

Here are some ideas from Craftsman to get you started finding the perfect gift for the DIYer on your list:

• **Stocking stuffer - Craftsman Cap Wrench Bottle Opener**

A tool box isn't complete without a bottle cap opener for use during the rewarding and relaxing time at the end of the workday. Give your loved one's stocking a little extra weight with this tool that looks like a traditional wrench with a fun twist. The patented fulcrum design opens a variety of bottle tops. Personalize it by having a name engraved on the handle.



65-in-1 Universal
Wrench

• **Everyday DIYer - 65-in-1 Universal Wrench**

This innovative wrench empowers users to work on 16 different fastener sizes including inch and metric. The universal design also gives it access to six different types of fasteners - 2 pt., 4 pt., 6 pt., 12 pt., Spline and External Torx. No matter what size or shape

nut or bolt you encounter, this tool has got you covered, lightening up your tool belt.

• **Auto enthusiast - Universal 19-pc. Max Axess Socket and Ratchet Set**

For those who spend a lot of time under the hood, consider this tool set. It features a unique pass-thru design built to take on any length screw and rods, without the need for deep sockets. The universal tooth design grips six different types of fasteners, so no matter what type of nut you encounter, you'll be covered. The set contains a total of 19 pieces, including eight metric socket sizes, eight

standard socket sizes and a 3/8-inch ratchet.

• **Weekend warrior: Bolt-On Tool System**

We all know that weekend projects tend to require more than one type of tool. This modular power tool system saves you space, time and money with nine interchangeable attachments that all connect to one tool base. With its

Please see DIY, 10



Universal
19-pc.
Max Axess
Socket and
Ratchet Set.



Bolt-On
Tool System.

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Keep your home from
getting damaged

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The holidays are a special time of year to show the important people in our lives how much we appreciate them.

5 perfect presents make gift-giving easy

The holidays are a special time of year to show the important people in our lives how much we appreciate them — and that means gift-giving. If picking out holiday gifts is painless for you, you're one of the lucky ones. More often than not, people have a tough time finding the perfect present for friends and family, particularly if you have someone on your list who already seems to have everything. So, if you're stumped as to what to get that impossible-to-buy-for person, consider these five gift ideas that are sure to brighten anyone's holiday:

1. Gift your services

Rather than giving a tangible item, give your services; it's the perfectly practical gift for the person on your list who may be short on space, lacking financial resources or would just appreciate a little extra help. Love kids? Offer free child care so the recipient can enjoy an evening out on the town without worrying about the little ones. Have a knack for cooking? Gift a week-night meal that you deliver to the recipient's doorstep. Known for your organization? Offer your skills to help the recipient organize a closet, office or other cluttered space.

2. Make a miracle happen

Positively impacting others by giving a charitable gift in the recipient's name embraces the true meaning of the season. The new Give Miracles Holiday Catalog from national nonprof-

it Children's Miracle Network Hospitals features in-demand pediatric items and services that local children's hospitals need — anything from comforting teddy bears (\$30) to a case of extra-small preemie diapers smaller than the palm of your hand (\$170)! For high-impact gifts like a physical therapy toy kit (\$375) or a pediatric wheelchair (\$970), funds can be collectively raised by numerous gift-givers. This option is ideal for extended families looking to do something more meaningful than the typical gift exchange.

And to make that "do-good" feeling for the recipient last long after the holidays are over, Give Miracles donors receive ongoing communication from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals throughout the year about how their gift is making an impact at their local hospital. Browse the gift catalog at www.GiveMiracles.org.

3. Purchase a membership to a monthly club

Rather than wasting money on a new gadget that will quickly be forgotten, give a gift that benefits the recipient all year long. Monthly clubs provide fun deliveries to a loved one's address, an ongoing reminder of your generosity. Monthly gift clubs are available for just about anything, from wine and beer, to jams and cheese, to bacon and fruit.

Please see PERFECT, 10



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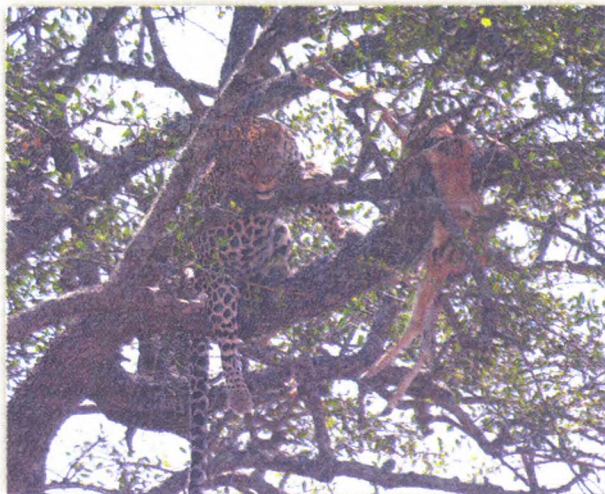
'One must travel, to learn' — Mark Twain

Safari to Tanzania:

Area residents awed by two-week journey to East Africa



A pride of lions carry off the remains of a warthog after stalking the animal near a water hole in Serengeti National Park. Our group watched the kill unfold, a rare sight, on our first day in the park.



