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RECIPES AND TIPS FOR THE PERFECT PIE

## Township elected officials get raises

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township's seven elected officials will get pay increases of up to 4.5 percent in each of the next two years.

The township Board of Trustees voted Tuesday not to reject the finding of the local officials compensation commission, meaning the commission's recommendation for raises will take effect in 2014.

Supervisor Richard Reaume's annual salary will go up 4.5 percent, from \$101,998 to \$106,588. Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Treasurer Ron Edwards will get 3.5-percent raises, from \$94,668 to \$101,410 each, and Trustees Bob Doroshewitz, Kay Arnold, Chuck Curmi and Mike Kelly, whose jobs are considered part time, will get 1.5-percent increases, from \$11,571 to \$11,745 each. The

pay for all seven will also go up by the same percentages for 2015.

The five-member compensation commission – Randy Jost, Sarah Gatzek, Jerry Jagecki, Ann Smith and chairwoman Brinton Baker – met several times this fall to study the officials' salaries, compare them with those of elected and non-elected officials in other similar communities and look at other factors, such

as the cost of living and officials' total compensation, including benefits. The compensation commission made its recommendation for raises at its last meeting on Oct. 28.

### Voting yes to reject

State law says that the recommendation of a local compensation commission will go into effect unless it is rejected by a two-thirds majority of the local legislative body. That

means five votes would have been needed for the township board to stop the raises.

Tuesday's vote had Doroshewitz, Curmi and Kelly voting yes – that is, to reject the raises – and Reaume, Edwards, Conzelman and Arnold voting no.

Doroshewitz later said the compensation commission has become politicized and “a

See RAISES, Page A3



Central Middle School students (from left) Catia Neshov, Jocelyn Makela and Chantel Pawenski make sure the coffee gets done properly.

## COFFEE BREAK

Central program teaches students life skills

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Millions of people start every day with the simple gesture of buying that first cup of coffee and most of them do it as a matter of rote, without even thinking about it.

At Central Middle School, though, teachers, students and staff put a lot of thought into it.

In fact, for students in the school's autism program and for the students who act as their mentors, the act of buying and selling coffee, tea or hot chocolate is turned into a life lesson every morning.

Using a program Principal Anthony Ruella says he swiped from a friend who teaches high school in New Jersey, students each morning travel the halls with a coffee cart featuring a Keurig machine and several choices of drink. The cart is staffed by a four-person team (two students, two mentors) who makes the coffee, accepts payment and makes change.

“It's one of the main activities for our peer-to-peer pro-



Central Middle School students (from left) Matthew Slattery, Jocelyn Makela and Chantel Pawenski, teacher Sarah Modica and student Catia Neshov enter the first classroom of the day with the coffee cart.

gram, an opportunity for our students who don't participate in our center-based students with autism program,” Ruella said. “They serve as peer mentors to students with autism in our center-based program. It's a way for those students to interact with students in the autism program around a life skill, content-based activity.”

There are seven groups,

made up of 13 mentors and some 15 students from the school's autism program. The program has lessons both for the autistic students and the mentors.

“(Autistic students) are getting support and interaction from someone other than an adult,” teacher Sarah

See COFFEE, Page A2

## Downtown alight for the holidays

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

With a musical flourish and the flick of a switch by a 3-year-old, downtown Plymouth launched the 2013 Christmas season Friday evening.

Meghan Buzuvis, the daughter of city official John Buzuvis, pulled the switch to light up the trees along Main Street at about 7 p.m., after Mayor Dan Dwyer led a crowd of several hundred people in Kellogg Park in a countdown.

“She's been asking to do it for six months,” Meghan's mother Shannon said.

The annual tree-lighting also marked the kick-off of the Salvation Army's local Red Kettle Campaign; a Salvation Army band played Christmas tunes and a student choir from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park also performed. There was free coffee and hot chocolate, provided by the

Downtown Development Authority.

### 'Get in the spirit'

“I thought it'd be a fun way to start the Christmas season. Get the kids in the spirit,” said Shawna Lorch of Superior Township, who was there with husband Jeff and their daughters Julie and Amelia.

Peter Gullekson, 12, stood nearby as a Red Kettle bell-ringer, gathering donations for the Plymouth Corps of the Salvation Army. A seventh-grader at Plymouth Scholars Academy who was earning school service hours for his stint, Peter said it's important to help needy people during the holidays.

The Plymouth Corps' goal for this year's Red Kettle campaign is \$225,000 and its overall fundraising goal for the season is \$315,000. There will be bell-ringers at 24 loca-

See HOLIDAYS, Page A3



A Salvation Army band played Christmas tunes Friday for the city's tree-lighting and Red Kettle campaign kickoff. TOM BEAUDOIN

## Share your favorite Thanksgiving tradition

The Plymouth Observer is looking for your favorite Thanksgiving traditions and we're offering rewards for the most unusual, most creative, most heartwarming stories.

Do you always go to the America's Thanksgiving Parade downtown? Or do you just watch it on TV? Are you among the thousands of fans who just have to be at Ford Field for the Lions game?

Is there a favorite food that just has to be on your Thanksgiving table? Does your family help feed the homeless or senior citizens? Do you get together and play a fun game of touch football in the yard?

Maybe there's a certain way you cook your turkey. Or a special entree, veggie or dessert you just have to have.

Whatever the tradition is, we'd like to hear about it. Share your special tradition with readers (send a photo, too, if you'd like; just make sure it's



a JPEG image). Your special traditions will be published in our Thanksgiving Day edition (in homes and on the street Wednesday, Nov. 27).

Our panel of editors will select five favorites and award a movie pass for two to any Emagine Theatre. Just email your tradition (and an accompanying photo, if you have one) to Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com by Friday, Nov. 22.



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### INDEX

Community Life.....	B5	Homes.....	C2	Sports.....	B1
Crossword Puzzle.....	C3	Jobs.....	C1	Wheels.....	C3
Education.....	A4	Obituaries.....	B7		
Health.....	B8	Services.....	C3		



# Township board floats fire tax plan

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township officials are considering asking voters for a property tax that would raise some \$1.6 million to replace aging Plymouth Community Fire Department equipment – fire trucks, ambulances, firefighter gear and more.

The idea was floated casually Tuesday as the Board of Trustees began discussing a \$13 million general-fund budget for 2014. It caught some members by surprise.

"I've never been more surprised at a township board meeting than that," Trustee Chuck Curmi said Friday. "I was not aware of any of that talk previously." A second issue discussed, the possibility of building a township recreation center, also surprised him, Curmi said.

At the meeting, Supervisor Richard Reaume and Treasurer Ron Edwards said the tax revenue would address concerns Fire Chief Mark

Wendel has recently raised about aging and outdated equipment.

## One-year tax?

Edwards said the proposal would be for a one-year millage that, if approved, would take effect next December and allow the township to begin purchasing the equipment about a year from now. The proposal would be put on the ballot in August, he said.

A 1-mill tax would cost the owners of a \$200,000 home – assuming the taxable value was half that, or \$100,000 – \$100 a year.

But Reaume said Friday the board could also ask for a much smaller 10-year millage.

"What we're going to do is present options and let the board talk about them," he said. Reaume said the issue could be raised at a December board meeting, but that he doesn't expect a substantive discussion about it until January.

On Tuesday, addressing concerns by Curmi

and Trustee Bob Doroszewitz that they were hearing about the tax proposal for the first time, Reaume said replacing PCFD equipment had been previously discussed, although the funding source had not been.

