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CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

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Photo contest

Enter your favorite holiday photo in a contest for a chance to win a \$20 gift card to a department store. Upload a picture of your house in lights, a visit with Santa or anything related to the holidays. Share the link with friends and see if you come out on top! You and your Facebook friends are allowed one vote per day. To find the contest, go to our website, Hometownlife.com, and look on the right-hand side in our Don't Miss module. Clicking on the photo of the Christmas presents will take you to the contest page. The voting ends Dec. 30. Good luck!

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.35thdistrictcourt.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.

Hines Drive closure

Hines Drive, Merriam Hollow Area to Warrendale, will be closed from 5 p.m. to midnight each night through Dec. 31 for the Wayne County Lightfest. Lightfest will be open 6-10 p.m. through Dec. 31, except for Dec. 25, when it is closed. For more information, visit www.waynecounty.com.

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Happy holidays



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A penguin theme decorates this home on Ann Street in Plymouth, one of the many, many houses in the community decorated to capture the holiday spirit.

City gets high marks on audit

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth was awarded an A-plus on its latest financial report card — the annual independent audit. The good marks — the city's books got auditors' highest rating, plus no recommendations for improvements — were delivered at Monday's Plymouth City Commission meeting. "The city's been doing a nice job managing revenues," certified public accountant Rana Emmons, of the Plymouth accounting firm Post, Smythe, Lutz and Ziel, told commissioners. The audit, she said, is a snapshot of the city's finances as of the end of the last fiscal year June 30, she said. "It's an incredible report," Mayor Dan Dwyer said later. "I think it's our best one ever." The city typically gets good

audits, Dwyer said, but also auditors' suggestions on how money management can be improved in the future. "This one, we didn't have any," and that indicates good internal procedures, the mayor said. "For the health of the budget, after all these down years, to be what it is is really fantastic news for the city," Dwyer said. The city has been cutting costs for a decade, the mayor said, and will continue to find ways to become more efficient. However, he added, "We can only pull so many rabbits out of the hat." Among the highlights of the report, which included a management discussion of the budget year, were: • A total value of the city's assets, minus its financial liabilities, of about \$29.4 million. Of that, 68 percent was made up of

property, facilities and equipment, minus the debt that was incurred to buy those things. • A total fund balance of all government funds of \$9.9 million, of which about \$1.4 million was available. Most of the rest had already been already committed to meet ongoing expenses. • General-fund spending of about \$7.35 million for the fiscal year, nearly \$76,000 under budget. • A "refunding," or refinancing, of nearly \$7.85 million in bonds for road and water system improvements that will save an anticipated \$300,000 in interest costs. The entire audit report is available on the city's website, www.ci.plymouth.mi.us, through a link on the right-hand column on the home page. mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

Enrollment could drive bond query

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Facing potentially declining middle school enrollment and a deadline for making a decision about how best to deal with it, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education this week continued to wrestle with details of a potential bond request. And after voters turned down similar bond requests in 2006 and 2007, the board wants to include as much public input as possible this time around. That's why residents are likely to see a survey sometime around mid-January, asking them what they could support in any possible bond action. A key component could be what the public wants to do about Central Middle School, which most observers say is no longer a viable educational facility. In a voice poll at Tuesday's board meeting, all seven trustees agreed it's time to get students out of Central Middle School. Administrators, working with the polling firm Epic/MRA, will do a 400-call survey, likely in mid-January, to try to get a handle on what the community would support. With board members in agreement, the decision comes down to two choices: Adding on at the district's other middle schools, or building a new one on district-owned property at Canton Center Road and Cherry Hill. "It's time to move from Central," board Treasurer Barry Simescu said. "I haven't made up my mind which option, but the time has come to move out of Central."

Where they are
If they decide to build a new middle school in Canton, board members might have enrollment projections on which to base their decision. Based on figures compiled by assistant superintendent for facilities Phil Freeman, a whopping 73 percent of all middle school students live in Canton, including 44 percent who live between Joy Road and Cherry Hill. Residency numbers at some

Please see BOND, A2

Elks deliver for ill, homeless veterans

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

More than 800 ill or homeless military veterans will have brighter holidays thanks to the Plymouth Elks and their donors and volunteers. The Elks Lodge 1780 in Plymouth Township is in the midst of distributing Christmas care packages — comfort items, toiletries, socks and a deck of cards — to about 850 area veterans. In addition, some 27 veterans who are confined to their beds or wheelchairs are receiving lap blankets crocheted by women at the Church of the Divine Savior in Westland. Elks representatives took the gifts to three Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals — in Detroit, Ann Arbor and



Gift-wrappers Debbie Kozub, left, Stewart Israel, Connie Hines and Beverly Delor were in the Christmas spirit Dec. 15 as they helped assemble and wrap gift packages at Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780. Israel, a retired social studies teacher, is chairman of the Elks' Michigan and national adopt-a-veteran programs.

Battle Creek — last week, and plan to visit three homeless shelters for veterans Monday. "It's with a tremendous amount of pride that I hand those to the veterans," said Stewart Israel, a township resident and the chairman, both in Michigan and nationwide, of the Elks' adopt-

a-veteran program. Israel, a retired social studies teacher, said he is honored to recognize veterans and likes the opportunity to see them in person. "They give up so much of their life for me, and they don't even know me," said Vivian Beigun, another Elks member from Plymouth Township, who made the trip to the Ann Arbor VA hospital Wednesday. "They were very appreciative. They were surprised that somebody was giving them a gift," she said. The holiday gift-giving is one of several local Elks programs for veterans: the group also visits them in the hospitals, bringing ice cream socials and games, and

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Ryan Beier, right, and John Niemiec work the gift-wrapping line Dec. 15 at Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, where more than 65 volunteers assembled and wrapped care packages for military veterans who are hospitalized or down on their luck. Some 850 packages were wrapped for distribution to veterans in local hospitals and shelters.

ELKS

Continued from page A1

hosts twice-a-year steak dinners at Lodge 1780.

The care package this year were assembled and wrapped Dec. 15 at the Elks' lodge; some 65 volunteers — Elks members,

families, Girl Scouts and members of local American Legion and Masons chapters — wrapped the 850 packages in 90 minutes, a "labor of love," Israel said.

"I really enjoy that — seeing all the other people running around like crazy. It was like an assembly

line," Beigun said.

The volunteers, Israel said, included two different families that were represented by three generations.

In all, Israel said, about 11,900 items went into the 850 care packages.

Toothbrushes were donated by Thomas

Morse and toothpaste by Peter Leone; both are local dentists. Funding came from the Polish Legion of Veterans, the Elks National Foundation and the Elks National Veterans Service.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405

BOND

Continued from page A1

of the individual schools are even more striking. For instance, 62 percent of the students at Central, located in the heart of downtown Plymouth, come from Canton. Pioneer Middle School, where Freeman used to be the principal, gets 90 percent of its students from Canton.

At East Middle School, on Lilley Road north of Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township, 88 percent of the students are Canton residents.

"East gets students from below the Cherry Hill line," Freeman said. "That becomes a big travel for students coming from that area."

The fly in the ointment appears to be enrollment and location. Most estimates show Plymouth-Canton losing some 800 students by the 2017-18 school year.

Resident input

Trustee Mike Maloney said those numbers should give board members pause before agreeing to build a new school.

"We need more of an opportunity for the com-

munity to tell us what they want," Maloney said. "I think people are going to ask, with declining enrollment why are you building a new middle school? I don't think there's a good answer for that. We really need to do something about Central, whether it's fix it or close it."

Administrators say it would take some \$26 million to upgrade Central, and even that much money, they say, won't make it equitable with the district's other middle schools. Plus, they'd need to find somewhere to put Central's 850 students

for the two years they'd spend upgrading Central.

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Hughes said his administration thinks that's simply too much money to spend upgrading Central when it doesn't really solve the issue.

"Our recommendation is the \$26 or \$27 million it would take is prohibitive, and that left us with (the other) two options," Hughes said. "(Renovating Central) doesn't really solve the issue of equity, and our priority at this time is equity."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899

AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

MAGIC SHOW

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

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

Details: Las Vegas magician and Michigan native Aaron Radatz presents his One Man Show of magic and comedy with a holiday flavor that is geared to entertain the entire family. Radatz is no stranger to the metro Detroit area with performances over the years for General Motors, Chrysler, Soaring Eagle Casino, Andiamo's, Jeff Daniel's, the Detroit Tigers, and several others. Tickets range from \$18 to \$24 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5460.

Contact: For additional information, visit www.aaronradatz.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

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Strike up the band



The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band pulled in a host of honors this year, including a state championship and a berth in the Grand National finals in Indianapolis. They got another one Tuesday as the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education honored them for their success this season. Accepting the accolades from board trustee Mark Horvath (right) are Director of Bands David Armbruster and band members Sarah Wohl, Shelbie Torok and Katie Nymborg.

Donations brighten holidays for needy

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Plymouth Community United Way is able to brighten the holidays of low-income families and individuals in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County with gifts of food, toys and warm winter items.

The stuffed animals, toy trucks, nonperishable items, hats, gloves, and scarves were donated by local residents, businesses, service clubs, and Smith Elementary during drives and special events including the Teddy Bear Toss.

Together with the Plymouth Whalers, Plymouth Community United Way netted 1,274 teddy bears when fans threw the stuffed animals onto the ice at the annual event in Compuware Arena Dec. 1. The grand total topped

the 800 cuddly animals collected for needy children in 2011.

A joint effort by the Society of Plastic Engineers and the Michigan Association of United Ways resulted in 15,000 toy trucks, 304 of which went to Plymouth Community United Way in time for gift giving. The rest were given to United Ways throughout Michigan. LyondellBasell donated 12,000 pounds of plastic, American Plastic Toys a week's worth of production time to make the blue and pink trucks.

Food drives by Smith Elementary, Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, Federal Mogul, Comcast, and other local businesses are helping to replenish the dwindling shelves of local food pantries

including The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps and St. Mary's Outreach Center in Wayne.

The winter months are especially difficult for low-income and homeless families and individuals. Plymouth Community United Way's annual Hats for the Homeless provide hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens to keep them warm. So far, 728 purchased and handmade items have been donated by the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, PCEP National Honor Society, Plymouth Community Council on Aging, and members of the community.

Plymouth Community United Way is still accepting hats, scarves and gloves as well as food donations. To help, call (734) 453-6879.



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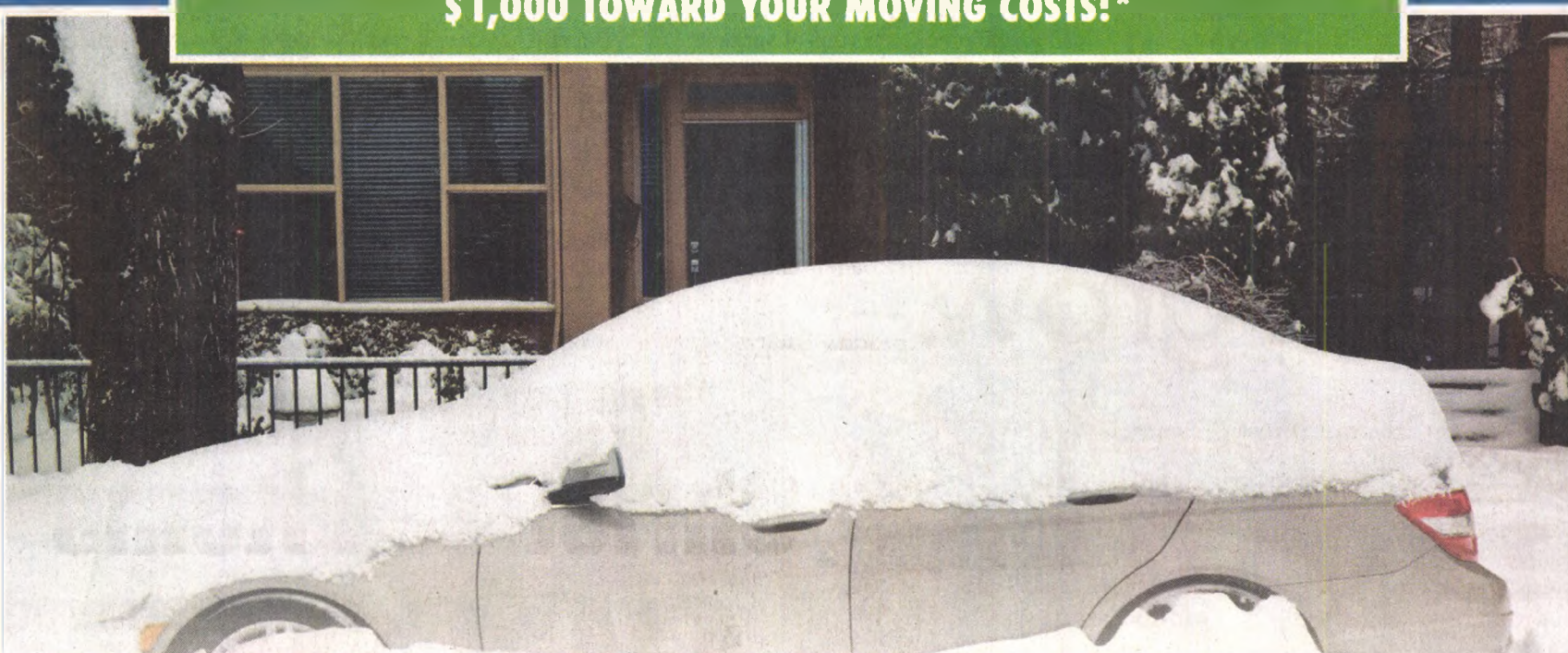
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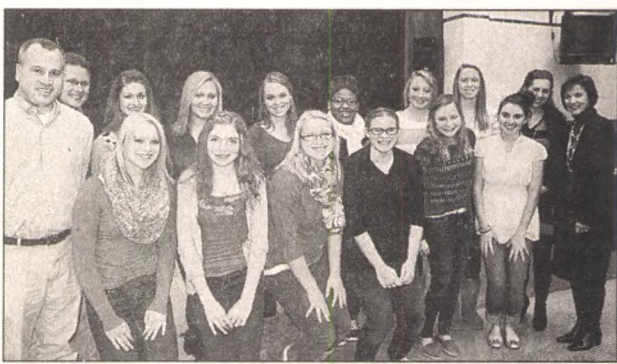
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SCHOOL BRIEFS



Golf greatness

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education recently honored the Plymouth High School Girls' Golf Team for winning the school's first state championship in any sport. The girls captured the state championship earlier this year. Honored were former coach Chris Moore, current assistant coach Jody Wolf and the rest of the Wildcat golf squad. Helping honor them were Plymouth High School Principal Cheri Steckel and board trustee Sheila Paton.

Tutor opportunities

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park offers a variety of tutoring opportunities for P-CEP students to access. One of these programs is the P-CEP Writing Centers. Students who are accepted into the Honors Composition and Writing course serve as writing tutors for P-CEP Students, helping them with editing, proofreading, brainstorming and revising papers.

P-CEP Writing Centers provide thousands of students with the writing skills and lessons necessary for success in high school.

The tutors who run the Writing Centers work to ensure that their fellow students are not only getting their papers proofread, but also are learning the skills necessary to improve their writing. Aside from the tutoring aspect, Honors Composition and Writing students also work on independent research papers and creative writing.