A leopard, one of the so-called "Big Five," peers down from an acacia tree after hoisting up the carcass of a recently killed gazelle to avoid other scavengers who might be in the area.

By Jay Young
Contributing Writer

If that quote from Twain's *Innocents Abroad* is true, then a group of seven Canton residents just earned the equivalent of a Ph.D. in history, geography, botany, zoology and current events as a result of a marvelous two-week adventure to the East African country of Tanzania.

Let's start with history. The nation and the word "Tanzania," as explained by our excellent guide Ombeni Maka, is an amalgam of two places, the former British protectorate of Tanganyika and the coastal archipelago of Zanzibar. The first three letters of each name when combined with "nia," which means "united" in Swahili, forms the word Tanzania. This newly combined country achieved independence in April 1964 under the leadership of Julius Nyerere who ruled the nation for decades until his retirement in 1985.

In terms of geography, Tanzania is located just below the equator and is about one and a half times the size of Texas. Within its borders lie Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest free-standing mountain; the Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest intact volcanic caldera, as well as the lion's share of the continent's most expansive lake, Lake Victoria.

These remarkable places, in addition to the Serengeti National Park, the Great Rift Valley and the Maasai Steppes, are concentrated within only 10 percent of the nation's surface area in the northern portion of the country. This bloc of contiguous national parks and conservation areas forms the most expansive and arguably the finest safari circuit in Africa.

Adventure begins

It was here, in northern Tanzania, where our adventure began.

Arriving at Kilimanjaro International airport after a nine-hour flight from Amsterdam, we traveled about an hour to Arusha, a teeming city of 1.5 million. It is the jumping off point for most game safaris (which means "journey" in Swahili) and for those adventurous enough to

attempt to summit the 19,341 foot Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The following day we traveled about three hours north-east of Arusha to the West Kilimanjaro conservation area and our first stay in a tented safari camp. Nestled between Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Meru and Mt. Longido on Kenya's border, it had the feel of a genuine wilderness, with only a few Maasi bomas (thorn bush encircled family compounds) as evidence of human habitation.

That afternoon, William, our Maasi guide, took us on a walk through the lightly wooded acacia savanna that his tribe of herdsman share with a remarkable variety of wildlife including wildebeests, zebras, giraffes, elands, impalas, gazelles, baboons and migrating elephants.

William's knowledge of the wildlife and his tribe's ability to survive in this unforgiving environment were remarkable.

The vibrant sunsets and the tranquility of the camp were only matched the second day, when on a game drive, we were surrounded by a herd of 32 elephants who tranquilly grazed around us for over an hour.

After our stay in W. Kilimanjaro, we returned to Arusha where we were joined by the rest of our group of 15 and began our journey to three of the best known animal refuges on the continent: Tarangire National Park, Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater conservation area.

Animal kingdom inspires

At each location, every day became a lesson in zoology, with twice-daily game drives to view the animals when they are most active. Although we were visiting during the dry season, after the million-strong herds of wildebeests, zebras and other animals had migrated across the Serengeti plains to the Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya, there was still a large number of animals observable in all regions.

Tarangire National Park is best known for several reasons: the immense baobab (or upside down) trees, whose huge trunks support sparsely vegetated branches that look like a tangled root system; the Tarangire River, which provides the only source of water year round for



The Canton safari contingent pose atop a kopje, a Dutch word meaning little head. They are large outcrops of boulders strewn across the Serengeti plains and left in place after eons of erosion. Pictured (from left) are: Pat and Bob Maybouer, Sue Grady, Orville and Pat Butzin and Linnea and Jay Young.

A massive bull elephant invaded our tented camp site in the wilds of the Serengeti National Park early one morning. "He had been grazing behind our tents, but when he came around the tents and saw me, he charged, asserting his dominance of his territory," said Jay Young. "I beat a hasty retreat to my tent and he left after a few heart-pounding minutes."

many miles; and the large number of elephants resident in the park. A distant view of the Tarangire river during one of our drives looked to be a view of the Garden of Eden, with giraffes, elephants, zebras, gazelles, baboons and many other animals all grazing contentedly alongside one another.

After two nights in tents built on stilted platforms on the shores of Lake Burunge, we spent a long day traveling to Serengeti National Park, Africa's most famous wildlife sanctuary. It is renowned for its dense predator population and for the sheer volume of animals that inhabits its vast 7,000 square mile area.