Reaume said the withdrawal of the city of Plymouth from the fire department it once shared with the township has left the PCFD with hefty equipment expenses. "We don't have a partner to share this with," he said.

On the wish list are two pumper trucks, two ambulances, air packs, firefighter protective wear (called "turnout gear") a set of the Jaws of Life, heart defibrillators and more. "These are some large expenses that have to be taken care of," Reaume said.

## Priorities questioned

Curmi questioned a tax proposal in light of a recent board decision to raise some \$1.9 million, with most of the money slated for improving recreation facilities, through a bond sale. Those bonds have not yet been sold, though Edwards said he expects to do that this month.

"It seems that we're not allocating priorities correctly," Curmi said.

But, Curmi added, the tax proposal was "very vague" and he is, for now, undecided about it.

"For somebody like me who's not there full time, there's just not enough information to make a decision," Curmi said.

The township board two years ago resisted attempts by a citizens group to put a fire department millage question on the ballot. The group was trying to avert planned layoffs in the PCFD.



Chantel Pawenski (left) and Jocelyn Makela brew the coffee for history teacher Kathy Meyers.

## COFFEE

Continued from Page A1

Modica said. "The peer is like a role model. We have a variety of mentors doing it for a variety of reasons and we're teaching them mentoring skills. They feel good about themselves."

Here's how it works: Teachers are given color-coded signs – "Some of our autism students don't use verbal language, so we use visual cues as a communication tool for those students," Ruella explained – letting the Keurig team know whether they want

coffee. If the sign is out, the cart stops.

The autistic students make the coffee (with some help from the mentor, if necessary), teachers pay them and the students make change.

"It works toward their academic growth and their socio-emotional growth," Ruella said. "It's somewhat academic, somewhat social. It gives them an anchor point to develop interactive skills."

Seventh-grader Jocelyn Makela has a cousin who is autistic and so understands the challenges those students face.

When the opportunity

for the peer-to-peer program came up, she jumped at it.

"I really want to help these kids, to teach them," Jocelyn said. "I just love those kids."

Modica said the program teaches kids communication skills, social skills and even math skills. Everyone benefits, she said.

"It's been really exciting, because it's a really great way for them to interact," Modica said. "It's a win-win-win for everybody."

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## RAISES

Continued from Page A1

farce” and that if board members want raises, they should vote on them directly.

“You should make your case to your friends and neighbors in the community and, who knows, I might support it,” he said.

He said that the full-timers’ benefits and four years of virtually guaranteed income that come with winning an election add to the value of their total compensation. He said he considers his own part-time salary to be good as well.

“Nobody asked me about it, because I think we’re pretty well-paid,” Doroshewitz said.

### Raises defended

Reaume responded that officials were also criticized when they voted on their pay directly. The township in 2001 adopted the compensation commission method of setting elected officials’ salaries.

Reaume added that the board hadn’t accepted a compensation commission raise recommendation since 2007, with a raise taking effect for the next year, and that most members voluntarily rejected raises in the depths of recession, when township revenues were down. Township employees have been getting raises after several years of austerity, he indicated, and elected officials are catching up.

The recommended pay rates are fair based on those in comparable communities, Reaume said.

“These are the kind of wages that should be attributable to these elected positions,” he said. “Do I work hard? Absolutely.”

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Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer helps Meghan Buzuvis, 3, pull the switch Friday to light up trees along Main Street. The event was downtown Plymouth’s official holiday season kickoff. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

## HOLIDAYS

Continued from Page A1

tions throughout the Plymouth Corps’ service area, which includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township, and hundreds of volunteers are expected to participate.

### Toys, food collected

Tony Bruscatto, operations director for the DDA, made a pitch for the Salvation Army before the tree-lighting. “There are a lot of people who need your help this time of year,” he said. New toys and non-perishable food items, to be distributed by the Plymouth Corps, were being collected during the

event. Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Corps’ director of family and community ministries, said she sees need trending up during the holidays this year, based on applications for assistance. Last year, the Plymouth Corps helped 277 families with Thanksgiving dinner and 424 families, among them 888 children, at Christmas, with such things as Christmas dinner ingredients and gifts for the children.

Downtown Plymouth will mark another Christmastime milestone at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, when Santa Claus arrives in Kellogg Park

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Peter Gullekson, 12, volunteered Friday as a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army.

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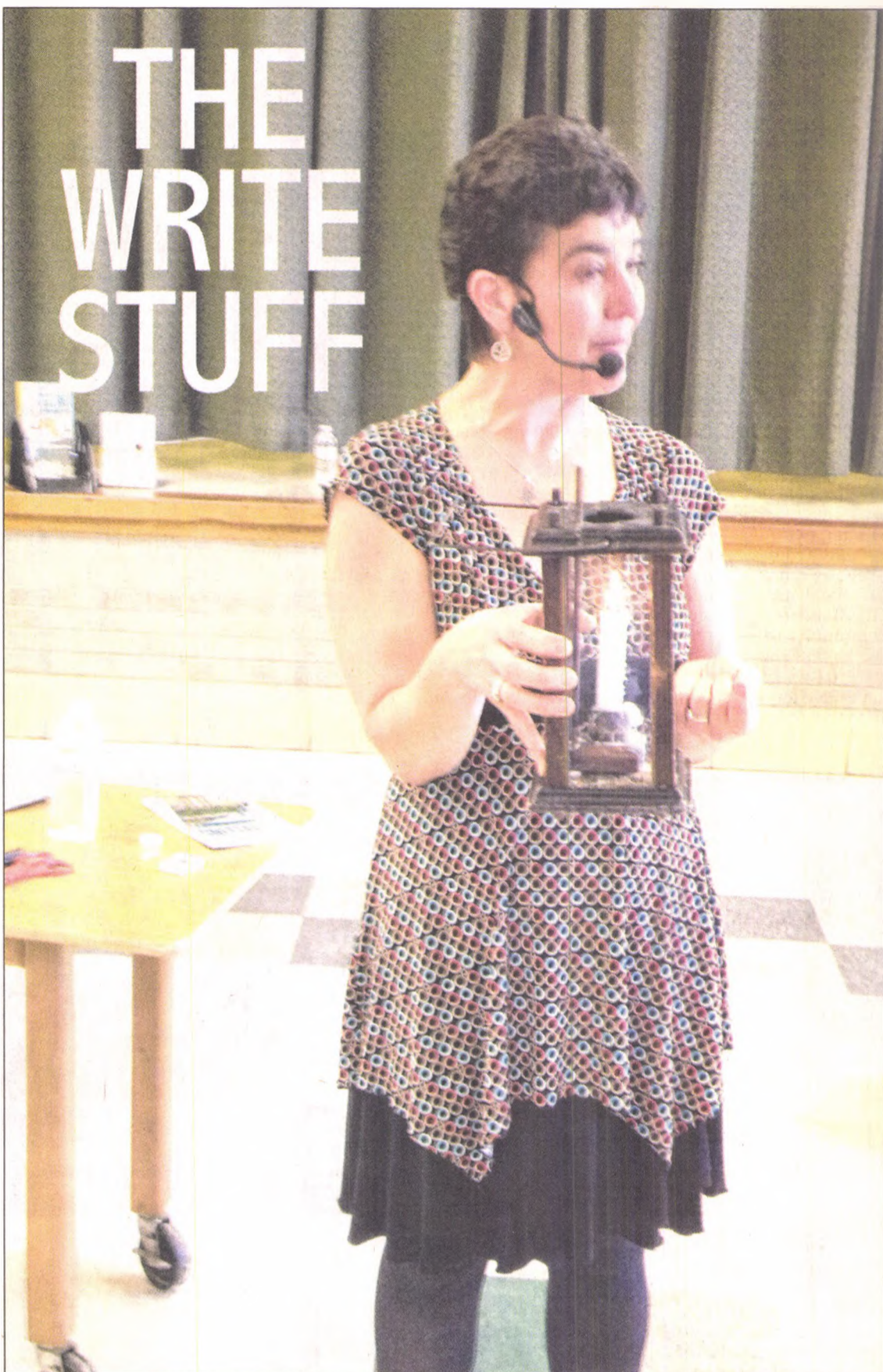
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Jenifer Strauss uses this 150-year-old lamp to show the potential impact of story-telling. The lamp used to belong to an Upper Peninsula family which gathered around it to tell ghost stories.