P-CEP students who want help with essays and papers can visit the Writing Centers. To make an appointment for the Writing Centers, log onto E-Park and visit the Writing Centers Page. Tutoring sessions are on an appointment basis only, and last 15 minutes each. Students are encouraged to bring their lunch, as well as their essays to Writing Center.

New Morning open house

Jan. 14 marks the start of Open House Week at New Morning School, where classrooms are a place for children to thrive.

New Morning teachers create an open environment where students are encouraged to explore, question and discover new ideas. They personalize learning strategies to each child to help them stay engaged and motivated. Developmental and cognitive research drive the school's teaching philosophy.

Register by contacting Joan Barrett at (734) 420-3331 or joan@newmorningschool.com.

Goddard honor

Carl Pittner of The Goddard School, located at 6697 N. Canton Center Road, joined more than 400 Goddard School franchisees at the 2012 Goddard School National Franchisee Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to discuss the latest innovations and advancements for providing the highest quality, play-based educational childcare programs in a technology-driven age.

A highlight of the gathering was the award ceremony, where Pittner received recognition for five years in business.

"It was exciting to be recognized at this year's convention. For the past 25 years, The Goddard School has nurtured children into respectful, confident and joyful learners, and we are focused on raising the bar even higher over the next 25 years," said Pittner. "I am proud to ensure that children have fun while learning the skills they need for long-term success in school and in life."

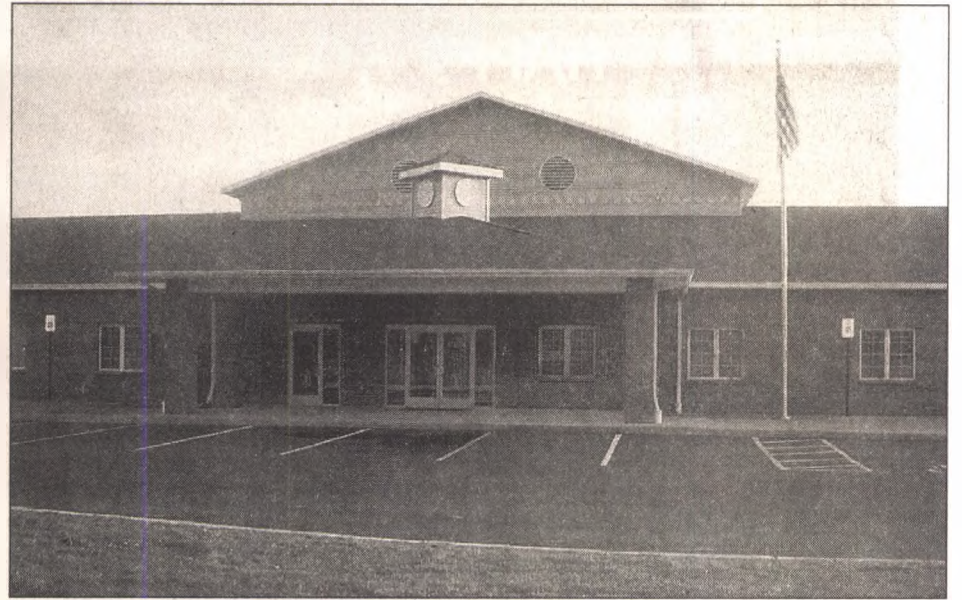
To learn more about The Goddard School, call Pittner at (734) 454-4737 or visit www.goddardschool.com.

Achieve named NHA's top school

Achieve Charter Academy earned the coveted School of the Year Eagle Award from National Heritage Academies, a national charter school management company. The school also won four additional Eagle Awards. The awards are designed to recognize high performing schools in a number of categories. This is the 12th year NHA honored its top performing schools with Eagle Awards.

NHA evaluates schools for an Eagle Award through eight categories, including: Employee Engagement, Parent Satisfaction, Enrollment and Attrition, State Accountability, Academic Growth, Taking Flight, Soaring to New Heights, and School of the Year.

The School of the Year Award means Achieve Charter Academy has outstanding academic performance and strong performance in other critical success factors.



Achieve Charter Academy in Canton was named National Heritage Academies' top school for 2012.

The school also earned Eagle Awards for Academic Growth, State Accountability, Employee Engagement, and Parent Satisfaction; the most awards earned by any other NHA school.

"These awards come with hard work, dedica-

tion, and commitment as we work together with parents, staff, and students to excel to new levels and focus on our goals ahead," said Principal Jennifer Conley.

NHA's system of schools is designed to eliminate achievement

gaps and provide school choice to families, with the objective of preparing children for success in high school, college, and beyond.

For the 2012-13 school year, NHA is serving nearly 48,000 students in 74 schools in nine states.

MILITARY NEWS

Ironman tourney

Air Force Lt. Col. Douglas T. Soho competed in the Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Las Vegas, Nev. Soho placed 654th out of the more than 1,800 world's best triathletes. Soho finished 80th out of 200-plus qualifiers in his age group, 40 to 44, one of the largest age groups in the race.

Soho is the chief of wing standardization and evaluation assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. The lieutenant colonel has served in the military for 21 years.

Soho is the son of Nancy Soho of Northville. He graduated in 1987 from Salem High School and received a bachelor of science in 1991 from the United States Air Force Academy, Air Force Academy, Colo. He also earned a master of arts in 1995 from Webster University, St. Louis, Mo.

Army promotion
Christopher A. Blossom has been promoted to the rank of sergeant first class in the U.S. Army.

Blossom is a saxophonist assigned to the United States Army Field Band at Fort George G. Meade, Md. The new sergeant first class has served in the military for eight years.

He is the son of David and Rebecca Blossom of Canton and Doris

Allen of Livonia. His wife, Anne, is the daughter of Raymond and Margaret Perron of Starbird Corner Road, Bowdoin, Maine.

Blossom graduated in 1997 from Canton High School and received a Bachelor of Music in 2002 from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. He also earned a Master of Music in 2004 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Basic training grads

Air Force Airman Paige C. Bauer graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Bauer is the daughter of Kathleen Bauer of Livonia, and the granddaughter of Len Koelzer of Canton. She is a 2010 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Scott A. Harrington graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Harrington earned distinction as an honor graduate.

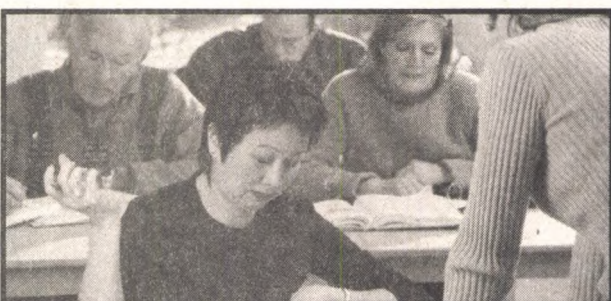
He is the son of Kathleen Harrington of Albia, Iowa, and grandson of Alberta Karll of Canton.

Course graduation

Army Sgt. Erik A. Nelsen has graduated from the H-8 Tracked Vehicle Recovery Specialist Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

Nelsen acquired the necessary training and knowledge to perform recovery operations with an M88A1/A2 tracked recovery vehicle. The course included field and classroom training in the proper use of tools, equipment, technical data, and applicable references needed to determine recovery methods, locate recovery sites, operate tactical communications equipment, and maintain recovery vehicle armament systems.

Nelsen is the son of Keith E. Nelsen of Canton, and a 2002 graduate of Salem High School in Canton.



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Canton family's tree dedicated to slain Sandy Hook children

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Don, Lauren and Cherie Lucas certainly weren't alone in their horror as the tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., unfolded last week, nor were they alone in their urge to do something — anything — to help.

After talking it over as a family, the Lucases decided on an appropriate response.

And now there's a Christmas tree standing outside their Canton home, decorated with ornaments made by pretty much anyone who wanted to help support the families of the victims in the Newtown tragedy.

"The people back there need to know we're all supporting them, and that we all think about them," Lauren Lucas said.

"Everybody is grieving this, and I think it's a good place for somebody to come to pay their respects who can't go out to Connecticut."

The family made the tree available Wednesday night, and made the announcement in an email blast. By the end of



Some 30 people stopped by the Lucas home in Canton to place an ornament on a Christmas tree the family established to show support for the victims of the rampage at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

the evening, more than 30 people had stopped by to pay their respects and add an ornament to the tree. The tree will be up through the holidays.

All the family asks is that donors place the ornament and say a silent prayer or meditation for the victims, friends, families, police and medical responders.

"I felt like we needed to do something, but I didn't know what to do, and this is what we decid-

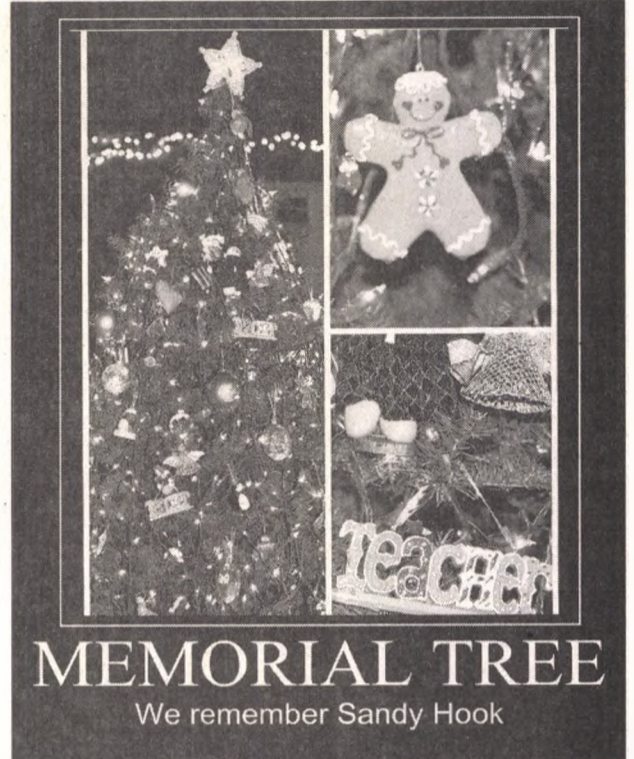
ed," Lucas said. "We all watched in horror at the tragedy. Things like this aren't supposed to happen, especially to innocent children."

When the tree comes down, the Lucases will donate the ornaments to The Compassionate Friends of Western Wayne County, the Livonia-based support group for people who've lost children to sudden death.

The group helped the Lucases when they lost a

child, a circumstance that gave the family a special understanding of what the Connecticut families might be going through.

"I know personally it's one of the worst things that can happen to a parent," Lucas said. "I think this is the one thing that really shocked the whole nation. It was the brutality of the incident and the innocence of the kids. (As parents) you're sending them to school and you're thinking they're



The Lucas family of Canton wanted to do something to show support for the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting.

going to be safe. They're excited to go, and their whole future is in front of them."

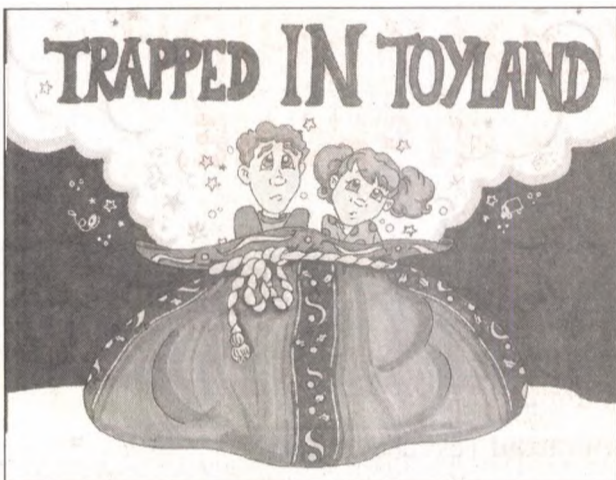
Lucas said she isn't sure how the survivors and families will deal with everything, but she's sure she wanted to help. She just hopes it's enough.

"The ramifications to the kids who are left behind,

who witnessed all of that... Emotionally I don't know how they're going to handle all of that."

Donors can place an ornament on the tree on the front lawn of the Lucas home at 7409 Derby in Canton.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899



"Trapped in Toyland" is Canton author Brian Webster's third book.

Author's third book a holiday adventure

Readers who've ever wondered what's in Santa's bag get a chance to find out by catching Brian Webster's third book, "Trapped in Toyland."

"Trapped in Toyland" is a magical story about a boy and his younger sister who fall into Santa's bag and must escape before the evil action figure, Dr. Grumpkin, turns them into toys.

Like Webster's other books, "Snowville" and "Santa's Elf," "Trapped in Toyland" is dedicated to the author's children, from whom he draws inspiration for many of his stories.

Webster lives with his

wife, Cathy, in Canton. He is a former Detroit Public School teacher, and Cathy is currently a second grade teacher at Tonda Elementary in Canton. Their blended family includes five adult children and one grandchild.

The picture book is brightly illustrated by Megan D. Wellman, who lives with her husband and daughter, Kylee, in the Michigan area.

"Trapped in Toyland" is appropriate for readers 4- to 10-years-old and sells for \$12. It is available by emailing the author at ideaworks247@hotmail.com.

OCC, Schoolcraft among international winners

Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College are among the winners in the 23rd International Culinary Art Exhibition - "The Culinary Olympics" in Germany in October.

The American Culinary Federation's Michigan Chefs De Cuisine Association announced that the Michigan Culinary Olympic Team (MCOT) returned home with more medals than any other state in the United States.

This year's award-winning team included Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland Community College (gold and bronze medal winner) and Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, Schoolcraft College (bronze medal winner).

Held in Erfurt, Germany, the Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA) in October featured more than 1,600 talented chefs from more than 50 countries to showcase their respective culinary skills and innovation in a competitive format.

Approximately 25,000 people attended the competition. The world-class event is similar to the traditional athletic Olympics. Every four years, the IKA serves as the sin-



The 2012 Michigan Culinary Olympic Team members from left top, John Miller, executive chef, Chartwells at Oakland University; Deni Smiljanovski; Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland Community College; Brian Beland, executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit; Steve Valenti; Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, Schoolcraft College; and Gabriel Vera, executive chef, Lena & Habana restaurants in Ann Arbor. From left bottom, Karen Hoffman; Randy Smith, manager of the 2012 MCOT and the executive chef of the Walnut Creek Country Club; and Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club.

gle most elite competitive culinary event globally. This culinary Mecca highlights the best in both professional and student culinary teams from around the world to compete for Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals in multiple categories.

Overall, the 2012 MCOT, sponsored by the ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine (MCCA), brought home three gold medals, one silver medal and three bronze medals from this year's competition.

Michigan is home to some of the greatest products and chefs in the world."

In addition to Ganhs and Loving, this year's award-winning team included Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club (silver medal winner), Chef Gabriel Vera, executive chef, Lena & Habana restaurants in Ann Arbor (bronze medal winner), John Miller, executive chef, Chartwells at Oakland University (gold medal winner), and Brian Beland, executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit (gold medal winner).

Michigan is home to nearly 1,000 American Culinary Federation members statewide and has had great success in previous World Culinary Olympics winning 12 gold, nine silver and six bronze medals in international competitions over the last 25 years.

The ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine hosted several fundraisers these past two years to help raise money for the MCOT to send the team, supplies and equipment to the competition. Through these fundraising efforts and also through contributions of many local businesses MCOT was able to raise nearly \$60,000.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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



subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

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turn to the experts

Area children benefit from generosity of O&E readers

Families throughout the *Observer & Eccentric* area donated hundreds of toys to help brighten Christmas for area youngsters.

The second annual O&E Media Toy Drive was a success and "a gift of love from the community," said Choya Jordan, marketing manager of O&E Media and coordinator of the toy drive.

Youngsters at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford Township and Orchards Children's Services received the toys earlier this month.

"The holiday season is a special time of year for children. For the children we serve, Christmas can be a sad depressing experience. We thank you for bringing hope to vulnerable children that otherwise fall through the cracks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated," said Shai A. James-Boyd, director of development and marketing at Methodist Children's Home Society.

Janice Berry, director of community rela-

tions for Orchards Children's Services in Southfield, echoed the message of thanks to all families who donated to the O&E Media Toy Drive.

"Orchards Children's Services would like to thank all of the generous donors who donated gifts. Our children will receive more toys as a result of your generosity. We are forever grateful."

"On behalf of the O&E staff, thank you for helping spread hope and joy to a child this holiday season," added Jordan. "Our wish is that every child both near and far feel the gift of love from family and a community," said Jordan, adding "We would like to give a special thanks to the The Birmingham Community House and Southfield Chamber of Commerce for helping to collect gifts.

Toys were collected at O&E offices in South Lyon and Plymouth Township and in Birmingham at The Birmingham Community House and Southfield Chamber of Commerce.

Inheritance: Distribute estate as you see fit

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I need help with an estate planning issue. I am a widower with two daughters. One of my daughters has done quite well for herself and doesn't need my money. The other one is constantly struggling to make ends meet. I have loaned her money which I know I'll never get back, but that's okay. Part of me wants to leave the great bulk of my estate to daughter number two because she needs the money. However, I'm not sure this is the right thing to do. Why should I penalize daughter number one for her success? I'm also concerned that if I do leave the bulk of my estate to daughter number two, she will just blow the money. The attorney that I've used in the past knows both of my daughters and I'm not sure he can give me an impartial opinion. What do you think I should do?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

the reason is exactly as you stated in your letter and that is that one child has done financially better than the other. There are, however, other situations that lead parents to treat their children differently. For example, I recently worked on a trust where the father, who was a widower, felt that one daughter was more helpful to him and, thus, he felt she was entitled to more. The bottom line is there are lots of situations where parents do not treat their children equally.

A: The issue of treating children differently in an estate is one that occurs frequently. Generally, fairness has nothing to do with it. The money you have as an inheritance is your money and you are free to dispose of it in any way that you wish. Fairness doesn't enter into the equation.

Think about when your children were growing up. If one child needed braces and the other didn't; did you spend more money on the child that didn't need the braces to compensate for the fact that the other child needed braces? In most situations, the answer would be no. You treated each child fairly according to their individual needs. It is the same thing with an inheritance.

In the letter you mentioned that you do not

want to punish your daughter who has been more financially successful. My answer is that whatever way you're headed, you're not punishing her because it is not her money. It is your money to do with as you choose, in whatever way you think is right.

Putting an explanation in your estate plan can help smooth any hard feelings. In addition, in some situations it is appropriate to talk with your beneficiaries before your death so you can explain what you are doing. The bottom line, it is your money and you're entitled to do with it as you choose.

Good luck!

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

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Hospice Foundation seeks end-of-year donations

The Arbor Hospice Foundation is encouraging supporters to make an end-of-year contribution that will benefit Arbor Hospice patients and their families receiving services in southeast Michigan.

This year, officials say, The Arbor Hospice Foundation will spend:

- \$550,000 on care for patients who don't have insur-

ance or whose care is not fully covered by their insurance reimbursement.

- \$320,000 to provide grief support services to families following the death of a loved one.

• More than \$200,000 in support of pediatric hospice patients and their families.

- \$100,000 for complementary therapies, including pet,

music and massage therapy.

"When insurance policies, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements don't cover all the services patients and families need, The Arbor Hospice Foundation raises additional funds to cover this shortfall," said Heidi Grix, executive director of The Arbor Hospice Foundation. "We ask those considering a contribution to do

so before the end of the year to help Arbor Hospice continue providing the dignified, comfortable and peaceful end-of-life services our patients deserve."

The Arbor Hospice Foundation is seeking donations for four key areas of programs and services:

- Uncompensated and Charity Care - Arbor Hospice

serves more than 250 people every day in their own homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, or The Residence of Arbor Hospice where the cost for care is often not fully covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance reimbursement.

- Complementary Therapies

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HOSPICE

Continued from page A8

– Arbor Hospice offers a wide range of therapies designed to provide comfort to patients and control symptoms wherever they call “home.” These include music, art, massage and pet therapies.

• Pediatric Hospice Services – Due to higher medication costs, specially-sized medical equipment and families’

emotional needs, pediatric hospice service is more expensive than that for adults.

• Grief Support Services – Medicare-certified hospices, like Arbor Hospice, are required to provide grief support services to family members for 13 months following the death of a loved one.

To make a tax deductible contribution or for more information, please visit www.arborhospice.org or call (734) 794-5338.

CFCU extends ‘Warming Hearts’ effort

Michigan residents will continue to have the chance to assist Community Financial Credit Union “Warming Hearts & Homes” through the end of the year, the credit union announced today.

Launched on Dec. 3, people are invited to use cell phone technology and social media to help make

a difference for people in need this winter.

The program encourages people to:

- Like Community Financial on Facebook at www.LikeCFCU.org
- Tweet Community Financial using “#CFCU-Warms” or
- Text “CFCUwarms” to 70 000 on their cell phone.

For each Like, Tweet or Text, Community Financial will donate \$25 to the non-profits, up to \$10,000 each.

Community Financial has earmarked \$30,000 to contribute to local non-profit organizations through the campaign – and there is still money left to donate.

“The response from the community has been outstanding, but we still have some funds remaining to support these amazing charities and we encourage everyone to help us give it away,” said Bill Lawton, Community Financial president/CEO.

For more information on Warming Hearts & Homes, please visit www.cfcu.org.



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The Senior Alliance has a stable of more than 300 volunteers, about 100 of whom help TSA get its Holiday Meals program rolling.

Alliance, volunteers feed home-bound seniors

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Janice Newton remembers the senior citizen who was disappointed because accepting a Thanksgiving invitation to her brother's house meant she couldn't get her home-delivered meal from The Senior Alliance, and she chuckles.

Because the woman was having dinner at her brother's, and because TSA's program is for home-bound seniors, the woman had to miss out on her meal that year.

But this year, over the Christmas holiday, more than 1,000 seniors won't be so disappointed. TSA's annual Holiday Meals program, which reaches out to home-bound seniors to make sure they have a nice, hot Christmas meal, is expected to top last year's 943 servings.

"Each year the need seems to be going up," said Newton, program specialist for Wayne-based The Senior Alliance. "With the economy, more people are hungry."

The Senior Alliance Holiday Meals program was created to provide hot, delivered meals to home-bound seniors four holidays out of the year, including Christmas.

The Holiday Meals program is financed entirely through private donations, as well as various fundraising activities,

HELPING OUR SENIORS

What: The Senior Alliance
Where: Offices at 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne
Who: Provides services to western Wayne County, including the communities of Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Livonia, Redford and Northville.
Why: TSA's mission is to help older adults remain as independent as possible within their community, including home-delivered meals, holiday meals to home-bound seniors, care management, information and assistance, along with other crucial wellness and life-supporting services.
Contact: For more information, call (800) 815-1112.

such as Holiday Card Program, Bank Day and The Senior Alliance's annual Golf Classic.

The traditional Meals on Wheels program doesn't deliver holidays or weekends, and The Senior Alliance staffers wanted to make sure seniors were fed on those days as well. Thus, the Holiday Meals program was born.

"We came up with a program that is strictly paid for by applying for grants from various companies," said Heather Pinage, TSA's resource development director. "This program uses strictly grants, donations and volunteers."

According to Newton, meals for the program are prepared at several venues: Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Park Restaurants in Lincoln Park and Wyandotte Hospital. Newton said each site puts its own spe-

cial twist on the menu, but the meals are basically traditional holiday fare.

"At Thanksgiving it's turkey, at Christmas it's usually ham," Newton said. "Each site might have a different element, but it's basically what you'd expect to find."

TSA staffs the program almost exclusively from its file of nearly 300 volunteers who help throughout the year. According to Newton, about 100 of those volunteers handle the Holiday Meals program, and they're glad to do it.

"Sometimes (volunteers) hang around to pick up extra routes that might be uncovered for one reason or another," Newton said. "Some of them complain if I don't give them enough people. There's no way we could do this program without them. They are the backbone."

Home-bound seniors are eligible for the program, which serves meals Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and — new this year — Labor Day. Pinage said the program fed some 4,000 seniors last year in the 34 communities TSA serves. Even with that client list, TSA staffers know they're helping only a small portion of seniors who could use it.

"There are a lot of people who don't even know about the program, so we try to target more people using fliers at stores, churches, etc.," Newton said. "Even if we do more than 1,000, I don't think it's a drop in the bucket of the number of seniors who are home alone. I get a lot of calls from people who know someone who doesn't have anyone, and they want them to have a good meal. That's a good thing."

Pinage, who's been with the program for about 18 months, said every dollar raised goes right back into the program.

"It's good to know people are actually benefiting from this program," she said.

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Jews, Muslims support Christian neighbors

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Volunteering on Christmas day brings a double reward for Nancy Welber-Barr of West Bloomfield.

Not only is she receiving the joy of giving back on Mitzvah Day, a community-wide day of volunteering, she also receives the gift of giving back.

"It's a real bonus. I like to be able to help other people, and I also get the chance to help people enjoy their holidays," she said.

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit, Mitzvah Day combines efforts of local volunteers who step in to help local charities on the holiday and provide the opportunity for Christian volunteers to take the day off to celebrate the tradition of Christmas.

"It's a chance to give Christians a chance to celebrate without feeling like they have neglected their volunteering duties," Barr said.

The Jewish community has been sponsoring Mitzvah Day in the Metro Detroit area for some 20 years and this is the fourth year that area Muslims will join with them in an effort to relieve their Christian neighbors of their volunteer responsibilities on Christmas.

"It is a show of goodwill and it also builds cooperation between the faiths," said Canton resident Muzammil Ahmed, the chairman of volunteers for the Michigan Muslim Community Council.

Working together across differing religious boundaries illustrates that "we can appreciate each other's religions while still maintaining our own identity," the Canton resident added.

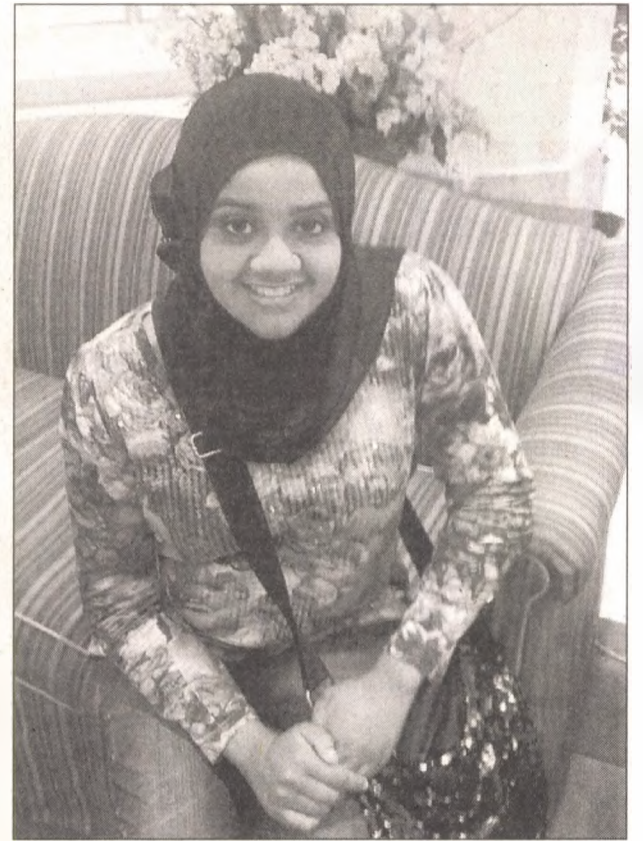
The establishment of Mitzvah Day originated from the command from God to help your neighbor and not to turn your back on the needy, said Micki Grossman of Farmington Hills, a longtime Mitzvah Day volunteer.

She said the idea of Mitzvah refers to Jewish religious obligation to do any good deed.

"It is our religious duty. It is a command that we live with and this is a great chance for the Jewish community to do good things and make a visible community effort in and around Detroit," Grossman said.



Abdullah Haydar, his wife Samah from Canton (right), along with friends (from left) Sumayah Ahmed, Zayd Ahmed, Zaakir Hamzavi collect bags of toys they are getting ready to deliver.



Sarah Waqhar, 18, of Canton is a freshman at Eastern Michigan University. She volunteers for a variety of community efforts because she feels strongly about giving back to her community. "Volunteering on Mitzvah Day gives me a unique opportunity to meet people of different religions and bring smiles to their faces," Waqhar said.

Although Mitzvah Day is celebrated in other regions across the United States, Grossman believes that the idea of a community-wide Mitzvah day might well have had its origins right here in Michigan's Oakland County.

"If we didn't start it, we sure were darn close," Grossman said.

Volunteers respond

More than 800 local residents will participate this year and help more than 40 different charities throughout the area, said Farmington Hills resident Janet Berman, co-chair of this year's event along with Hy Safran.

Volunteers will donate their time to assist with activities ranging from delivering Meals on Wheels to serving food at homeless shelters to helping out at animal shelters, she said.

While Berman is eager to provide assistance to others on Mitzvah Day, it is the opportunity to work alongside those of different faiths that she finds most rewarding.

"I remember when I was volunteering a couple of years ago at an interfaith site and some of the Muslim women came up to me said they were interested in learning more about the Jewish tradition. It was such a beautiful experience. Something really stuck me then about the power of working together. I thought, 'look what we have here.' It may be just a little tiny thing but it is a step in the right direction," Berman said.

"The opportunity to work alongside others of different faiths for a

common goal is very fulfilling, especially when children can see it. It instills a certain feeling inside that is heard to describe," she said.

It is the same feeling that 18-year-old Sarah Waqhar of Canton gets when she volunteers at the event.

"We live in America and we're made of up of so many different religions. The idea that we cannot come together and work alongside each other — we're proving that wrong," she said.

"When you set out to help someone, you don't ask them about their

unique opportunity to meet people of different religions and bring smiles to their faces," Waqhar said.

Working together, she said, breaks down any preconceived notions that people of different backgrounds cannot get along.

"We live in America and we're made of up of so many different religions. The idea that we cannot come together and work alongside each other — we're proving that wrong," she said.

"When you set out to help someone, you don't ask them about their

background or their faith and beliefs. You see a need and you fill it."

It is important as an American to be respectful of one another's religion, she said.

"We are still one community as a whole," she added.

Ahmed said that Mitz-

vah Day is an event that he and his family look forward to all year long.

"This is such a great event. No matter what your religion is, there is a festive air in December. Whether or not you celebrate Christmas it is hard not to get caught up in the holiday spirit," he said.