Midway to our destination, we stopped to visit famed Olduvai gorge. Often referred to as "The Cradle of Mankind," it was here over three decades that Louis and Mary Leakey unearthed some of the oldest stone tools and fossils of hominids in existence, a critical landmark in the history of palaeontology.

Remarkably, our four-day stay in a tented camp in the wilds of the Serengeti started when our group observed a pride of lions ambush and kill a young warthog who fatally approached a water hole staked out by the lions. Near the end of our stay in the Serengeti, a large bull elephant charged into our campsite early one morning, pulling down trees around our tents. He returned to our mess tent later that evening while we were eating, just

to prove this was his territory and he was re-staking his claim.

Game drive

During our last game drive in this fabulous place, we were able to view the "Big Five": elephant, cape buffalo, lion, leopard and the endangered black rhino. Earlier named by hunters for the difficulty in obtaining trophies of these animals, they are now protected and sought as photographic trophies.

On our way back to Arusha and the end of our two-week safari, we passed through the Ngorongoro Crater, widely agreed to be Africa's greatest wildlife sanctuary. Winding along the rim of the caldera, about 2,000 feet above the 162-mile crater floor, we could glimpse ant-like formations of wildebeest, zebras and cape buffalo chomping their way through this unique ecosystem. The crater is a relic of an immense volcanic mountain that attained a height similar to Kilimanjaro before it imploded violently some two million years ago. Today it houses some of Africa's densest large mammal populations and was a spectacular bookend to our incredible safari.

Although our trip was primarily for animal sightings, our Overseas Adventure Travel guides also introduced us to the human side of this society and gave us daily lessons in current events. We visited two Maasi set-

tlements and witnessed firsthand how this proud people choose to maintain their nomadic, herding lifestyle. We openly discussed the rampant corruption that haunts most African countries, including Tanzania, and shared our guides' hope for a more democratic and progressive future for the continent.

Music awes

We listened in awe at the power and majesty of 1,500 people singing in harmony at a large church in Arusha. We visited a public school and marveled at the enthusiasm and dedication of faculty and students in the face of woeful underfunding. We were invited to a private home to enjoy the hospitality of a simple meal. We incessantly questioned our guides about the things we observed and often heard their fatalistic reply: TIA — This Is Africa!

This trip was all and yet much more than we anticipated. As OAT advertises, this journey was more than encountering wild animals in their natural habitat. This was, as Mark Twain would surely agree, learning and discovery at its finest.

Jay Young is a Canton resident. This is his fourth trip with Overseas Adventure Travel. For more on OAT's selection of small group guided tours all over the world, call (800) 955-1925 or visit www.oattravel.com.

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!

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

Level: Beginner

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


Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced



holiday bites



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Holiday parties should be fun — so why not serve up some tasty appetizers with a creative seasonal twist that will be sure to spice up your gathering?

These clever bites start with versatile party favorites Hillshire Farm Lit'l Smokies — and then the fun begins. Dress up your cocktail links with some delicious fare: wrap them up in crispy bacon; make a splash with pineapple and edible flowers and turn them into tasty reindeers. With these fun-tastic appetizers, not only will you give guests plenty of food to eat, you'll give them plenty to talk about.

For more recipes to add merriment to your celebrations, visit www.hillshirefarm.com.

Reindogs

Yield: 20 servings
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Cook Time: 2 to 3 minutes

1 package Hillshire Farm Lit'l Smokies
 Pretzel twists
 Mustard
 Ketchup

Heat sausages according to package directions.

Break a small pretzel twist in half. Stick a pretzel half into both sides of sausage to resemble antlers.

Use 2 small drops of mustard for eyes and a small drop of ketchup for the nose.

Lit'l Luau

Yield: 20 servings
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 3 minutes

1 package Hillshire Farm Lit'l Smokies
 Canned pineapple (1 can)
 Edible flowers

Heat sausages according to package directions.

Cut 1 pineapple ring in half. Wrap two halves of pineapple around each sausage.

Garnish with edible flowers.

Pigs in Heaven

Yield: 20 servings
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 20 minutes

1 package Hillshire Farm Lit'l Smokies
 1 package thick sliced bacon

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Open package of sausages and drain off any liquid.

Cut each bacon slice into 3 to 4 pieces. Wrap each sausage with a piece of bacon; secure with a toothpick.

Place on a 15 x 10 x 1-inch baking pan.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes, or until bacon is browned.



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Answers found on page 10

Avoid that cold-sinking feeling with these winterizing ideas

By **Lon Grossman**
Guest Columnist

Q: For people who are planning on going away on vacation what's involved in winterizing the plumbing system?