Anna Brandel (right) shares her story with classmate Clara Yancy during a story-telling exercise at Wednesday's assembly at West Middle School.

## Speaker stresses importance of stories

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Ever since she was a fourth-grader and given a journal by her mother, Jenifer Strauss has known the power of a good story.

And the struggles some students face in telling one.

As a sixth-grade teacher, Strauss saw the difficulty students often had in not only telling, but writing, a good story. She made sure to help her students then and now, as a public speaker traveling the country, she helps students learn the value of the spoken – and the written – word.

It's the message Strauss delivered Friday in her sixth appearance at West Middle School.

"Writing is essential for living in the world," said Strauss, who travels some 30,000 miles a year to convince kids of that fact. "With pressure put on schools, they don't always have the time to devote to it. (Kids) need to know that everything that happens to them can be shared, either verbally or in writing."

Strauss, a story artist who founded Let A Story Be Told, uses stories from her life to get the message of the importance of writing across to kids. She talks about how, in third grade, constantly marked-up papers returned by her teacher had her feeling down about herself.

That summer, her mother gave her two things: a box and a journal. She told her to go out and have an adventure every day and collect some memento from it to keep in the box, then to write about the adventures in the journal.

It's how Strauss learned to

tell and write stories, a life lesson she's been passing on her entire adult life. With Let A Story Be Told, she travels the country giving story performances, talking to kids about writing and story-telling and doing writing workshops and speaking engagements.

"It's about literacy ... that kids know that speaking, reading and writing are all part of their development," Strauss said. "Those aren't separate things. They're all essential."

It's the sixth year Strauss has been invited to West. The school had been using someone else to do this particular assembly, but teachers wanted something based more in story-telling. Principal Clint Smiley found Strauss after consulting with other educators and invited her to the school.

She's been coming ever since.

"My daughter is in 10th grade now and I told her (Strauss) was coming and she said, 'Oh, I remember her!'" said Smiley, who also has a son who sat in on Strauss' assembly last year.

"You run into a lot of sixth-graders who say, 'I can't write, I can't tell a story.' There is not a better tie-in with what we do in our curriculum."

And that's the kind of thing Strauss likes to hear, because she thinks, along with good communication and writing skills, there's a very important element she hopes students take away from her performances.

"Kids need to know their stories are important," said Strauss, who does between 250-300 of these kinds of appearances in a year. "They need to know they matter."

# A Doctor

## In Spite of Himself

By Molière

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# Group taking 'Strides' for cancer support

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Barb Hiltz has run a half-marathon before, so she knows what the six members of the Canton Striders are getting themselves into.

And since she runs the charity - Ann Arbor-based Cancer Support Community - for which the Striders are trying to raise money, she's appreciative of the effort.

The Striders - six Canton women who banded together in a Weight Watchers group and decided to do something to help cancer patients - are preparing to run a half-marathon, Strides for Hope, in January in Key West, Fla. They've pledged to raise \$2,900 apiece to donate to CSC, an amount that, if reached, will be a significant donation to the non-profit.

"I've done it before, so I know what they're getting into," said Hiltz, CSC's executive director. "It's no small feat."

The Cancer Support Community is a charity dedicated to helping cancer patients, their families, their caregivers, friends and cancer survivors to connect. The center offers support, programs for kids and social activities designed to let folks touched by cancer connect with each other in a supportive fashion.

Alba Contreras Rodriguez has served on the board at CSC for five years and she serves as the centerpiece of the effort to run the half-marathon. She approached her Weight Watchers group with the idea and six of her classmates jumped at it.

"One of the important things about Weight Watchers is exercise," said Rodriguez, who is a business manager for Ford. "This would be getting exercise for a good cause."

She approached the women in her Weight Watchers group and found several women

ready and eager to help. The group began training, stretching and running and decided they needed a name. Thus the Canton Striders - Rodriguez, Amy Miller, Sindy Santore, Patti Lewandowski, Paula Patterson and Jennifer Strickland - was born.

Neither Miller nor Rodriguez is a stranger to the effects of cancer. Miller has lost both grandmothers, a sister and several friends to cancer.

"I can't tell you how many funerals I've attended," said Miller, a manager for TCF Bank in Canton. "It's devastating."

Rodriguez has lost her mother, her father, her oldest sister and two aunts. Originally from Venezuela, she said her family didn't have anything like the Cancer Support Community to help deal with all of the devastation and loss.

"We didn't have anything close to this," she said. "We had the (med-



Canton residents Alba Contreras Rodriguez (left, battling the sun) and Amy Miller are among six women who've dubbed themselves the Canton Striders, who will run a half-marathon in January to benefit Cancer Support Community of Ann Arbor.

ical) care, but we didn't have the support. Nobody needs to deal with cancer alone. When CSC invited me to be on the board, I was all in it."

The Cancer Support Community-Greater Ann Arbor (www.cancersupportannarbor.org) oper-

ates on a budget of some \$400,000 and it spends that budget every year, according to Hiltz. It's the only way, she said, to make sure families and patients are getting the emotional support they need.

"Being here for fam-

ilies and not having to charge expenses is our mission," she said. "It's the community we're dedicated to helping."

The center has social activities like lunches, pot lucks and parties. It offers educational workshops, nutrition classes and stress management and exercise workshops. And it depends on donations and local community support like it's getting from the Canton Striders.

"It's the only way we can do it," Hiltz said. "It's how we can do every dollar in, every dollar out."

The six women are going to do the 13.1-mile half-marathon in Key West on Jan. 19.

"Some are going to walk, some are going to run, some are going to do a combination," Miller said. "The important thing is we're going to finish."

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## Second suspect pleads guilty

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

A Canton man accused of armed robbery at two northwest Wayne County gas stations has pleaded guilty to the crime.

Tyler Robinson, 20, pleaded guilty to armed robbery Nov. 7 before Circuit Judge Craig Strong at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. Sentencing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Nov. 21 in Detroit. The maximum penalty for armed robbery is life in prison.

Robinson, along with 21-year-old Taylor resident Matthew Ross, was arrested this summer after being suspected of robbing a pair of gas stations in Livonia and Plymouth. Police say Ross drove Robinson away from a gas station at Schoolcraft and Merriam the morning of June 30 after he showed the

clerk a handgun and demanded cash.

Plymouth police say the two men were involved in the attempted robbery of the Shell gas station at Five Mile and Beck that same night. A delivery man supplying the Plymouth gas station with inventory walked in as Robinson approached the clerk, police said, thwarting the robbery attempt. Robinson and Ross then drove away from the scene.