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Teen in hospice care baffles doctors as she celebrates another Christmas

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Last Christmas, Rachel Collett was in the pediatric intensive care unit at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, not expected to live long enough to graduate in June with her class at Churchill High School.

So on the advice of hospice workers, a special graduation ceremony was planned for Jan. 13 for Rachel, who had met all the requirements early and wanted to graduate before losing her life to the rare bone cancer she has battled since age 11.

Baffling doctors and defying the odds, Rachel not only received her diploma in January, she attended a graduation party the community threw for her two weeks later, went to prom in May and attended commencement ceremonies with her class June 3, where she got up out of her wheelchair and walked across the stage, surprising even her parents.

This Christmas, Rachel feels well enough to walk on her own, go shopping with friends and celebrate the holiday at home with her family.

Her mother, Audrey, considers it a miracle. "I can't explain it," she said. "I just leave it to God."

Rachel still has osteosarcoma, which continues to spread and form new tumors throughout her body. But her quality of life has improved with care from Arbor Hospice and Zometa, a drug given to cancer patients that her mother says strengthens her bones.

"Arbor Hospice has been outstanding," Audrey said. "They are responsible for improving Rachel's life. I can't say enough about them."

Rachel has been able to accomplish more items on her bucket list:

She went to Chicago with her family, swim-



Rachel Collett, mom Audrey and dad Roy Collett.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Rachel visits with childhood friend Madilyn Head. Rachel holds Madilyn's puppy, Maverick.

ming with a beluga whale at the Shedd Aquarium. She had to miss going to Chicago with her sixth-grade class because of chemotherapy for the cancer so it was always her goal to get there. She got a matching tat-

too with her best friend. She attended her first Red Wings game.

Now, she wants to pet a chimpanzee - something her mother doesn't know how she'll make happen. "She can come up with some off-the-wall crazy

things," Audrey said.

A year ago October, doctors told Rachel there was nothing more they could do for her and that she possibly had just months to live.

Rachel planned her funeral and told her parents about her final wishes — including wanting to be kept comfortable until the very end.

By Christmas, Rachel was in so much pain, it hurt when people touched her. It was "a big ordeal" to put her in the car to go to her aunt's house for dinner. She needed help opening her presents.

The doctors were astounded, Audrey said. "One actually turned around and checked the room number."

Doctors can't explain why Rachel continues to do so well, Audrey said. "They're still scratching their heads, still trying to figure this one out."

Rachel, herself, doesn't know why she's survived this long after doctors were giving her just "days, hours" to live.

"I don't know; I just try to do what I do because I have family and I can't leave, not yet," she said.

She said she looks forward to each event, a sister's birthday, now Christmas, and in January, the birth of a nephew.

Audrey is simply counting her blessings.

"I feel so lucky with what happened in Connecticut," she said, referring to the 20 children killed by a gunman at Sandy Hook Elementary. "Their poor parents didn't get to hold their daughter and say goodbye."

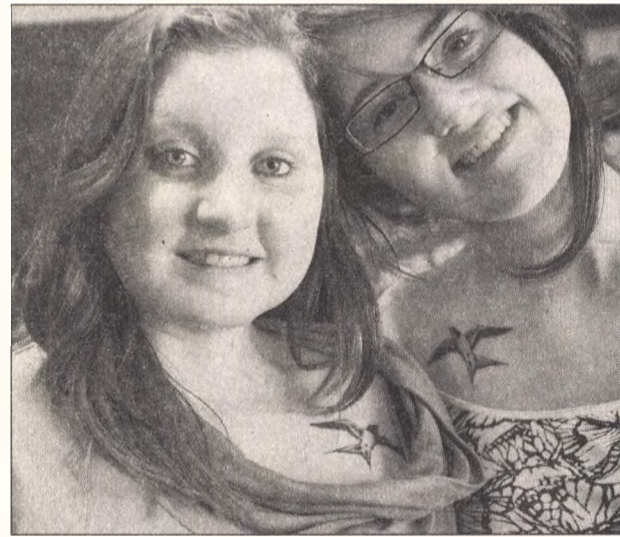
She said Rachel's still being alive is a miracle and she cherishes every moment.

"I can go laugh with her, and I can make her mad. I can cook her whatever she wants for dinner."

This year, Rachel feels well enough that Audrey will be able to prepare Christmas dinner at home before relatives come over to visit.

And, Rachel will be able to open presents without any help. "I think this year she's going to dig into them like a little kid," Audrey said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2098



Rachel Collett and childhood friend Madilyn Head recently got matching tattoos to celebrate their friendship.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved minutes for Meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the month of November 2012, are posted at the following public places within the Township:

Community Center, 12121 Hemingway
Fire Department, 15145 Beech Daly
Library, 25320 Six Mile Road
Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly
Police Department, 25833 Elsinore
Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly

Approved minutes may also be viewed on-line at www.redfordtwp.com

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk
Charter Township of Redford

Publish: December 23, 2012

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There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you don't know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a non-profit legal services program. You can locate these non-profit groups at the California Legals Services Web site (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO: Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegerá. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que progrese su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.

Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las costas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is: El nombre y dirección de la corte es: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3014. The same, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante, que no tiene abogado es: George G. Roman, SBN 141743, Law Office of George G. Roman, 12121 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Telephone: (310) 481-6761. DATE: (Fecha): April 6, 2012. John A. Clarke, Executive Officer/ Clerk, (Secretario) by: Darnetta Smith, Deputy (Adjunta).

Publish: December 23, 30, 2012 & January 6, 13, 2013

CITY OF FARMINGTON SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE REGARDING KEEPING OF HORSES

Public Notice is hereby given that at its December 17, 2012, Regular Meeting, the City Council of the City of Farmington adopted Ordinance No. C-767-2012, summarized below. The purpose of the Ordinance is to amend Chapter 35, Zoning, of the City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, in order to add a new section, section 35-60, "Keeping of Horses."

A full copy of C-767-2012 Ordinance is on file in the City Clerk's Office for public review and inspection.

THE CITY OF FARMINGTON ORDAINS:

- Section 1. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article II, "General Provisions," is hereby amended to add a new section, Section 35-60, "Keeping of Horses."
- Section 2. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article II, "General Provisions," Section 35-49, "Fences" is hereby amended to add a new Subsection "I", "Corrals for the Keeping of Horses."
- Section 3. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article XXI, "Definitions," Section 35-252, "Livestock" is hereby amended.
- Section 4. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article XXI, "Definitions," Section 35-252, "Fence," is hereby amended.
- Section 5. Repealer.
- Section 6. Severability.
- Section 7. Savings.
- Section 8. Effective Date: December 30, 2012
- Section 9. Enactment.

SUSAN K. HALBERSTADT, City Clerk
City of Farmington

Publish: December 23, 2012

Christmas in a small-town way

By Cindy Gray
Guest Columnist

It was Christmas time 1966, and a little girl was dropped off in downtown Plymouth to shop by herself.

Town, to her little mind, was a big deal, and a time when safety didn't seem like such an issue. So she opened the shiny glass doors that led into the big store on Main Street —



Cindy Gray

the S.S. Kresge Five and Dime. Across the creaky wooden floors she walked, wide-

eyed with wonder at all the notions and goods for sale, looking for the perfect Christmas gift for her mom. The little girl's pocketbook was filled with nearly four dollars. She smelled a delicious scent as she meandered past the soda fountain lined with people sitting on shiny, chrome stools with red seats, drinking Coca Cola, milk shakes, and munching on freshly cooked fries and burgers. The store buzzed with activity and the crisp excitement of Christmas.

It was then she saw it: a pretty little box containing bubble bath, housed in a champagne bottle with foil at the neck. The bottle was nestled between two champagne glasses, and each glass held two perfect plastic orchids, purple ones. "Beautiful," she mused, "The perfect gift for my mom."

Precious cargo

To the checkout counter she went, where a lady with a turquoise smock waited. The little girl proudly paid the lady for the bubble bath, and smiled. She had 37 cents left, "Enough to buy candy for a whole month!" she thought. Then, she went to go meet her mom outside, in the rear of the Kresge store. Through the shiny glass doors she went. Then she stopped. She eyed the huge, wide wooden stairway that led down to the parking lot.

Cautiously, her small hand took hold of the big wooden handrail, and she began to make her way down the steps, placing each little foot carefully down, step by step. Then it happened; her worst



The author said she remembers Christmas in a "simpler" Plymouth of the 1950s and '60s.

fear. Down she tumbled. Down, down, down, one hard step after another, until she landed at the bottom of the tall stairs. The little girl heard the crash of broken glass. She smelled the sweet scent of bubble bath.

With tears in her eyes, one hand bleeding, she lifted herself from the floor. She knew she had broken her precious cargo ... she had broken her mother's Christmas present. Liquid seeped into paper as the contents filled the bag, and sadness filled her heart. Broken glass and bubbles sparkled and twinkled upon the floor.

The little girl didn't know what to do, she had broken her mother's Christmas gift, and she'd made an awful mess. Her heart sank as she heard the doors above her open. Then out came a lady in a turquoise smock, the Kresge lady she had paid just minutes before. With a sweep of her hand, the Kresge lady scooped the little girl up from the floor and silently she placed the mess into a bag. The lady wiped tears from the little girl's cheek and said, "You wait here, I'll be right back." She thought about running, but she had been told to wait, and she knew her mom was outside, waiting for her to come out with her package.

Simpler times

The little girl heard the door open again, and the click of heels on the big wooden stairway. She looked way up to the top of the mountainous stairway. And down the steps the lady came, carrying a box filled with sweet bubble bath in a champagne bottle with two champagne glasses, and two perfect plastic orchids, purple ones. "Merry Christmas, hon-

ey," the lady said as she placed the precious cargo in a bag, and put it into the girl's trembling little hands. And a Merry Christmas it was indeed, in a small town kind of way.

Back in those days, Kresge's was the main store in town. Agnew Jewelry was next door, followed by Wiltse's and the bank. Things seemed a bit simpler back then. Plymouth wasn't so 'upscale' and people weren't trying so hard to 'downsize.' Back then, most of us didn't think to act globally, and we sure didn't need to be told to 'act locally.' We just did it.

There is no better time than now to simplify our holidays, and to be grateful for our blessings. At a time when so many across the world have suffered war-torn lives and natural catastrophes, this holiday season is a particularly powerful time to appreciate our blessings. It's a time when most people want to spend less time shopping and more time with family, friends and loved ones.

I went to downtown Plymouth recently and walked around. I couldn't help but look at Main Street, and think about all the changes that have taken place. Amazingly, Wiltse's is still there, and even Pete's Shoe Repair has survived the years. The Mayflower Hotel is gone, but luckily the Penn Theater has had new life breathed into it by a group of dedicated volunteers and locals — for too long it sat like a ghost overlooking Kellogg Park.

Special gift

The retail space that once was S.S. Kresge is now filled with fancy Italian 'eateries' and galleries. The walkway

between the stores is still there, leading to the same parking lot, now multi-story. And strangely enough, the stairway that led from Kresge's to the parking lot is still there, too. I don't know if "they" made it smaller, or if I just got bigger, but it seemed smaller to me, less daunting than my memory would allow. Funny, how as a child things can seem so large, yet years later, through the eyes of an adult, the same things don't look so big anymore.

I stood there looking at the stairway, the shiny glass doors, and the wooden handrail. I walked inside and thought about Christmas, and the kindness of strangers that often comes along at a time when you really need a hand. I thought about the joy of giving a special gift to someone you love. After all, that's what Christmas is really all about.

As I turned and began to walk away, sunlight from the west shone in through the window, and it caught a tiny piece of glass lying on the floor. For a brief moment it sparkled and it twinkled, and I remembered the story of that little girl who fell down those stairs, and broke her mommy's Christmas present. How could I forget? That little girl was me.

Cindy Gray was born and raised in Plymouth, Michigan; she is an author, handwriting analyst and Yoga teacher; proprietor of CG's Magical Mist. She can be reached at (734) 266-2734; email at info@cindygray.biz; website www.cindygray.biz.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disagree with headline

I would like to disagree with the premise of your headline in the Dec. 16 *Observer* about the objections of the Plymouth police chief and Dr. Hughes to the logic in relaxed gun laws being considered by the Legislature and the governor.

Plymouth Township has a very professional police department. As far as its response to any mass shootings, one must consider that in the past cases, like the terrible shooting in Connecticut and the movie shooting in Colorado, by the time the police arrived (very quickly as reported) all the victims had already been shot.

It only takes a few minutes to kill a large number of people who are unarmed. Note that in all cases that we have been discussing the victims have been in "Gun Free Zones." This means that those citizens with concealed carry permits were not allowed to carry a handgun in those areas. That did not stop the shooter from causing the mass loss of life in each case.

Had the hero principal at the Connecticut school been carrying a gun and able to stop the killer, she may not have died in vain trying to tackle him. Allowing select concealed carry citizens with specialized training to carry guns in "Gun Free Zones" may prevent such tragedies in the future.

Larry Schultz
Plymouth

Failed coup d'etat

In Brad Kadrich's column "Legislators did disservice to local voters," Dec. 13, he talks about the "desecration of the political process" by lame-duck Republicans who rushed through right-to-work legislation without much debate. To me, real desecration of the political process is what Proposal 2 was all about.

The brazen and yes, arrogant attempt by the unions to enshrine their rights in our state constitution would have negated the will of the people and their representatives in Lansing in any past and future dealings regarding union issues.

Bob King, the president of the UAW, was warned by Gov. Snyder not to go forward with Proposal 2 because the union power grab would not be in the best interest of the state and its residents. He went ahead anyway knowing full well that if Proposal 2 failed, there would be repercussions in the form of legislative actions to prevent the unions from ever attempting such a coup d'etat again.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

Law fails smell test

I would like to comment on the article in Sunday's paper (*Observer*, Dec. 16) written by Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Rep. Kurt Heise.


They defend their actions in passing the right-to-work (for less money) law by saying it is fair for unions and the members. Folks, when pawns of the rich tell you something is for your own good, you can bet you are about to get the shaft. The same old crap, trust us to treat you fairly, just as we have throughout history.

When they write about the state losing jobs, the unions had no say in that. It was their corporate benefactors who didn't, and don't, want to pay a livable wage. So they closed factories here and now pay \$3 an hour in China or, thanks to NAFTA, south of the border.

Finally, according to Gov. Snyder and these two fine gentlemen, it is perfectly reasonable that, even though you benefit from something, you should not be required to pay for it. I believe that is the same argument anti-tax protesters have been using for years and we know how that has turned out for them.

Nothing about this law passes the smell test and hopefully will be struck down in the courts. If not, we can always look forward to 2014.

James Huddleston
Canton




**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 30759 Ford Road from C-2 Community Business District to C-3 General Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: December 23, 2012 AT8792430 3x3



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Publish: December 23, 2012 AT8792325 3X4




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PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 111 Middlebelt Road from C-1 Local Business District to C-3 General Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: December 23, 2012 3x3 AT08792680



**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
(734) 453-1234**

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z 13-01 1067 Linden
Non-Use Variance Requested
Rear Yard Setback
Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential
Applicant: Kevin M. Porter

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170,
(734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: Sunday, December 23, 2012 3x3 AT08792681

Burger carnival pays tribute to long-time benefactor, Jack Russo

A familiar face was missing from the festivities at the staff and students of Burger School for Students with Autism gathered last week to take a trip down Route 66 at their annual Winter Carnival.