A: Broken pipes and radiators can result from a single night power failure in a house that is left unattended in sub-freezing weather. If you want to turn off the heating system I advise shutting off the water at the meter in the basement. Then drain the entire system and leave all the faucets open. Drain the toilet bowl tanks and add a couple cups of RV or marine anti-freeze into the bowl and tank. Also put a cup of the anti-freeze in each plumbing trap. RV and marine antifreeze is available in the sporting goods section of your favorite store like Meijer or any sporting outlet.

You shouldn't have any problems with plaster walls, but due to the humidity, I have seen some homes where there was some cracking of the plaster and frequently I've seen paint that peeled off walls and ceilings. Also, don't forget to turn off the hot water tank and drain it as well.

Have a great vacation and send me a postcard.

Q: Every few years or so the plumbing to one of our sinks freezes. How do you keep the pipes from freezing in the winter?

A: There are ways to avoid that cold-sinking feeling. If your house has a crawl space, close all the vents and insulate the perimeter walls of the crawl space. Don't forget to stuff insulation along the top of the walls between each joist.

If the pipes freeze in the wall behind a vanity or kitchen sink cabinet, cutting openings in the doors and installing vents or replacing solid doors with louvered doors, may help warm the wall. If you don't like that plan you could always have a plumber re-locate the pipes from within the wall to within the vanity cabinet.

If these solutions are just not feasible now, when it gets real cold, turn on the water at the tap so it flows out slowly. Running water is less likely to freeze



Lon Grossman

as fast but will cost more when you get your water bill. These few tips should keep your house from turning into a houseboat.

Q: Do you have any inexpensive tips that will save on heating costs this winter?

A: Here are some inexpensive tips that will save you money and help the environment.

- Turn down the furnace thermostat when the fireplace is in on and keep the damper closed when not using the fireplace.
- Install glass fireplace doors.
- Remove obstructions from registers so the air blows freely.
- Keep radiators clean. Install reflectors behind the radiators.
- Turn off the heat, shut the registers, and close the doors to rooms not in use.
- Using the proper type of duct tape, tape and seal all the joints of ducts to prevent losing heat into the basement and/or crawl space.
- Install a humidifier and clean that humidifier every month in the heating season.
- Turn down the thermostat at night and when leaving for an extended period of time (such as all day while you are at work trying to make enough money to pay the gas bill).
- Close drapes and curtains to help keep heat in.
- Adding more attic insulation yourself, could pay for itself in the first year, if you have an older house with just a little insulation.
- If you have no insulation on top of the foundation walls in your basement, between the joists, you're missing a big heat loss.
- Replace your furnace filter frequently or when it's dirty.
- Wear sweaters around the house instead of turning up the heat.
- If you have a crawl space, close the vents and add insulation all around the perimeter walls.
- Cover the whole-house fan opening with plastic or an insulated panel you can purchase at home center stores.

Lon Grossman of Bloomfield Hills is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdiy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website www.technihouse.com. Follow Lon's Blog at <http://drdiy.wordpress.com/>.

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DIY

Continued from page 3

ability to transform from a drill to a router to a jig saw and more in mere seconds, it's perfect to take on nearly any project. A starter kit comes with the tool base, 20-volt battery, charger and drill/driver attachment. Eight additional attachments can be purchased separately, allowing your loved one to expand their power tool collection quickly and reasonably.

• Heavy-duty DIYer: C3 XCP Heavy-Duty Drill

This heavy-duty drill can tackle the toughest of jobs and is the most powerful drill in its class. It is powered by a new extreme core performance (XCP) lithium-ion battery pack that provides 35 percent more run time. Features Extreme Weather Performance, which allows for easier tool start up when the temperature drops, so no matter what the season, your DIY die-hard can be working.

These gifts are sure to be "favorites guaranteed." If they don't love their new tool, the Sears return policy has you covered. For more information on top holiday gifts, visit www.craftsman.com -or Sears stores nationwide.



— Courtesy of BPT

PERFECT

Continued from page 4

4. Give a gift that grows

Potted plants are a fantastic gift idea because they represent how your love continues to grow for that special someone. Plus, plants are a wonderful addition to interior decor and help clean the air. With so many houseplants readily available, you're sure to find the perfect one for the person who has everything. Does he gravitate toward decor with vivid color? Choose a flowering plant that provides delightful blooms. Does she love Asian culture? How about gifting a bonsai tree or a bamboo plant?

5. Provide an experience

Often, it's not what's in the box, it's the memory that stays with so many people after the holidays have passed. That's why giving a special experience can make a truly meaningful gift. Think about what really interests the recipient or an activity they've had on their bucket list. Perhaps it's a hot air balloon ride or a white water rafting daytrip. If the person really loves to shop, hire a personal shopper for the day and let them see what it's like to live like a star. If the recipient loves gourmet food, purchase a spot in a class taught by your town's hottest chef.

Any one of these ideas is sure to show that hard-to-shop-for person on your list that you've put some real thought into their gift. And ultimately, isn't it the thought that counts?

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Beginner

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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

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