Robinson was bound over to circuit court in September after 16th District Judge Sean Kavanagh ordered a competency exam back in July. He pleaded guilty during his calendar conference last week.

Ross was bound over in July after Kavanagh held a preliminary examination and found enough evidence for Ross to go to trial.

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# DESPITE ECONOMY, CUSTOMERS STILL GOBBLING UP LOCAL TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

It's the same this year as it has been at many area places selling turkey for Thanksgiving: customers are willing to shell out the money for fresh, local birds.

"People are always thanking me for being here. They say, 'I don't care if it's \$5 a pound. You can't beat your turkeys,'" said Christine Roperti, owner of Roperti's Turkey Farm, 34700 Five Mile, in Livonia. "I love doing it."

Several area sellers of the Thanksgiving fare say they've seen some impact with the economy taking a nosedive in recent years, but many continue to see customers come back, looking to splurge for the holidays on a fresh turkey for their family's dinner table Nov. 28.

Tom Toth, manager of Huron Turkey Farms, 18910 Merriman, in Huron Township in southern Wayne County, said the farm sees a wide array of customers from the Detroit area, including cities such as Livonia, Garden City and Westland, as well as Downriver, looking for a fresh turkey. And for this holiday, he said many say the cost is worth it to have a local, fresh bird for Thanksgiving dinner.

"People don't mind spending \$70 for a turkey because it's once a year," he said. "Ours are dressed out the day before the person picks it up. You can't get it fresher than that."

Both Roperti and Toth said while individual customer numbers haven't changed in recent years, the number of companies purchasing turkeys for dinner or for



The turkeys will each add a few pounds in weight between now and the last days before Thanksgiving. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

their employees has definitely decreased in recent years.

For that, Toth blames the economy and the fact that some companies see the turkey purchases as "extras" not crucial to their company, if they are still open.

"We lost a lot of those people because the companies don't want to spend that kind of money," he said. "Some businesses went out of business."

Economics has also played a factor in raising turkeys. Both farms said they've seen an increase in costs for feed for the turkeys.

A combination of corn, soybean and other natural ingredients that give the turkeys their flavor has increased over the years, although it was stable in 2013, Roperti said.

"Last year, it went way up," she said. "This year, it's about the same."

Toth, who said he gets his feed from a farm in Ida, said a better crop this year has helped with feed costs. He believes last year's crop was way down for several reasons, including ethanol production.

"The feed prices have been extremely ridiculous the last couple

years. They made corn \$7 a bushel," he said. "This year, it's \$4 a bushel."

### Demand for local increases

Despite costs, many local turkey sellers this year are seeing a bigger push toward locally-raised poultry, as well as fewer antibiotics and other substances used to enhance the birds.

Mike Liabenow, manager of meat and seafood at Joe's Produce, 33152 W. Seven Mile, in Livonia, said his department began carrying organic turkeys raised in Michigan this year for the first time.

While the price for those birds is more than other turkeys at the store, Liabenow said he's had customers request them in previous years for Thanksgiving.

"It's something that's been on the rise a couple years in the business," he said. "Everyone wants to keep everything in Michigan."

Roperti said many of her customers have expressed an interest in her birds for that very reason.

She said she'll see many customers drive up from Ann Arbor and Toledo for a bird, knowing it won't have any issues with bacteria such as salmonella, something that's talked about a lot with issues about poultry



Merida Roperti works the counter where customers pick up their bird. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

from stores in the news. "This has been going on for four or five years," she said. "There's a lot of people from Ann Arbor that come here and get turkeys. So that's been going on a while."

Chef Steve Allen of Steve and Rocky's Restaurant, 43150 Grand River, in Novi, said his business is offering three options this Thanksgiving for people to enjoy turkey, which Allen himself raises. Those looking to dine in can eat at the restaurant Thanksgiving afternoon, those not wanting to cook can order a prepared meal and take it home and those wanting to cook themselves can purchase a fresh turkey and use whatever recipe they like.

Allen has also seen a push for more locally-raised turkeys for the

holiday from customers. He said a key to a tasty turkey is allowing the bird more freedom while it's at a farm.

"The more confinement, the more stressed they are," he said. "They can get sunshine if they want; they can get raindrops if they want."

Liabenow said he's seen customers still line up for the Thanksgiving fare with little regard to price. Business has been steady, but as the turkey farms begin to wind down at the end of the month, he and his co-workers will ramp up when that other holiday in December creeps up on them.

"Thanksgiving is easy, it's just turkeys," he said. "Christmas is everything."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com | 313-222-5379

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Sheryl Gerald  
Operations Manager  
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Christine Roperti and granddaughter Merida Roperti in the barnyard with someone's future Thanksgiving dinner.

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Thursday December 5, 2013 6:00pm

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2013 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- Application 1512, 41385 Crestwood, R-1 zoning district: requesting one variance to construct a three season's room. The required minimum rear yard setback is fifty (50) feet, the proposed season's room would reduce the rear yard setback to 48.39 feet. *The variance requested is 1.61 feet of rear yard setback.*
- Application 1513, 49471 Ann Arbor RD, C-1 zoning district: requesting one variance to construct an addition with a maximum height of 34.8 feet whereas a maximum height allowed is 20 feet. *The variance requested is 14.8 feet of building height.*

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734-354-3210.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Colbeck coffee**

**Date/Time:** Friday, Nov. 22, 8-10 a.m.  
**Location:** George's Senate Coney Island, 39430 Dun Rovin Dr., near Six Mile and Haggerty in Northville.  
**Details:** State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, hosts coffee hours for his 7th Senate District constituents. Coffee hours provide residents with the opportunity to meet with the senator or a member of his staff to address issues related to state government. No appointment is necessary.  
**Contact:** For more information or to contact Colbeck, please visit [www.senatorpatrick-colbeck.com](http://www.senatorpatrick-colbeck.com) or call 517-373-5713.

**Grief workshop**

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 7-8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Living Peace Church, 684 Deer, in Plymouth  
**Details:** Facing life after the death of a loved one brings with it many emotions and fears. It's normal to feel overwhelmed, angry, and alone. The holidays are

often very difficult as you move through without your loved one. For this reason, Living Peace Church is sponsoring a Hope for the Holidays workshop. This workshop will be presented by New Hope Center for Grief Support, a Christian-based bereavement outreach center located in Northville.  
**Contact:** Call Nancy at 734-895-7408.

**Veterans Coffee Hour Q&A**

**Date/Time:** 8:30-10:30 a.m. Mondays, Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9  
**Location:** McDowell Center Room 205, Veterans Services/Career Services Suite, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Enjoy free coffee and donuts and get answers to questions about the benefits, services and resources available to military veterans, including medical benefits, employment benefits, special benefits for disabled veterans, state and local benefits for veterans and educational benefits. This event is free and open to all veterans and those who care for and

support them.  
**Contact:** 734-462-4400, ext. 5346

**Caregiver's Support**

**Date/Time:** Second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Summit on the Park, 26000 Summit Drive, Canton  
**Details:** It is both a special privilege and burden to be a caregiver for an elderly loved one. Friends meet monthly to discuss difficulties, share solutions, and know that they are not alone. There are no experts in caregiving, only those who have learned more, because they lived it. All are welcome.  
**Contact:** For questions contact Tom at 313-618-7212, or [thomassal@peoplepc.com](mailto:thomassal@peoplepc.com).