The event has been made possibly annually through the support of businessman Jack Russo, his family and friend Larry Berman. This year, however, the carnival took on a different meaning for students who sang a special song at a ceremony to honor of Mr. Russo who passed away on Oct. 21.

"This day has always been so dear to Jack Russo's heart," said teacher Colleen Polin who helps plan the event." For 20 years, Jack and Noella Russo and their family have actively supported Burger School. Their desire to make a difference has had a positive impact on the lives of our students."

Students "visited" eight state along Route 66. They were able to dig for treasure in the Mojave Desert, search for aliens in Roswell, New Mexico, walk the wooden pier in California, eat a "Chicago Dog" at the hot dog stand and sample a variety of soft drinks from along Route 66.

They also listened to vintage songs from the juke box, received a bannana from the Harley Riders, rested at a Camp Grounds, got a photo from Hollywood, California, and visited with Santa Claus during the event.

The Russo family has designated funds each year for winter and spring carnivals events, sharing in the staff's desire to help create special memories for students that will last a lifetime, Polin said.

"They share in the vision for creating a brighter future for children and young adults with this severe life-long disability," she said.

"They recognize the continuous challenge for all of us here at Burger School, as we strive to provide meaningful educational activities for students with such a wide range of abilities and unique needs."

Mr. Russo got his start in business on the east side of Detroit where his passion for the trucking industry first took root in the 1970s. Not long after, he was the owner of Alco Express transporting steel throughout Michigan where he and his family built a company.

He also worked alongside other business leaders, city officials, automotive suppliers and rail road providers to construct Wayne Industries in Wayne into the leading distribution warehouse dedicated to the steel industry.

His philanthropic endeavors took shape over many years donating time, money and resources to Detroit area churches, families in need, his own employees and to the Burger School in Garden City for children and families afflicted with autism.

A simple trip to his barber more than 20 years ago led to his involvement with the Burger School where he helped raise funds for a playscape, basketball court, reflective garden, science room and a host of other amenities that otherwise wouldn't have been possible without the Russo family's support and guidance.

The Noella and Jack Russo Family Foundation has been set up to continue his mission of Burger School and students with autism. More information is available online at www.njrfoundation.org.

"We are keenly aware of the economic issues that are impacting education and we are extremely grateful to this family for their love and support." Polin said.

— By Sue Mason



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus wore some cool shades to meet with Burger students Kaled and Drake Willis of Garden City. Garden City school board member Darlene Jablonowski did a reprise of her role as Christmas Carol.



The staff and students of Burger School for Students with Autism honored the family of the late Jack Russo. On hand for the annual Winter Carnival were daughter-in-law Kim Russo of Plymouth, granddaughter Chloe Russo, daughter-in-law Melissa Russo, son Sal Russo, daughter Justine Russo daughter, his wife Noella Russo, grandson Christopher Burcham, granddaughter Lauren McIntosh, grandson Nick Russo, son-in-law Mike McIntosh, granddaughter Ryann Russo and daughter Lisa Russo.



Daniel Zagon reaches out to the animals at the petting zoo.



Evan Boehringer of Garden City and Jonathan Tharp of Canton take a break from the festivities to make Christmas cards.

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THE DILEMMA OF BACK PAIN

Almost everyone will experience back pain in their lifetime. One would think that physicians faced with such a common problem would have an approach at their fingertips for diagnosis, treatment and questions patients might ask. Such is not the case.

The fact is that in over 90% of back pain cases, the physician has no diagnosis. Treatment decisions hardly fare better. Why is that so?

First, the back is a complicated piece of anatomy. Back musculature is arrayed in both layers and weaves. The intertwined muscles are difficult to identify even with MRI, which is the best imaging available. Physicians have no way to accurately identify the presence of strains or tears in the dorsi flexors or rotators of the back.

Second, changes brought by aging mean that the structure of the back changes and episodes of pain or difficulty arising from a chair will occur on the basis of age related loss of lumbar flexibility and load accommodation. Physicians have difficulty separating these changes from pain resulting from injury or inflammation.

Physicians have a problem in prescribing therapy because few studies provide guidelines for when to start with pain medication and let time resolve the pain or under what circumstances is physical therapy the best initial course.

The question of when to use epidural injections remains unanswered though this procedure enjoys a popularity. Finally, the place for surgery and which procedure to use from a myriad of alternatives, is a matter of debate.

Organizations offer advice to help people get through the holidays

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The holiday season is a time of nostalgia and family gatherings, a time for fond memories and making new ones. For many people, however, this time of year can be difficult for those very reasons because they are reminded of loved ones lost.

The death of a family member or friend can be even more difficult during the holidays. Laughter may trigger a memory, a plate of food or even a particular movie can make a person remember a moment from the past.

Grief is difficult during the holidays, especially when the spirit of the season is jovial and filled with parties, gifts and fun.

Things aren't hopeless though. There are helpful methods a person can use to get through the grieving and experience the happiness of the holiday season again.

"Be gentle with yourself and remember your own well being," said Donna Hogan, whose husband passed away 13 years ago and who now volunteers with New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville.

She said it was very painful at first, but after she was connected with New Hope she began to feel a more positive outlook. For her the opportunity to connect with people in similar situations was a big step.

"It's important to surround yourself with people who are supportive," she said. "During the hol-

idays it can be difficult, but listen to your heart and do what's comfortable for you."

She said each holiday season she honors her husband's memory by lighting a candle or hanging a wreath in remembrance.

"Do something to honor them," she said as a helpful tip in coping with grief.

On Dec. 7, New Hope held its holiday party and it was a time for friends and supporters of the center to have some fun, and also remember their loved ones.

For Birmingham resident Alan Walthall, a New Hope member, the holidays always present moments of grief. He has lost multiple people in his life, including his wife.

"People are different in

dealing with grief. I pushed myself, but some don't and shouldn't. So it's important to listen to oneself," he said.

Both Hogan and Walthall were remarried after meeting their husband and wife through New Hope.

A community resource for grieving people is Compassionate Care Hospice in Canton. There Ann Christensen is the bereavement coordinator and works with helping people deal with grief.

She said the holidays can be a tough time, but they can also be a helpful distraction.

"The anticipation can be the hardest part of the season," she said. "Especially if one is still in the active phase of grieving and there's a lot of anxiety. But

there are ways people can work through this."

She said planning ahead as to where and how you will spend your time during the holidays is important. In addition, if need be don't worry about letting yourself scale back on activities or parties if you want to. But if you feel like making plans, get help from supportive family or friends.

"Creating a memory is a great way to make the holidays new again," Christensen said. "And it can be done through a way to remember that loved one."

She said making an ornament with a photo of that person on it or making their favorite food dish are two ways to remember and honor.

New Hope Director Cathy Clough said if a

person is grieving then he or she doesn't have to ignore those feelings. The same goes for those around that person. She said many times those who have lost a loved one want to remember or speak about them, so it's alright to tell stories and memories.

"Plan ahead, be around supporters and find a way to remember," she said of working through holiday grief.

To find out more about these local support resources go to New Hope's web site at <http://www.newhopecenter.net> or call Compassionate Care at (734) 983-9050. Both have support groups and resources to address any situation.

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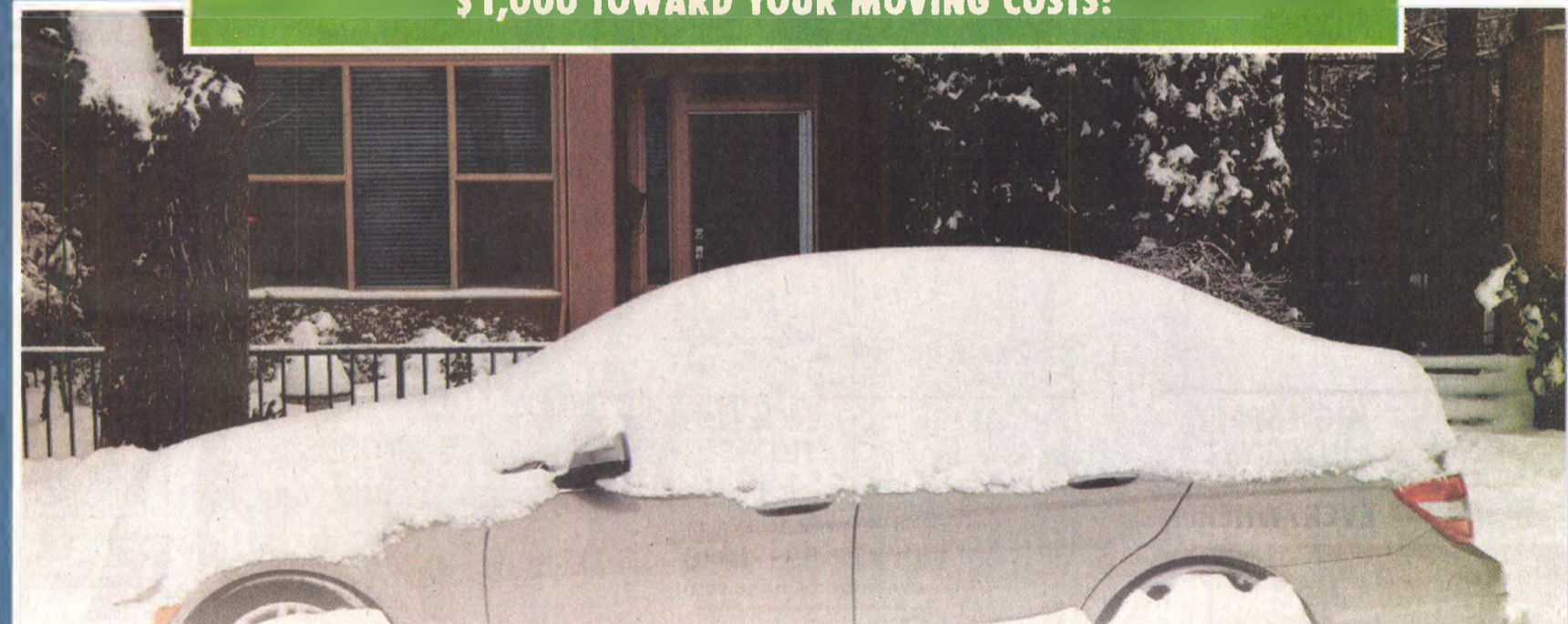


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Support groups help families with members in prison

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Dealing with the death of a loved one is extremely hard during the holidays as memories of happier times flood back during gatherings with friends and family and empty chairs serve as a constant reminder of loss.

The painful feelings are just as strong for those dealing with another type of loss: families with loved ones behind bars within the prison system.

Those feelings are often intensified during the holiday season as families left behind also struggle silently with the shame of their loved one's crime, often making the feelings of grief even harder to bear.

"It is very similar to the feelings of a loss from death. However, it is even more painful because on top of the grief, you also have humiliation and embarrassment to go along with it," said Bonnie Hilberer, founder of Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a Westland-based support groups for adults with incarcerated loved ones.

Hilberer understands these feelings well. She started the group in 2008 after her son-in-law's father was convicted of murder, devastating not only the family of the victim, but Hilberer's family as well.

"The trauma for my son-in-law and daughter



Group members meet bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland with Bonnie Hilberer (center).

was overwhelming. I searched for some type of support group that could provide an outlet for his emotions and could not find anything. There are groups out there for the children of prisoners, but really nothing to help the adults who are hurting as well. So I decided I had to start one myself in order to help him," she said.

Grief support is model

Hilberer had prior experience working with grief support groups following the loss of her own husband to a heart attack after 24½ years of marriage, and used

these as a model for her own group, which meets bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland.

"When I contacted the state prison board and asked for sources for support, they sent me back a letter with three words: seek private counseling. There are help groups for smokers, drinkers and overeaters: but where does a family go for help when they have a loved one sent to prison? I knew I had to find a way to help the families through this trauma because it is not their fault and they are suffering, too," she said.

No doubt there was need for such as support

group — a 2010 study by the Pew Research Trust indicated that there were 2.3 million Americans behind bars, equaling more than one in 100 adults with numbers expected to rise.

"Now we have a wonderful network of people who can help each other and help provide resources," she added.

The group was readying for their December Christmas potluck, an annual event to provide a lighter, festive mood during a tough time.

"We try and make our Christmas gathering a little more upbeat because there is no way to make the pain go away completely," she said.

"When someone goes to prison, their loved ones are left behind and it is the same grief — the same feelings of loss — but no one ever acknowledges it; no one ever says to them, 'I'm sorry for your loss.' It is almost like you are guilty by association," Hilberer said.

Forgotten ones

"The holidays are made harder by that fact that you suffer these emotions alone. The families left behind are the forgotten ones," she said.

It is a sentiment shared by Ora Williams of Detroit, president of Mothers of Inmates, a support group serving residents throughout the area, including Southfield.

"Having a loved one in prison is like a dirty little secret and you bear the pain alone — it's not something that you share with others, because of the stigma. Christmas is particularly difficult because you are not only lonely from missing the person in prison, you are also lonely because there is no one you can share your feelings with," said Williams.

Williams speaks from experience — she herself joined the group nine years ago when her own son was incarcerated. Now that her son has been released from prison, she remains committed to the group in an effort to give back to oth-

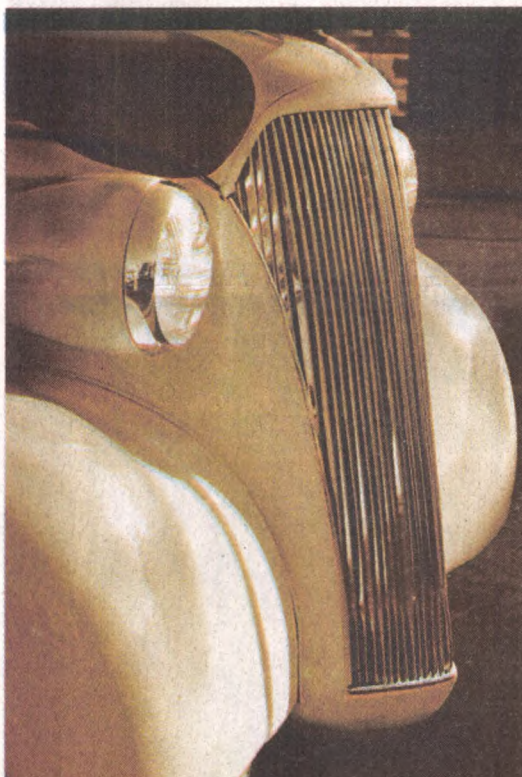
ers. The group held its sixth annual party for children of inmates on Dec. 15 at Fellowship Chapel Church in Detroit. Their "Angel Tree" party served more than 200 area children with parents currently in the prison system with the help of 100 additional volunteers.

The party featured a magic show, face painting and a light lunch, Williams said, as well as the distribution of books, stuffed toys and hats and mittens. The children received a gift from their incarcerated parent, made possible through the generous donations of individuals and charitable organizations alike.

"Having a loved one in jail affects children tremendously. For some children, the present they receive at Christmas is the only connection with their loved one. Even if they are too young to understand exactly where their special person is or what they did, they are never too young to understand that someone that they love very much is now gone. That is why this is so important," Williams said.