**Blood drives**

**Dates/Times/Locations:**  
 » Monday, Nov. 18, St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth, 1-6:45 p.m.  
 » Sunday, Nov. 24, St.

**Tons of tuna**



During his East Coast tour with wife Nancy this fall, a trip that started at the 9/11 site, Richard Jowsey headed north, ending up in Massachusetts, where his "catch of a lifetime" happened. Though Jowsey, a Plymouth Township resident, has fished for 55 years, the 104-foot, 700-pound tuna was his biggest catch ever. Jowsey said he and three other men were fishing out of Gloucester, Mass., and it took the four of them more than three hours to land it.

Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty in Plymouth, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
 » Tuesday, Nov. 26, Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon in Canton, 1:30-7:15 p.m.  
 » Friday, Nov. 29, Summit on the Park,

46000 Summit Drive in Canton, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
**Details:** The American Red Cross hosts blood drives at the above dates, times and locations. Appointments can be made and walk-ins are

welcome, when possible.  
**Contact:** Call Diane Risko at 313-549-7052 to set up an appointment.

**Zumba class**

**Date/Time:** Sunday, Nov. 17, 12:30-1:45 p.m.  
**Location:** Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.  
**Details:** Fitness enthusiasts are invited to join the Detroit Vibe Tribe for a Zumba Master Class. The Detroit Vibe Tribe includes Zumba instructor Susan Stokely, along with Christy Baas and Cindy DeBiasi. Zumba classes are known to blend easy-to-follow choreography using typically upbeat international rhythms along with today's popular music. Although this special event is labeled a master class, participants don't have to be an expert; all individuals are welcome and no prior Zumba experience is required.  
**Contact:** Visit [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org) or call 734-394-5460.

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# Wayne High students put on the hat for the 'Cat'

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

The timeless tale of a cat in a red and white striped hat and the mischief he gets two children into will come to life on the stage of the Stockmeyer Auditorium at Wayne Memorial High School this week as students present *The Cat in the Hat* with a twist — a first act that features parts of three other Dr. Seuss stories.

"The *Cat in the Hat* is a 45- to 50-minute production and we wanted to extend it, so we created an opening act incorporating three Dr. Seuss books," director Katie Sullivan said. "It will lead into the second act, *The Cat in the Hat*."

As a result, the production includes two casts, one for Act One and one for Act Two. In the first act, two children

are encouraged to read by their mother, who tells them that "if they read, it makes the story come to life." Depending on the length of the three books, some or all are part of the act, according to Sullivan.

### Come to life

The girls do as their mother suggests and when they read *Horton Hears a Who*, they hear the characters speak. The same happens with *Green Eggs and Ham* and *I Can Read with My Eyes Shut*, which transitions into the intermission and the *Cat in the Hat*.

"They challenge was that we wanted to find a way to incorporate the other Seuss books, we wanted it to match with *Cat*," Sullivan said. "We had to find a way to transition from book to book to book and to the play. The cast had input."

The play was selected at the end of last year, when the students and Sullivan decided what would be staged for 2013-14. The selections were announced at a reveal party. Once the process started, work began on the script. Sullivan knew what she wanted, but it was the students that brought it to fruition.

"We wanted to move out and work with the children's theater," she said. "The performance is for children, but it doesn't talk down to them. That's a great skill to have in their arsenal. They're working with moving set pieces and lots of props. We've really worked with the Seuss book in hand to build the sets."

The play has a bigger cast than a normal production. With so many students auditioning,



Opening Act cast includes Abigail Drake, Esperanza Varela, Kaitlyn Frawley, Hannah Hamilton, Brianna Williams, Amber Defils, Danielle Robinson, Samantha Engle, Ashlyn Wilson, Sydney Watson, Hayley Schiete, Natalie Meyers, Amanda Speakman, Shirley Mouldin and Ayla Simoneau. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sullivan said it "felt terrible to not cast more." That's why there are two separate casts for each act.

### Cat and Kitten

Nathan Barker has been cast as the Cat. He's also taken on the role of assistant director. Megan Keiper, who plays Kitten 1, also is an assistant director. Justin Monit is once again serving as the technical director.

Keiper has the job of keeping in contact with the cast and crew and checking attendance at rehearsals. She also helps get the cast ready to perform and does stretching with the actors. Having a small part has made the job easier.

"I was asked to be an assistant director by Mrs. Sullivan, she told me I showed a leadership role and that she would be honored if I did it," said Keiper, a junior. "This is my first time as an assistant director, but I've been with Mrs. Sullivan for three years. I know how she works. I know what's expected."

Even though she's had a lot of people to track down and gotten some terrible excuses, she's



In the cast of Wayne High School's production of the "Cat in the Hat" are Nathan Barker and Alicia Highland (at left), Jordan Khalaf, Tizrah Ault, Cierra Eschenbacher, Casey Grauzer, Megan Keiper and Hailee Bolton.

loves being an assistant director and will like to do it again for the spring musical, *Shrek*.

Barker has been tasked with checking progress reports and handing out patron forms. He does have "quite a few lines" as the Cat, but has done well in memorizing then and keeping up his directorial duties.

"I offer up ideas on how things should go," he said. "I like acting so much and I love the idea of being able to help the cast and lead them in the right direction."

This is his fifth show, and like Keiper, he plans to put in a bid to direct the spring musical.

"The whole cast is a fun group of people, they keep me on my toes," he said. "And we have a lot of people new to the pro-

gram." Sullivan is hopeful for a good crowd at the production. There will be two matinee performances Thursday and Friday for senior citizens and elementary students, as well as performances at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 20-23.

Stockmeyer Auditorium is on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School, on Glenwood east of Fourth Street in Wayne. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and children and are available at the door.

"For the evening performances, we hope to have a great kid crowd," Sullivan said. "It's for younger students, but it also appeals to adults."

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Madonna University President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa and Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress sign the articulation agreement for the dual degree sign language studies program.

## Madonna, Schoolcraft join forces to offer dual degree program in sign language

Madonna University and Schoolcraft College have announced a unique dual degree program in sign language studies.

Beginning fall semester 2014, students majoring in sign language studies will be able to attend both schools at the same time and use their financial aid at both institutions.

Dan McDougall, director of Madonna's sign language studies program, outlined how this innovative partnership will save students time and money. "Our very specific plan of study outlines which classes students will take at each school: general education requirements will be taken at Schoolcraft and sign language courses will be taught at Madon-

na, which will save students thousands in tuition costs. Additionally, by meeting with their adviser on a regular basis, students can ensure they stay on track to complete their degree in four years so they can start their careers in a timely fashion."

According to McDougall, the demand for interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing in Michigan will continue to grow over the next 20 years, based on a 2006 study by the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He also noted that a bachelor's degree is now required for new applicants to apply for national interpreting certification.

As the program's name suggests, students

will earn two degrees: an associate's degree in applied science from Schoolcraft after two years of successful study and a bachelor's degree in either interpreting studies or deaf community studies from Madonna after two additional years of successful study.

With Michigan's first and longest-running bachelor's degree program in sign language, Madonna University also is the only Michigan school that offers more than one bachelor's degree related to sign language.

Language courses are taught by culturally-deaf instructors, in a new, state-of-the-art visual language lab and classrooms.

## Wayne County Hospital reunion

The 29th annual Wayne County General Hospital reunion for former employees and retirees will be held 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the party room

at the Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet at 6539 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

The cost of the buffet is \$10.59, with a senior discount available.

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## Barefoot presents story-telling hour

Barefoot Productions, a local nonprofit theater group in Plymouth, hosts a holiday storytelling event where entertainment, enlightenment and festivity merge. Audience members can sign up to share their favorite holiday memories during open mic.

The event takes place at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

The "FlutterBy Hour" will include happy, sad, silly, poignant and fun stories that are true. The format is similar to NPR's *Moth Radio Hour*, where human experiences are communicated through spoken word. After all, Barefoot officials said, "There is no better gift than sharing a story."

The theater setting will resemble a cozy living room, with a Christmas tree, chairs and fireplace to reflect the warmth and beauty of the holiday. Holiday cookies will be available and the Vintner's Canton Winery will provide complimentary hot mulled wine.

Barefoot Productions Theatre is at 240 N. Main in Plymouth. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at [www.justgobarefoot.com](http://www.justgobarefoot.com) or by calling the box office at 734-560-1493.

## Reader has several options for investing extra money

**Q: Dear Rick: My wife and I are in our mid-60s and I just retired earlier this year. My pension more than covers all expenses and after attending one of your talks, we are delaying Social Security until we are 70. Most of my investments are in my IRA and I don't plan to touch those until I have to. I was just informed by my ex-employer that I am going to be receiving a check by the end of the year for vacation time that I had accumulated but did not take. Do I have to pay tax on that money? How should I use it? Currently, the only debt we have is our mortgage, which is at 4 percent and has a number of years to go. We also have grandchildren who are young and we are thinking about helping out with their education. Any other ideas?**



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**A:** Congratulations on retiring and achieving the American dream. The fact that your pension covers all your living expenses allows you to enjoy your retirement.

In answering your first question, unfortunately, the unused vacation time is taxed as ordinary income. In other words, it's taxed just like any other compensation that you receive from your employer. In fact, I am sure that your employer will withhold taxes.

With regard to what to do with the money, I always think it makes sense to pay down debt. By using the money to pay down your mortgage, you're getting a guaranteed 4-

percent return on your money. In today's world, 4 percent is not a bad return on your money considering that CDs are paying 1 percent.

I also like the idea of using the money for your grandchildren's college education. The cost of college continues to rise and establishing a college savings plan for your grandchildren can go a long way in helping them with their education.

If you choose this route, I recommend a 529 Plan which allows you to invest money that would grow tax-free. The plan I recommend is the Michigan Education Savings Plan.

One of the nice things about the MESP is that the money can be used for any public or private institution in the country. In addition, you can deduct your contribution (up to \$10,000) off your Michigan income tax return.

Another alternative to consider is to use the money to convert some of your IRA money into a Roth IRA. This would allow that money to grow tax-free vs. tax-deferred. In addition, you are not subject to a required minimum distribution at 70½. In your situation, considering your additional income this year, I recommend that you do the Roth conversion next year. From the information you provided, it appears that next year you'll be in a lower tax bracket.

All three alternatives are viable and make sense because you are in such excellent financial shape. You have options and all of them are good ones.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). Email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*

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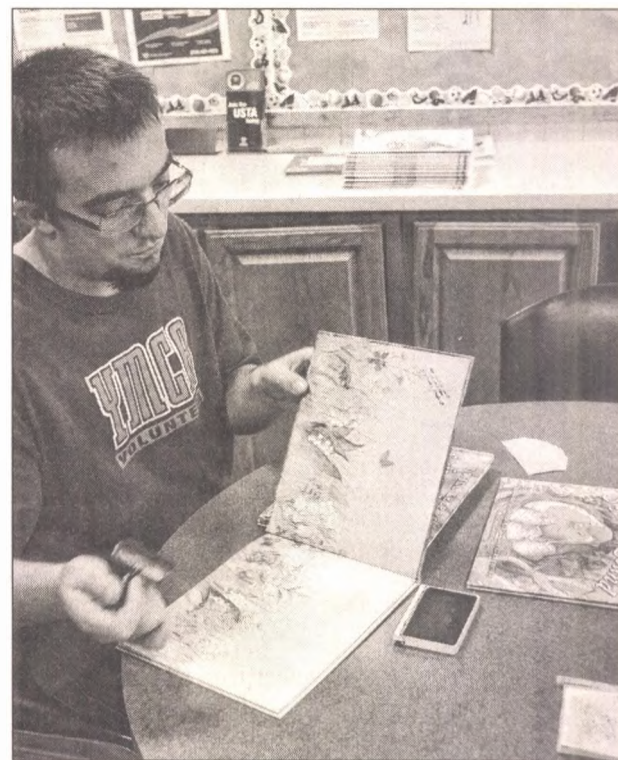




LTP student Dorothy Glasgow works a puzzle with some of the residents at Angel Gardens Assisted Living in Livonia.



Matt Macinkowicz enjoys helping out on the tennis courts at the Livonia Family YMCA.



LTP student Alex Franz stamps some new books that will be donated to area schools by the YMCA.

# Transitions students get a step ahead through community partnerships, practical experience

Noah Grimm can picture himself someday working at a big retail store, like Target.

The mild-mannered 21-year-old is getting plenty of practice at sorting and displaying merchandise on the shelves and assisting customers in a helpful and friendly way.

He is one of three students in the Livonia Public Schools Transition Program who work at the DAV Thrift Store on Middlebelt in Westland. The store's mission is to help disabled American veterans, but the store is also helping the LTP students.

"I enjoy working here because the people are nice," Noah said. "They help you out and the customers are also very nice."

Noah stocks and sorts items in the glassware, toys and shoes sections of the store.

Manager Dennis Vieira said he appreciates the help of the students and he constantly reminds them that they are doing a great job for America's disabled veterans.

"We had \$600 in sales in shoes and I told them, 'That's all you - you did that!' I tell them that every single thing we do here is important."

Having the students at the DAV is a morale booster for his staff, Vieira said. "They're eager. If they can rock out all of those shoes, it pushes my staff and reminds them of what we do here. At the end of the day, they feed off each other."

One of the hardest workers at the DAV is Dion Akins, 19, an LTP student who pitches in



Dion Akins hauls clothing into a bin that will compress the surplus clothing into bulk blocks that can then be sold and/or recycled. Dion enjoys his work at the DAV Thrift Store.

where ever he's needed at the store.

"I love the people here," Dion said. "I work hard. There is no bad part about it - I love working here."

### A community partnership

The LTP is for adult students ages 18-26 who have varying types of disabilities. The program mixes classroom learning with outside experiential learning at job sites around the community. Students gain confidence, job skills, social skills and more.

Participating businesses include: Angel Gardens Assisted Living; Livonia Family YMCA; Adat Shalom cemetery; DAV Thrift Store; Biggy Coffee on Seven Mile and Farmington Road; Biggy Coffee on Plymouth and Farmington roads; Cintas Uniform Co.; and four LPS schools: Perrinville Early Childhood Center, Emerson Middle School, Webster Elementary and the Western Wayne Skill Center, where the LTP is housed.

The community part-

ners make all of the difference in the program and its 40 students.

"The Livonia Transition Program would not be possible without the participation and goodwill of these businesses. They're opening up a whole new world for our students and really taking them in as their own," said Jennifer Taiariol, Ph.D., LPS coordinator of student services.