"When someone is sentenced to prison, the surviving family members receive the same sentence. We live by the Serenity Prayer. We can't fix it and make everything perfect but we can help try and heal a broken heart," she said, "Especially during the holidays."

Both of these nonprofit groups are welcoming new members and/or contributions. If you are interested in contacting Help 4 Healing Hearts, contact Bonnie Hilberer at (734) 646-2237 or at: prettymonarch@comcast.net. If you are interested in contacting Ora Williams, call her at (313) 531-2025.



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Ⓢ PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG)
OPENS TUE. 12/25
TUE 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
WED/TH 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Ⓢ DJANGO UNCHAINED (R)
OPENS TUE. 12/25
TUE 3:00, 6:20, 9:45
WED/TH 11:30, 3:00, 6:20, 9:45
Ⓢ 3D MONSTERS, INC. (G)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
FRI-SUN/WED/TH 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:00
MON 11:40, 2:00, 4:20
TUE 4:20, 6:45, 9:00
Ⓢ JACK REACHER (PG-13)
FRI-SUN/WED/TH 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
MON 11:00, 1:45, 4:30
TUE 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Ⓢ THIS IS 40 (R)
FRI-SUN/WED/TH 1:00, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
FRI/SAT 1:15
MON 1:00, 4:10
TUE 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
Ⓢ 3D THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
FRI-SUN 11:15, 2:45, 6:20, 9:45
MON 11:15, 2:45, 6:20, 9:45
WED/TH 11:10, 6:10
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MAGIC TO MOVIES: D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE:
FRI-SUN 11:15, 2:45, 6:20, 9:45
MON 11:15, 2:45, 6:10
WED/TH 11:10, 6:10
Ⓢ THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 11:05, 11:30, 2:30, 3:00, 6:05, 6:35, 9:25, 10:00
MON 11:05, 11:30, 2:30, 3:00
TUE 9:35 WED/TH 2:40, 9:35
D-BOX ADDS MOTION SEATING
MAGIC TO MOVIES: D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE:
TUE 9:35 WED/TH 2:40, 9:35
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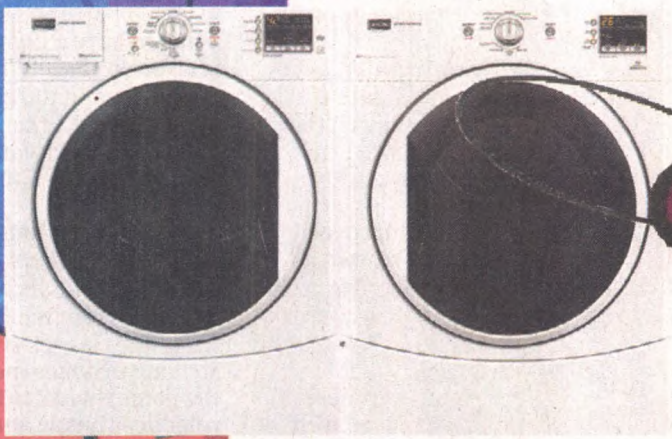
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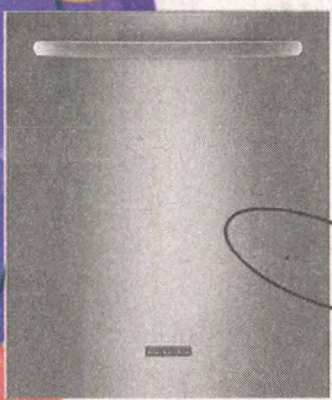
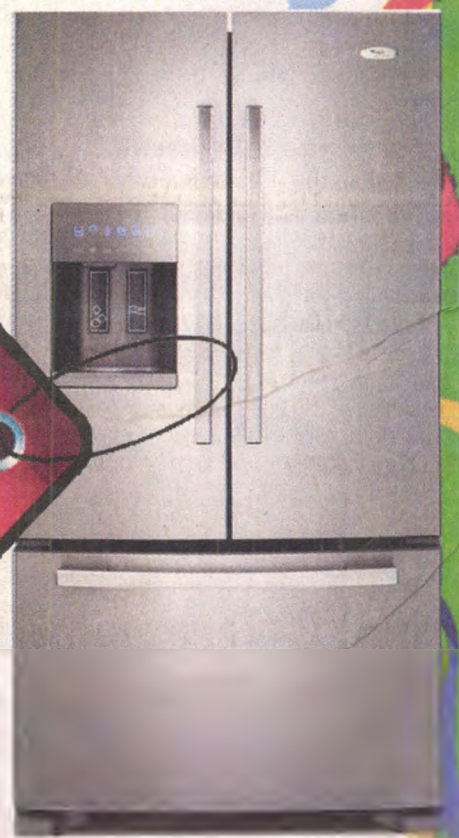
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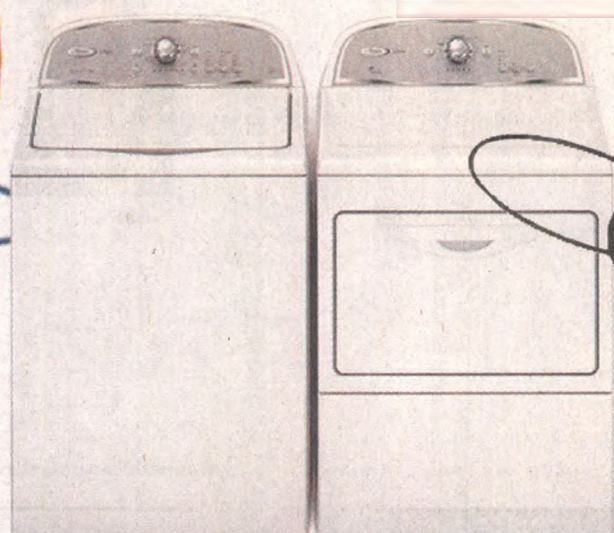
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SPORTS



Livonia Stevenson's Dante Seychel battles South Lyon Unified's Corey Robinson for possession of the puck Friday night at Joe Louis Arena.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SLU goalie bounces Spartan icers

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Corey Robertson had a little extra bounce in his step Friday night on the Joe Louis Arena ice surface.

The junior figured in all four goals and goaltender Aaron Callan stopped 41-of-44 shots to lead South Lyon Unified to an upset 4-3 victory over state-ranked Livonia Stevenson in what was a substitute for the cancelled Winter Classic at Comerica Park.

South Lyon Unified ironically looked anything but a sub-.500 team.

The Lions, now 4-7-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the KLAA's Central Division, led all the way taking a 2-0 first period lead on goals by Cam Thomas (from Robertson at 2:49) and Robertson (from Grant Braeckevelt at 9:46).

Stevenson (8-1-2, 4-1-1) cut the deficit to 2-1 on Dominic Lutz's goal from Tyler Irvine and Josh Demonie at 2:43 of the second. But Robertson took advantage of a Spartan turnover and scored un-

sisted with only 14.6 seconds to go in the period to give the Lions a two-goal cushion again.

"I knew we were playing at Joe Louis and a lot of people would be watching, so you've got to give a little extra effort," Robertson said. "I thought the boards were more lively, so you had to be prepared to stop and start each way wherever it would go.

"The key to success was probably striking first and getting the first goal. That kind of puts them on their heels at the beginning, and then just keep it going."

At 1:05 of the third period, Stevenson's Dante Seychel scored on a shot from the blueline with Michael Sinclair and Ryan Frazer assisting to make it 3-2.

The Lions, however, answered at 3:53 on a power play goal by Alex Hudgens (from Robertson and Cory Haas) for a 4-2 lead.

And although Travis Harvey's short back-hander from Alex Hunt made it a one-goal deficit again at 7:36, South Lyon was able to hang on for the win.

"It wasn't a bad game, it was a

competitive game," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Hats off to them. They (South Lyon) played hard. We had our chances."

And the play of Callan certainly was a deciding factor as well.

"He played super, especially the second period," South Lyon coach Bill McCreary said of his net-minder. "We were down quite a bit and I think he kicked out 23-of-24 shots. He had a great second."

Stevenson goaltender Connor Humitz made 18 saves in the loss.

"The first period we started off slow," Mitchell said. "The second period - by our accounts - we had 23 shots and only put one in the back of the net. I think we outplayed them that second period, and we're still down two, and that was kind of the ballgame right there.

"But I give our kids credit. We didn't quit. But hats off to South Lyon. They didn't quit and got the job done."

Although the loss was damaging in the standings, knocking Steven-

Please see HOCKEY, B4

Chargers' pressure squeezes Thurston

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's full-court pressing girls basketball team was about as hospitable as the Grinch during Thursday night's non-conference matchup against visiting Redford Thurston.

For much of the night, the Chargers' defense inflicted misery on the Eagles, forcing 31 turnovers while securing a 46-35 victory.

Churchill improved to 4-1, while Thurston dropped to 2-6. The contest was the final action for both teams until after the holidays.

"I thought at times tonight we played well defensively," Churchill coach Matt McGowan said. "We're still forcing things a little bit too much on our press; we're still reaching and fouling too much. We need to put some pressure on the oth-

er team's offense and let them make mistakes."

Senior guard Sydney Anderson was in the middle of the mix for the Chargers, finishing with 12 points, 10 rebounds and five steals.

"Sydney is a really good player and she's going to have a big year," McGowan said. "Whatever she does on the court, others follow. I thought Julia Szuba and Natalie Spala played well tonight, too."

Despite their abundance of turnovers and an 8-for-38 shooting night from the floor, the Eagles stayed within striking distance most of the game thanks to their relentless hustle and frequent trips to the free-throw line. Thurston, which forced the Chargers into 25 turnovers, trailed just 19-14 at the half after senior guard

Please see CHARGERS, B3



Livonia Churchill's Sydney Anderson drives to basket against Redford Thurston's Braelyn Brown during Thursday night's game.

ED WRIGHT PHOTO

Canton, Plymouth wrestlers roll on

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

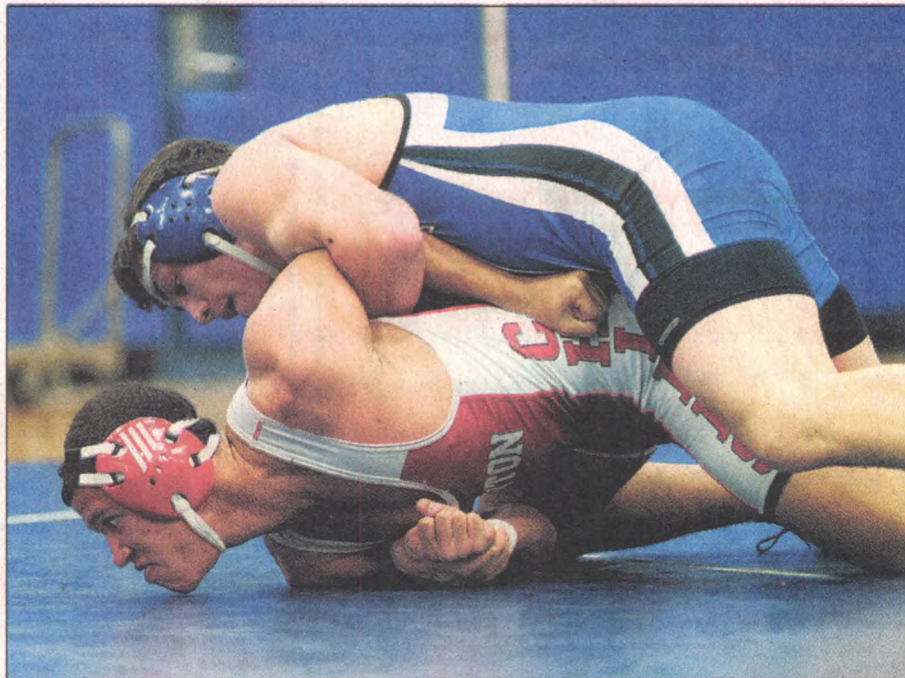
Opponents might be hoping the holiday break slows down Canton and Plymouth, which continued to roll with two wins each at Wednesday's Salem Quad Meet.

Both teams preceded the quad meet by finishing in the top three at the recent Wayne County Wrestling Championships.

Canton improved to 8-3 overall, posting a 51-27 win over Salem and a 35-20 triumph over Novi. Plymouth (8-1) also defeated Novi and Salem, by scores of 42-23 and 43-36, respectively.

"Novi's a little tougher, but we wrestled well

Please see WRESTLE, B3



Battling it out Wednesday in their bout at 189 are Salem's Mitchell Gross (top) and Canton's Jevon Hill.

BRIAN QUINTOS

Farmington's Wilson starts in Pizza Bowl

Jason Wilson of Farmington Hills will start at cornerback for the Central Michigan (6-6) football team Wednesday night when it plays Western Kentucky (7-5) in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl at Ford Field.

The game begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be televised nationally by ESPN.

Wilson, a true sophomore from Farmington High School, went to CMU as a wide receiver, but he was moved to defense because of his ability to make a play, accord-

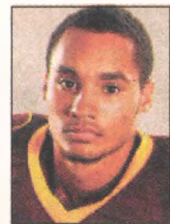
ing to Farmington coach John Bechtel.

The 6-foot, 174-pound Wilson is considered a shutdown corner at CMU, and his pass-catching skills translate well to defense, he said.

Wilson has two interceptions, returning one 55 yards for a touchdown against Michigan State, and seven pass breakups. He is fourth on the team in tackles with 48, including 28 solos.

As a true freshman in 2011, Wilson played in all 12 games and caught a pass (nine total) in six.

In his final two years at Farmington, the two-time, All-Observer player had 71 receptions for 1,163 yards and 10 touchdowns.



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PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

Chargers battle past Novi, 5-2

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill didn't have it's 'A' game going in Wednesday night's boys hockey encounter at Edgar Arena with visiting Novi.

But the Chargers probably graded out with a 'B,' and that was good enough for a 5-2 victory over the Wildcats.

"This is a game where we really had to battle to win," said Churchill first-year coach Jason Reynolds, whose team was outshot 34-26. "Novi really came to play. We were lucky that we got on the board early and able to get a substantial lead. They (Novi) certainly weren't willing to give up early in the game."

Luke Bageris scored unassisted just 1:45 into the first period to stake Novi to a 1-0 advantage.

But the Chargers responded with four straight goals before the period ended to take a 4-1 advantage.

All four Churchill goals were even strength with Riley Brown notching the first two at 3:17 (from Nick Misiak) and at 7:12 (from Drew Puishes).

Luke Otto then scored at 9:34 from Tommy Carey and Matt Sinclair tallied another at 12:07.

With just 21 seconds left in the second, Novi's Chris Kennedy scored from Jacob Lynch and Carl Farao to cut the deficit to 4-2.

But Churchill freshman goaltender Alec Calvaruso, who made 32 saves, stood tall in the final period and Misiak's empty netter from Brown and Misiak ended the suspense with only 1:34 remaining.

With the victory, Churchill improves to 5-4 overall and 3-2 in the KLAAs South Division.

The Wildcats, who got 22 saves from netminder Patrick Carney, slipped to 2-4-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the KLAAs Central.

"I think we can improve upon our effort that we made in the second period," Reynolds said. "I think we had more energy in the third. We were lucky the bounces went our way. It wasn't our best effort, but it's nice to get the win."