### Life lessons

At the Livonia Family YMCA, Alex Franz and Matt Macinkowicz are busy every day with a variety of tasks. Courtney Taylor, LTP teacher, said they are learning a lot.

"The interaction with

the staff is huge for them," she said. "They're learning how to build relationships with colleagues versus their peers. When you jump from the classroom to the workplace, the relationships are different."

"They're also learning how to be self-directed. They made a chart of all of the tasks so they can check the list when they're finished with one task and move right on to another, without having to ask a supervisor. Taylor said they stress the importance of self-direction in the program.

Alex and Matt help out with the tennis programs; work with the home school groups on the tennis courts; clean tables and chairs; vacuum; make copies in the office; enter data for the membership program; organize files; and more.

"They have lots of jobs here," said Julie Allen, volunteer and events coordinator at the Y. "Every day, they have a little something different to do."

Many of the tasks are first-time experiences for them. For example, they help out with vacuuming the multipurpose room and laundering the towels.

Allen said they're happy to have Alex and Matt working at the Y. "They are both so delightful," she said. "They've become part of our Y family."

Dorothy Glasgow, 20, knows that feeling. She has become a part of the family at Angel Gardens Assisted Living in Livonia, where she visits and assists the elderly residents.

They play games together, they bake cupcakes, they sing and play the piano together.

"Getting to know the residents, that's my favorite part," Dorothy said. "It's just like a second family."

Denise Rowe, office manager and activities assistant, said Dorothy has been a valuable asset at Angel Gardens: "She's very reliable, helpful and has great initiative. She has great energy - she's been an asset to our activities program."

Rowe noted that Do-

rothy hand-makes birth-

day cards for the residents.

"They all love her," she added.

Tim Steckel, director of marketing at Angel Gardens, said they are happy to team with the Livonia Transition Program.

"It's a good way to expose people to elderly people who have dementia and Alzheimer's," he said. "It helps to remove the stigmas. A lot of people don't care about the elderly and it's sad. (Aging) is a normal part of life."

At Adat Shalom cemetery on Six Mile, you'll find Remington Blackwell, 21, mowing the lawns and doing other outdoor maintenance work.

"I like being outside," he said, as he powered down his mower. "And I like working with the guys."

Remington is learning new skills and taking on responsibilities at this work placement.

## Arthritis Today

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### BLOOD THINNERS AND ARTHRITIS

The most common blood thinner is warfarin also called Coumadin. The drug is difficult to regulate often anticoagulation goes beyond its safety zone. At such times, bleeding into joints becomes an unwanted drug side effect.

The joint most often involved is the shoulder. If the person is over anti-coagulated, a sudden move or resistance against a swing of the arm is enough to set off bleeding into the joint. Such a bleed will immediately make itself known. The person will experience sudden and intense pain, with relief coming only if the shoulder remains at rest.

What has happened is that bleeding into the joint causes a sudden expansion of the joint capsule; it is the sudden stretching of the joint that brings on pain. Furthermore, blood itself is a joint irritant, so the pain compounds. Treatment requires aspirating the blood out of the joint.

Excessive anti coagulation means that even a small hit or sudden twist to the joint can initiate a bleed. In these circumstances, the joint most likely to bleed is the knee joint. The knee will pain intensely and swell, the area about the knee will turn dark red from the blood beneath the skin. Again, the only treatment is immediate decompression, that is, taking the blood off the knee.

In my experience the act of putting a needle into the joint of someone who is over coagulated, and then moving the needle in the joint or pressing on the joint to accomplish complete removal, does not itself cause a re-bleed. The procedure of fluid removal is invariably safe.

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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.

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

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

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

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# FROM WESTLAND, WITH LOVE

Film crews use Beaver Creek to shoot commercial for Russian TV

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Steve Hazergian looked in amazement Monday afternoon around the inside of the Beaver Creek Tackle & Beer. The old photos that had been on the walls were replaced with framed hockey jerseys. Instead of tables and chairs in the main dining room, there were lights, cameras and wardrobe items.

The woody feel of the Westland restaurant had been transformed into a Russian sports bar as part of a national commercial being made to air in Russia during the Sochi Winter Olympics in February.

"This is pretty involved. I didn't think there would be this many people," the Plymouth Township resident said. "I had to hold off on my Christmas decorations; this put a screeching halt to that."

Some 75 people filled Beaver Creek, one of five locations in Wayne and Oakland counties used as part of the photo shoot for the commercial that features a very familiar face - Pavel Datsyuk of the Detroit Red Wings.

RedOrange USA of Birmingham, working with Leo Burnett Advertising, Moscow, is producing the commercial.

On Sunday, the filming was done in Birmingham, where the Social Cafe was transformed into a Moscow cafe, Pierce Street was made to appear to be snow-covered

and the RedOrange offices on Cole Street were turned into a Moscow coffee bar.

Production moved Monday to Westland, where still photographs of Datsyuk were taken and more filming was done.

"We transformed Beaver Creek using Russian posters and jerseys. It was a pretty extensive set dressing project," said Barry Meier, owner, director and executive producer of RedOrange. "We have representatives in Europe and film all over the world. This is one of the first opportunities I have to shoot in the U.S. for such a large project in Russia. The star is Pavel Datsyuk; he's playing on the Russian team. They flew to Detroit because this is where he is."

### International effort

The international effort included the producer, who is from Russia; the director, who lives in Barcelona; and the director of photography, who hails from Rome. RedOrange used some 95 extras and employed a crew of 45 for the production, "all local," according to Meier. The extras were a mixture of Russians and Americans, including the owner of a record store and musician from Hamtramck.

According to RedOrange business manager Lisa Meier, the Russian contingent began arriving in Detroit last week. Last Thursday was used to show possible locations, with the final decision made Friday after the information was sent back to Russia.

"The big meeting was Friday; everything had to go back to Russia and they're eight hours ahead



Cameras and equipment fill the main dining room of Beaver Creek, where a commercial for Russian TV was filmed Monday.

of us," Lisa Meier said.

Beaver Creek was chosen for the scenes because of its wood interior. Also considered was Club Ticonderoga in Troy.

"They liked the color of the wood, they liked the theme of the place," Beaver Creek general manager Misty Lindquist said. "They said they picked our place, but there was a slight chance it might be Camp Ti. The scouts came through and then they came through on Friday. On Saturday, they did a walk-through."

Editing was done Tuesday at Ringside Creative in Oak Park.

### Here and there

Recently, RedOrange USA completed the new Michigan Lottery commercial and just wrapped filming in Austria and Slovenia for Toyota, as well as a series of commercials for Mercedes Benz filmed in Stuttgart, Germany.



Filming Sunday was done on Pierce Street and at the Social Cafe in Birmingham.

"We love being based in Birmingham and hope to find more work with the agencies based in Michigan," Barry Meier said.

In addition to holding off on Christmas decorations, the restaurant moved its Veterans Day observance to Sunday. Lindquist let people who asked about the change of dates know that the

restaurant was closed Monday for "a private event."

The private event turned out to be a long day for Lindquist, who was at the restaurant at 8 a.m. to prepare for their arrival.

The extras began showing up at 12:30 p.m. and were seated in a rear dining room. Heaters and tents were also set up on

the deck to accommodate them during the filming.

"Most production was out by 9 p.m. and we locked up and left at 10 p.m.," she said. "It was a long day, but worth it to see. It was a once-in-a-lifetime, I'm sure, experience."