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Churchill's Dylan Smith (10) and Tommy Carey (22) take control along the boards in Wednesday's Kensington Conference crossover against Novi at Edgar Arena.

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Christmas traditions make holiday memories

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

When I was a kid, the Christmas season wasn't complete until my family turned on one of my favorite holiday traditions: the neon sign.

The Christmas tree could be up, with cookie baking and shopping in full swing, but it didn't feel like Christmas time until Dad, a former neon sign-maker, installed his hand-made creation on the front of our bungalow.

While everyone else in the neighborhood wrapped their shrubs in strings of twinkling lights, we wished passersby a "Seasons Greetings" in bright red script, with two glowing yellow candles and bright green holly leaves.

I loved flicking the switch that caused our porch and snow-covered grass to glow in holiday colors. I loved the sign because it was my family's unique signature tradition.

During my college years, Dad grew tired of hanging its hand-bent and hand-blown glass pieces in cold winter weather. The sign was retired to the rafters in the garage and the family tradition went with it.

Today, my parents light up their shrubs with LED lights that glow as bright as the neon sign once did, but aren't as special.

The sign was trashed after a piece broke during Spring cleaning one year. It's an heirloom gone and a tradition I'll likely never revive in my own home. But I did take a cue from Dad's artistry to create my own traditions. I love making items — everything from etched glassware to knitted scarves — in lieu of greeting cards for immediate family members.

The "grab bag of gifts," a collection of goofy garage sale items — my favorite was the glowing electric logs made by a Boy Scout troop — kids' toys, along with a few genuinely nice presents, greets anyone who visits my home in December.

Christmas traditions are those "must do" activities that we love to do every year.

Read on for a sampling of other, unique traditions submitted by local residents. Enjoy!

Dogs visit Santa, adoptable cats wear holiday best

Every year we take the "girls" to get their pictures taken with Santa.

I started taking the girls because I figured after everything they put me through, they can be dressed-up and humiliated for a few minutes, one day a year. I've also photographed my dogs so much, that going to another place to have a photo taken is not a big deal. In fact Sunny knows the sound of me taking the lens cap off the camera and gets excited.

They actually really like going because there's always a ton of people and other animals in the store. And that's part of the other reason I enjoy taking them — breaking down that pitbull stereotype. In fact, this year there was a lady we kept running in to, despite her attempts to stay away. She kept saying how "serious" my dogs looked. She happened to be behind us in line and kept her distance while trying to be friendly. As the cashier was ringing up our stuff, about a half dozen kids appeared out of nowhere, and my dogs went into fits of licking. The kids were at the perfect lick-level for both my dogs and everyone enjoyed the interaction. As we were leaving the lady said, "those seem like nice



Cheyenne, (left) 7, a pit-Lab mix, and Sunny, 5, a pit-beagle mix, meet Santa Claus at PetSmart in Livonia. Visiting Santa is a Christmas tradition for the "girls" who live in Garden City with Jennifer Fritz, vice president of New Beginnings Animal Rescue, and her husband, Chris Trevarthen.

dogs." It wasn't much, but I knew we had changed her mind, even if it's just a bit.

Holiday cats

We started dressing up cats at New Beginnings Animal Rescue because it's funny. Cats just have this "way" about them. They seem so uninterested and nonchalant about everything, so a little dress-up seemed appropriate. I don't want to brag, but we've kind of become experts in the art of cat-dressing-up-and-photographing — and yes, it is an art. I think it also helps show that our cats are really cool! I mean, if they tolerate having their picture taken while wear-

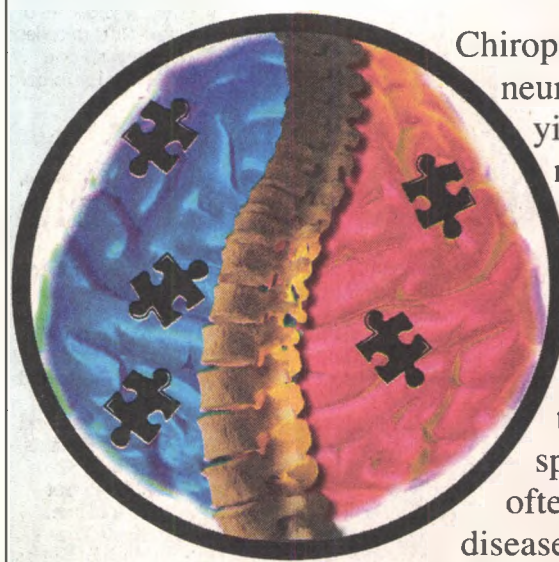


"Mint Julep" tries her best to imitate a reindeer. Dressing up adoptable cats is a part of a Christmas tradition at New Beginnings Animal Rescue (nbarmichigan.org), where Jennifer Fritz of Garden City has taken cat photography to a new level.

Please see FRITZ, B6

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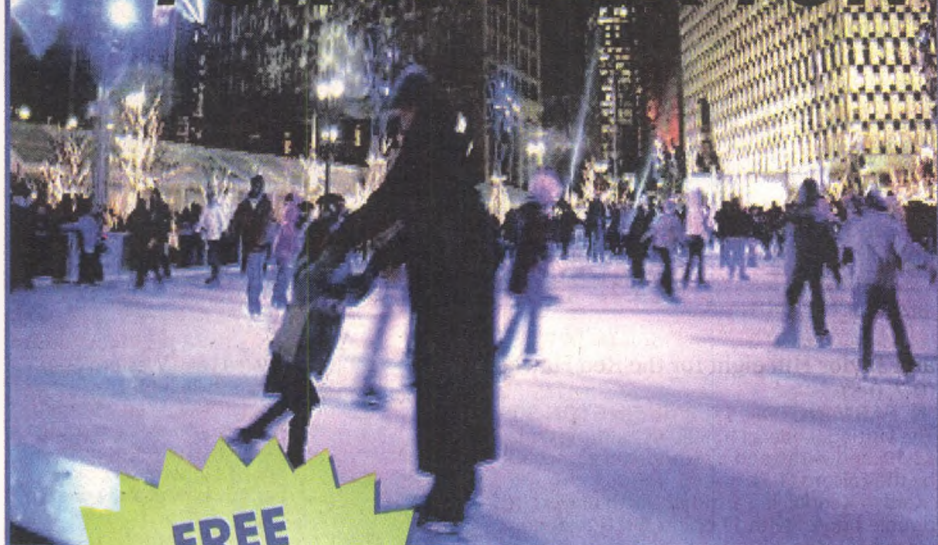
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FRITZ

Continued from page B5

ing a reindeer hat, they're obviously, well-socialized cats. People really respond to it, and the photos get passed around the internet. We always have a big spike in adoptions after the photos, so while the cats aren't particularly thrilled about the whole experience, if it helps get them into a home it's worth it.

— From Jennifer Fritz is vice president of New Beginnings Animal Rescue. She and her husband live in Garden City with their two pitbull mixes, Sunny and Cheyenne.



Making holiday gifts is a long-standing tradition in Marti Bush's family. The Redford resident's daughter, Meagan Bush, was 3 when she wore this hat and sweater made by her great-grandmother, Jane Anne Billings.

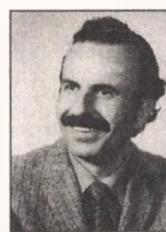
Family makes Christmas gifts

Our family has a long-standing Christmas tradition of making something for family members. The gifts range from baked items, wood working items, coupons for housecleaning help or free baby sitting so family members can enjoy a night out, and hand-knitted items.

— From Marti Bush, a knitting teacher and Redford resident



Cathy Zotos



The late Evan-gelos Zotos



The late Connie Zotos

Season stirs bittersweet memories, strong traditions

My father and sister were killed by a drunk driver in 1979, leaving my mother and I. Every Christmas season, my family would go to our church and put baskets together

for the needy. We would then deliver them. The expressions on the faces of the less fortunate when we gave them a beautiful basket was priceless.

Our Christmas tradition always was and continues to be that we have our Christmas cards done and mailed, Christmas tree up and Christmas decorations/lights up by Thanksgiving each and

Please see ZOTOS, B8

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Family party at the tree farm

Every year, for more than 30 years, the Vincent Clan — extended family, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first and second cousins — meet at Arend Tree Farm outside Chelsea to cut trees for Christmas.

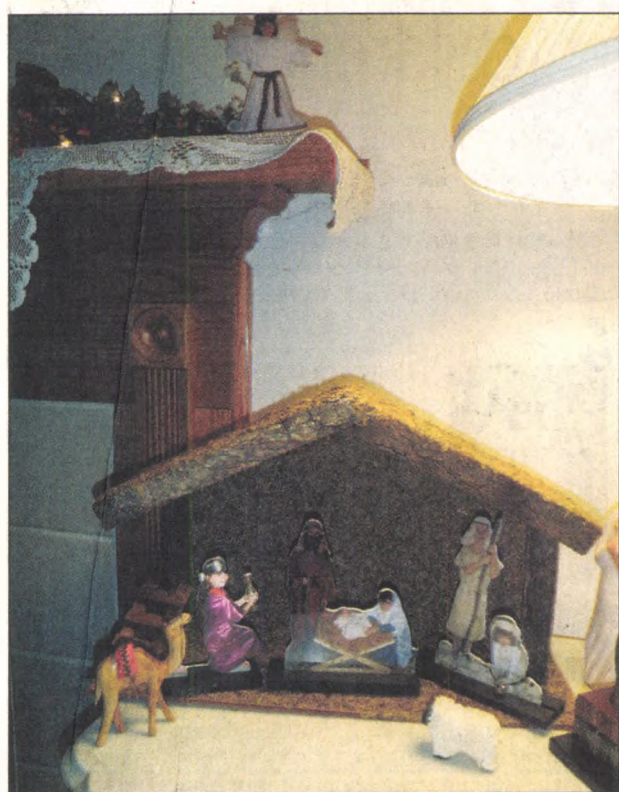
We always tailgate, bringing donuts, bagels, hot chocolate, and coffee. Then we head to the fields. Some years, as in this photo from 2011 it was sunny, but cold. Other years, it's rained or snowed. No matter the weather, the tradition continues. Some have opted for artificial trees, but come out for the fun.

The kids and grown-up kids look forward to this tradition, most often we head to someone's house after tree cutting and celebrate family birthdays.

— From Kay Vincent Mosher and Kim Letasz, both of Canton



The Vincent clan gathers to cut Christmas trees and tailgate during annual visits to Arend Tree Farm near Chelsea.



Bobbi Oestreicher of Canton cherishes this creche, which shows her grandchildren as they dressed to act out the Nativity, a family tradition for many years. The grandchildren now are teens and young adults, but the family's fourth generation will act out the drama this year.

'Jesus Box' and Nativity play delight grandparents

Our family has two favorite Christmas traditions. One was that we had a box decorated in Christmas paper with a slot in the top. We called this the "Jesus Box." Each of our three children's families would save money all year to place in the Jesus box before we opened our gifts. Having the very young grandchildren putting in their own money was heartwarming. As a family we voted on a place where we would give these funds.

For many years at our family Christmas our seven grandchildren acted out the story of Jesus' birth with a play. In the picture, (see accompanying photo) the baby Jesus is now 15, the lamb 18, the angel 19, the shepherd and wise man 23, and Mary and Joseph are 24 years old. For our 50th anniversary, our children gave us this creche with the grandchildren's pictures. As great-grandparents to four little ones, we hugged each other with happiness when our children asked us if they could begin doing the dramas again this year with our 4th generation

— From Bobbi Oestreicher of Canton, who is married to Dick Oestreicher



Decorating with Christmas villages is a tradition at Leo Weber's home in Livonia.

Family decorates with Christmas villages

At our home every year, we do a lot of decorating — some outside, but much more indoors. Just about every corner of the house has something. A stand-out item worth mention is our little village collections, little towns of people and houses which exhibit a colorful, varied, eclectic and whimsical quality. It would take you an hour to really look them over thoroughly. There are two towns — a 19th Century town on a coffee table, and a modern city on a corner table.

— From Leo Weber of Livonia



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Air duct scam gains national attention

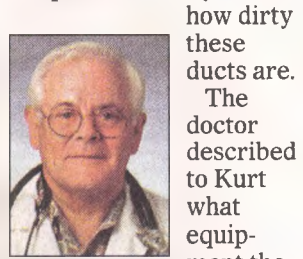
By Joe Gagnon
Guest columnist

The column I wrote which appeared here on Dec. 9 was only chapter one of the stories about Dr. Sase, a senior citizen who spent \$600 to have his air ducts cleaned. This is chapter two and it really gets into the deceit created by a scam outfit which I have yet to find.

My good friend Kurt who owns the best air duct cleaning company, inspected the job that the scammer did on the air ducts in the home of the doctor. I henceforth will call the dirty, rip-off, no good, son-of-a-pup company that was out there, a scammer, and that is putting it mildly.

First of all, the moths flying around the house had nothing to do with the scammer cleaning the ducts. Kurt reported that a large bag of peanuts was the cause of the moth problem. Kurt took many pictures with his special camera which travels inside the duct work and has proven that the scammer did not clean the complete inside of the homes air ducts. He cleaned a one foot area where he cut holes in the basement ducts. By the way, you must be licensed

by the State of Michigan to legally cut holes in the vent lines of a home. This scammer left 99 percent of the air ducts filled with lint, dust, dirt, etc., and the pictures really show



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

how dirty these ducts are. The doctor described to Kurt what equipment the scammer used. It appears that it may have been a standard Hoover vacuum cleaner. The cost of equipment to properly clean air ducts is usually around \$100,000 and unless Hoover has had a recent huge price increase in their products, the scammer should be slammed. So far in this investigation, we know that the scammer did not do the job of cleaning the air ducts. He did the job for \$600 but wanted \$800 and was kind enough to give the doctor a discount. He did not leave the doctor an invoice for the work that was done and that is illegal. He had the doctor write a check for \$600 and make it out

to an individual name. We now have that name and a police lieutenant is working on finding that individual. At this point I have to use a line that is popular in politics these days. "Because this is a continuing investigation I can't comment any further." Let me assure that there will be a chapter three coming up.

Offering help

So far, The National Air Duct Cleaners Association has contacted me and wants to assist me in any way it can. I am keeping the organization aware of what is happening and will use its leverage at the appropriate time.

I also have been contacted by a millionaire in California who is a known consumer advocate and he wants to lend his assistance. Locally, the television stations must not seem to think this is an educational story because you haven't seen it on the tube.

I did receive an e-mail from Tom in Livonia who writes: I have noticed that since I turned 65 and retired, I have been inundated with calls trying to sell me air duct cleaning, credit card consolidation, roofing, insulation, etc., and yet I am

on the "Do Not Call" list which doesn't seem to mean anything. It got so bad that I had to upgrade my phone service to get caller ID so I don't pick up the phone when these people are calling. Most have their numbers blocked or it comes up "unknown" which tells me not to pick up the phone.

Tom goes on to write that the "Nigerian scams" are the worst. People call to see if they are real and if they should send thousands of dollars to get their inheritance. The saddest thing is when people do send the money, which is their savings, and want to know how to get it back, it is gone.

It's too bad that seniors or their families couldn't work with banks to put a limit on the amount of money that can go out of an account without a co-signer or reviewer: The strong message coming from this column is to always be aware whether you are a senior or not. Buyer Beware. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com



Sharon Raskin of Farmington Hills (left), Inika Williams of West Bloomfield and Terri Fuller of Bloomfield Hills shop at Lisa Rosenberg's (right) Closet NV Holiday Party. Rosenberg owns the West Bloomfield store.

Shopping benefits children's camp

By Julie Yolles
Social Scene columnist

Sharon Raskin of Farmington Hills and other patrons of Closet NV in West Bloomfield shopped for a good cause Thursday, Dec. 20 while at the store's holiday party.



Social Scene

Julie Yolles

Closet NV, owned by Lisa Rosenberg, generously donated a portion of proceeds to North Star Reach, a camp for kids with serious health challenges located in Pinckney. North Star Reach is a provisional member of the SeriousFun Children's Network of camps started by Paul Newman and is targeted to open by 2015. All of the kids and their families will attend camp for free.

North Star Reach is 40 percent into a \$26 million capital campaign. Donations from the Closet NV holiday event will go towards the building of the camp.

For more information, visit www.northstarreach.org. For the very, very, very last-minute shoppers, Closet NV will be open until 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Christmas Day, Tues. Dec. 25. Closet NV is located at 6889 Orchard Lake Road in the Boardwalk.

Group offers divorce support

Schoolcraft College's Transition Center Divorce Support Group plans a variety of discussion topics for its winter-spring program.

The group meets 7-9 p.m. twice monthly for discussion and to hear guest speakers at the McDowell Center, room 225, on the Livonia Campus, 18600 Haggerty, located between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Group discussions, facilitated by Diane Hartman of Heron Ridge Associates, PLC, are set for Jan. 8, 2013, Feb. 12, 2013, March 12, 2013, and April 9, 2013. Attorney

Patricia A. Kasody will be available at each session to answer questions in a private setting on a first-come, first-served basis. Other programs are:

- Jan. 22, 2013 — Laura Reyes Kopack, attorney with Creighton, McLean & Shea, will present an overview of the divorce process, including information on property settlements, custody, child support, visitation, and spousal support.
- Feb. 26, 2013 — Nina Dodge Abrams, of Abrams Law Firm, PLLC, will present an overview of the divorce process.
- March 26, 2013 —

Mariann DeFlon, PhD, of Heron Ridge Associates, PLC, will discuss preparing for and coping with loss as it relates to divorce.

- April 23, 2013 — David W. Roessler, CDFA, of Divorce Solutions, LLC, and Vicky McClelland, CDFA, will discuss the financial aspects of divorce and how to plan for your financial future

after divorce.

The Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no fee to attend the group and registration is not required.

For more information, e-mail transitions@schoolcraft.edu or call (734) 462-4443.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

on the FOTR website, www.therouge.org or by calling (313) 792-9621.

Master Gardener

MSU Extension is accepting applications for the next Master Gardener classes. Beginning in January 2013, this 12-week course teaches the student basic horticultural principles and environmentally-sound gardening practices. Course topics include introduction and volunteerism, plant science, soils for plant growth, flower gardening, woody ornamentals, turf/lawn care, vegetable culture, small fruit culture, tree fruit culture, plant health care, indoor plants and household pests. Cost is \$300, along with a \$25 registration fee. For more information and/or to download application visit: <http://www.mgwwc.org/Pages/MSUExtensionOffice.aspx> or call Anita Callender at (734) 729-3632 Ext. 103.

Livonia Garden Club

Vince Kogo, an urban chicken farmer, will talk about raising chickens, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information visit www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardenclub/.

Stonefly search

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) seeks volunteers to help with the 12th annual search for stoneflies on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013. Finding a stonefly living in the river is a good indication that the river is healthy because these small insects require cold, clean water. Last year, 73 volunteers found these "nuggets of gold" at 14 of 32 sites. This year's search will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team leaders go in the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank. Children five years and older are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult; groups of up to 6 people can be accommodated. Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 11, 2013


ZOTOS

Continued from page B6

every year. The lights would always be turned on the day after Thanksgiving because that is the


Greek Orthodox Theotokos (Virgin Mary), day to begin the celebration of the upcoming birth of Christ.

— From Rev. Dr. Gregory E. Zotos DD., PhD of Livonia



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winning author for
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**Brian Hinzman,
We think of you
and miss you every
single day. This is
especially true
during the
holiday season.
'Til we meet again.**

**With love,
Your family**


AT2305570



**In Memory Of
Melissa (Williams)
Lambaren
7-7-1974 to 12-3-2007**

*Like a song that remains
in the heart when the
music is playing no more,
like a fragrance that stays
in the air where
a flower has blossomed
before, like a star
that continues to glow
long after the
breaking of dawn,
the ones we have loved
remain with us still,
and the beautiful
memories go on. Love
you and miss you
so much! Dad, Mom,
Chris, Jenny, Sue,
Jess and Marty*

AT2303870




**In Loving Memory Of
TRACEY MARIE MIRTI
Sept. 15, 1964 - June 2, 2007**

*You touch the hearts of
all who knew you
and left your footprints
where you walked.
We love and miss you
very much especially
during your birthday
and holidays. ~*

Mom, Dad, Bobby, Kelly,
Dan,
Jesse, Jacob and McKenzie

AT2302803



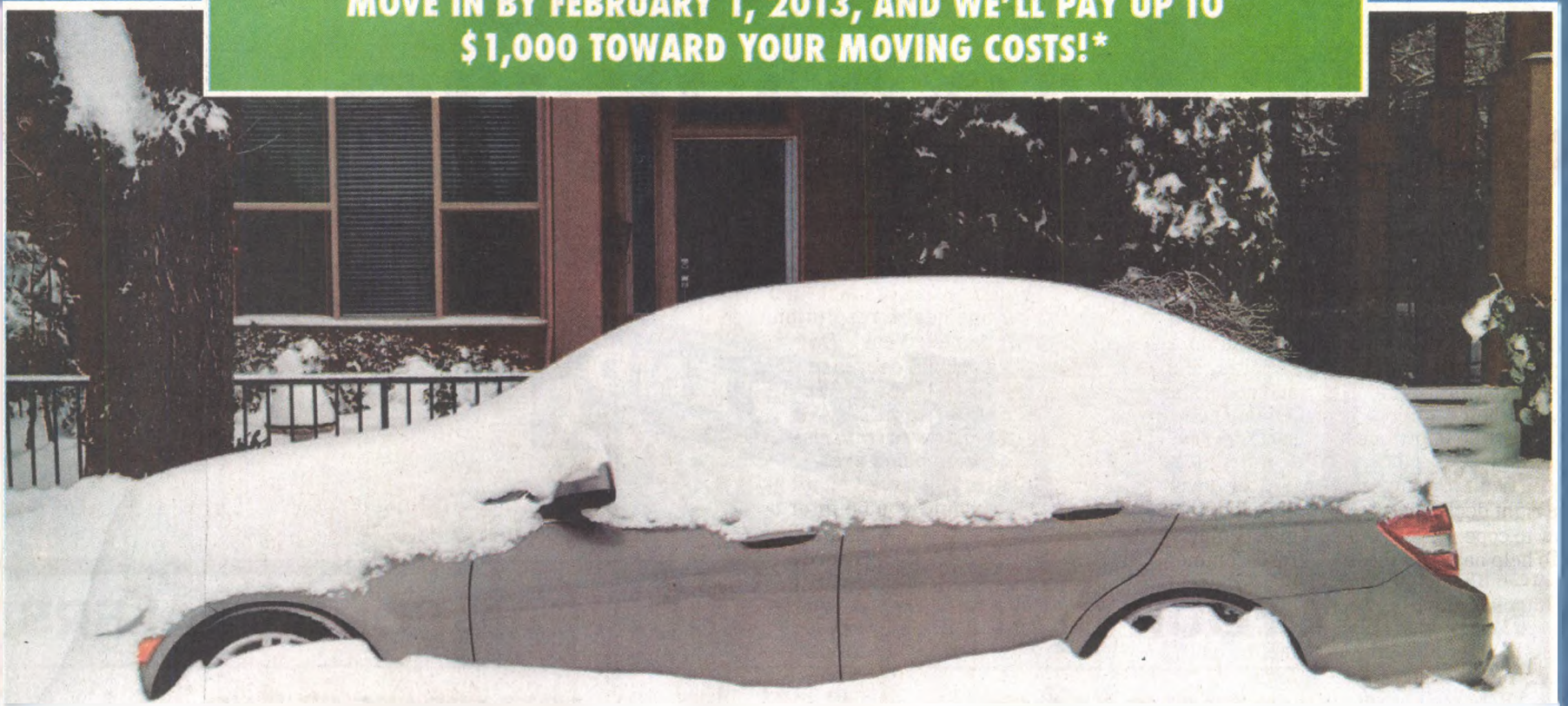
**In Loving Memory Of
Charles J. McPhee
October 3, 1940 ~ October 3, 2010**

*My Dearest Chuck,
The third Christmas
holiday season without
you is fast approaching.
It is difficult to believe
that the time has passed
so quickly yet, not a day
goes by that I don't miss
and think of you.
The precious time we
spent together will be
embedded in my heart
and soul forever. Thanks
for being the loving, kind,
generous and loyal
husband that you were.
You taught me many
things over the years,
but the most important
lesson was that time is
the most precious
commodity that one can
give of themselves.
Thanks for all the wonderful
and loving memories we
shared as, they will be
with me always.*

Love,
Mary

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

It's definitely not too soon for auto manufacturers to think Super Bowl



By Dale Buss

Now that the calendar is nearly turning to January, news about 2013 Super Bowl auto advertisers — first-timers and returning brands — is flowing heavily. Here's a look at some of the latest:

Fiat: The re-invading Italian brand made a surprise splash in this year's Super Bowl with its "Seduction" spot, previously seen in Italy, starring supermodel Catriona Gray. She returns in one of a handful of new Fiat commercials that CMO Olivier Francois showed at the Los Angeles Auto Show last week as potential spots that the brand will show during its Super Bowl commitment.

The new seductive spot starring Menghia is on behalf of a new convertible Fiat 500 Abarth Cabrio. It depicts a scorpion making its way up the back of the bikini-clad model and then using its pincers to make a strategic snip. "Small, wicked ... and now topless," the ad says.

The four other ads show off various versions of the growing Fiat 500 family in the U.S. But who believes any of them has a chance of beating Menghia and the scorpion into the Super Bowl?

Mercedes-Benz: The German luxury brand plans to use the Big Game as a big stage for a big bit of repositioning of the brand. Slated to appear during the fourth quarter, Mercedes-Benz will introduce its CLA class, a highly stylized four-door coupe that will launch at a significantly lower price point than the brand has gotten American consumers

accustomed to, in a 60-second spot.

"There are a lot of people out there who just automatically put Mercedes-Benz in an out-of-reach category," Steve Cannon, president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz USA, and its former CMO, told Advertising Age. Focusing on a less-expensive CLA is "the kind of wake-up call opportunity — with a mass audience — that we're going to use the Super Bowl to communicate."

Befitting the big occasion, Mercedes-Benz plans to use big celebrities including bikini model Kate Upton (who, not that viewers will care, can't drive) and rapper Usher. "Celebrity plays with the young audience," Cannon explained. After sitting out the 2012 Super Bowl, Mercedes-Benz is back in for another reason: Its name is on the Superdome in New Orleans, site of the game, as the venue sponsor. The brand also has embraced New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. There are "a lot of dots that we'll try to connect," Cannon promised.

Lincoln: NBC late night host Jimmy Fallon is crowdsourcing material for a

Ford TV commercial for its relaunched Lincoln brand. Ideas are being gathered in real time via tweets using the #steerthe-script hashtag. Lincoln already has reintroduced itself as the "Lincoln Motor Company" and begun using President Lincoln in a new ad campaign tied to attempts to revive the brand.

Audi: The Volkswagen-owned luxury brand plans to show one 60-second spot during the Super Bowl, its sixth consecutive year as a Super Bowl advertiser.

GM: The company hasn't made its Super Bowl plans clear yet but it's a good bet to include at least two vehicles in its advertising that day: the new Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck, GM's most crucial new model in some time, and the upcoming new Chevrolet Corvette, its most exciting new vehicle in some time. Last year, GM picked on Ford F-150 in a Chevy truck commercial that, interestingly enough, was one of the first efforts by a major advertiser to spoof the Mayan 2012 Armageddon theme.

Hyundai: The brand bought two 30-second spots in the 2012 Super Bowl and plans to return in February. With what,



GM is likely to make room in its Super Bowl ads for the important new 2014 Chevrolet Silverado.

is the question. It's possible that Hyundai may use the occasion to shore up its battered reputation in the wake of its admission of inflating mileage figures for some of its models. In 2009, Hyundai used the Super Bowl to launch its Assurance incentive campaign, an industry first in which the brand promised to pick up car payments for customers who subsequently lost their jobs.

Kia: In previous Super Bowl ads, Kia has displayed a fun brand personality via ads including hamsters for the Soul and stuffed animals for the Sorrento. Will the Hyundai sibling brand take the same tack this time around — or respond somehow to concerns about its own mileage-inflation infractions a la Hyundai?

Volkswagen: The brand has effectively used recent Super Bowl spots to preview important new models, the U.S.-built Passat and the restyled new Beetle. Without a similar important launch in the pipeline anytime soon, the brand may pivot to making some sort of statement about its broadening importance in the U.S. market and its fast growth.



Chevy created a lot of buzz with this apocalypse-themed ad in the 2012 Super Bowl that mocked Ford.

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\$240*

\$1344 due at signing.

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EPA with 1.6 L estimated 22 city / 33 hwy mpg



Buy for \$20,468+

MSRP \$25,895
Featuring: SYNC with My Ford, Sirius Satellite Radio, Power Windows, Locks, Tilt Wheel and Cruise Control

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\$1000 DOWN

\$190*

\$1352 due at signing.

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NEW 2013 Ford Explorer XLT

EPA with 3.5 L estimated 17 city / 24 hwy mpg



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Featuring: Leather, SYNC with My Ford Touch, Power Liftgate, Prem. Audio, Rearview Camera

3 at this price, 109 available

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\$1000 DOWN

\$252*

\$1447 due at signing.

SIGN AND DRIVE

\$312*

\$0 due at signing.

NEW 2013 Ford Edge SEL

EPA with 3.5 L estimated 19 city / 27 hwy mpg



Buy for \$25,989+

MSRP \$35,885
Featuring: Leather, Power Liftgate, SYNC with My Ford

3 at this price, 184 available

24 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

\$1000 DOWN

\$252*

\$1447 due at signing.

SIGN AND DRIVE

\$312*

\$0 due at signing.

NEW 2013 Ford Focus SE

EPA with 2.0 L estimated 27 city / 38 hwy mpg



Buy for \$15,220+

MSRP \$20,585
Featuring: SYNC with My Ford, Power Windows, Automatic, All Weather Floor Mats, Heated Seats

3 at this price, 173 available

24 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

\$1000 DOWN

\$155*

\$1293 due at signing.

SIGN AND DRIVE

\$208*

\$0 due at signing.

NEW 2013 Ford F150 Supercab 4X4 STX

EPA with 5.0 L V8 estimated 14 city / 19 hwy mpg



Buy for \$25,853+

MSRP \$41,515
Featuring: 5.0 V8, Power Windows, Locks, Cruise Control.

3 at this price, 164 available

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