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# Irish dancers get into step at Redford AOH location

By Beth Jachman  
Staff Writer

You don't have to have the luck of the Irish or even be Irish to learn Irish dancing.

Especially after the popularity of Riverdance and Lord of the Dance, people of all nationalities are interested in learning the traditional steps, according to John Heinzman of the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, which holds classes locally.

Classes are offered Tuesday evenings at Redford's Ancient Order of Hibernians location on Five Mile east of Beech Daly.

Heinzman, who began dancing at age 5, has been teaching dance in Redford for 15 years as he also taught at the old AOH building at Seven Mile and Grand River. The AOH bought the Five Mile location from the Knights of Columbus about a year ago.

The AOH in Redford offers a brand-new step dancing class, which is an intricate form of Irish dance made popular in Riverdance and Lord of the Dance and it requires a good deal of athleticism and footwork, Heinzman said.

Currently, three boys ages 5, 6 and 10 are in the step class, Heinzman said.

About 20 people attend the adult ceili folk dancing class, which is country dancing that has been going on in Ireland as far back as there is recorded history, Heinzman said.

"It originally told the history of the Irish people," he said.

The local classes had been in flux during the transition to the new building.

The kids step dancing class was moved to the



Four-year-old Finnegan Moran of Royal Oak practices the "Leg up" with instructor Megan Holton of Livonia and brothers Clark and Harvey Smith of Livonia at classes held in Redford. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Taylor location and the ceili class went to downtown Detroit temporarily, Heinzman said.

### Back in Redford

But now the classes are back in Redford.

The new location is an improvement, Heinzman said, calling it nice and clean and well-maintained. "It's larger than the old location and a much nicer building," he said.

His mom, Kitty Heinzman, teaches ceili classes. Ceili is primarily an adults class made up of people in their 50s, 60s and 70s. Ceili has far less impact than step dancing.

Step dancing is more athletic and attracts younger people, but Heinzman said he works with one step dancer who is nearly 60.

Before Riverdance in the 1990s, this type of dancing only attracted the Irish and those of Irish descent. Also, only eight countries sent teams to participate in the world championships, but since Riverdance

roughly 40 countries participate, Heinzman said.

### Teaches all over

Heinzman himself teaches in Michigan, Ohio and Canada and also teaches private lessons for those looking to refine their skills.

His school teaches both recreational and competitive dance. Some dancers take classes just once a week, while others take them up to six days a week. "It depends on how much they are willing to invest in their classes and their training," Heinzman said.

This weekend, the school is hosting the regional championships in Grand Rapids, which draws about 4,000 from all over the Midwest. Events include step dance, ceili dancing, teacher choreography and dance drama.

Those interested in dance classes can sign up at any time, Heinzman said.

The AOH in Redford is at 25300 Five Mile. Phone: 734-762-0997.

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# Santa helps light up 20th annual Lightfest

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

See Thursday's Observer for more photos of the 20th annual Wayne County Lightfest.

Holiday carols filled the air and fireworks lit up the sky Thursday evening as Wayne County Parks opened the 20th installment of its popular Wayne County Lightfest.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano joined Santa Claus in flipping the switch that turn on the 47 lighted displays that line Hines Drive from Merriman Hollow in Westland to Warrendale in Dearborn Heights.

"The last time I was here was when I was a kid," said Sheila Stritmatter of Troy. "My mom brought us here a long time ago when we lived in Westland."

The Stritmatters - husband Matt and children Erika, 14, Seth, 9, and Owen, 6 - were among several hundred people who enjoyed a performance by the Livonia Franklin High School Choir, the antics of Detroit Lions mascot Roary and Detroit Tigers mascot Paws before lining up to drive through the 4½ miles of holiday lights.

The Stritmatters attracted attention with their holiday finery. Other people wanted to know where they got their lighted Santa hats.

"We made the hats four or five years ago," Matt Stritmatter said. "I poked holes in the hats, stuck the lights through and hot glued them in place."

Stritmatter hid the wires on the inside of the hat and the battery packs behind in the brim.

The family had heard about the event on the radio and decided to attend. They made it in time, although rush hour traffic did slow them down, Matt Stritmatter said.

### It's Santa time

After being greeted with cheers, Santa worked his way through the crowd, stopping to talk to youngsters and telling them he knew they have been good boys or girls.

"I've been collecting wishes," he said. "I've gotten a lot of requests for toys."

Among those he spoke to were the Flourney family - David and Stephanie and their children Noah and Logan.

"We've been coming to Lightfest every year, this is our third time for the opening ceremony," David Flourney said. "It's a festive time, the community comes together to ring in the season."

His favorite display is the reindeer jumping across the bridge.

"My favorite part, though, is seeing the smiles on the kids' faces when they see them," he added.

Melanie Kowynia and her family have been coming to Lightfest since 2004. This year they brought another generation, niece and nephew Aden and Mya Burns. Also there was husband



Cars drive through a tunnel of lights, several of which span Hines Drive along the Lightfest route. TOM BEAUDOIN



Detroit Tigers mascot Paws helps direct the Franklin High School choir. TOM BEAUDOIN

Rich and their children Emaliyok, 12, and Cecilia, 17,

snowed and it looked like a snow globe," the Garden City resident said. "We stood here and felt

that we were part of one."

She, too, likes to see the little children and the unity of the community at Lightfest.

"I like to see the delight on their faces, you're never too old to believe," she said.

### The best part

Dave Canfield of Redford had a crowd at the event. Along with his wife Jenny and children Aden, 4, and Aubrey, 1, the group included sister-in-law Rachel Krimm and children Savannah, 7, and Collin, 4, of Whitmore Lake.

"This is our third year

coming, we do it for the kids," he said, adding the best part is the lights, "all of them."

Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday through Sunday through Dec. 31, although it is closed Christmas Day. Visitors enter Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman Road in Westland and exit onto Warren Avenue near Telegraph Road in Dearborn Heights.

There is a \$5 fee per vehicle. Hines Drive closes to traffic at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

For more information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call (734) 261-1990 or visit [www.parks.waynecounty.com](http://www.parks.waynecounty.com).

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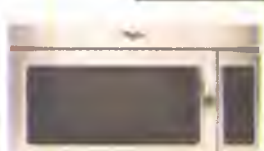
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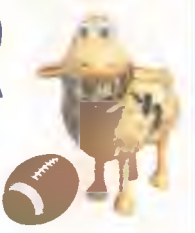


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## Chiefs' Nobles inks pact with EMU

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Jordan Nobles still has one more season to wear Canton red. But the 6-8 senior forward already looks pretty comfortable wearing the green of Eastern Michigan University.

And why shouldn't he? On Wednesday, Nobles made it official — he signed his NCAA letter of intent to play Division I men's basketball beginning in 2014-15 at EMU.

"I like their playing system a lot," Nobles said about why he was intrigued about becoming an Eagle. "I like how coach (Rob) Murphy handles his team

and I know he just came over from Syracuse a couple years ago.

"I always liked Syracuse and how they play with a 2-3 zone and their up-tempo pace. I like that he brought that over to Eastern."

Nobles (11 points, six rebounds, three blocks per contest last year for Canton) said he considered the University of Detroit-Mercy and Massachusetts-Lowell, but decided EMU had everything he needed.

"It's been a long journey and I'm just ready for the next chapter and playing at Eastern for the next four or five years," he said.

With the Eagles, he will likely play from the wing, playing strong defense and shooting from the perimeter as well as taking it to the rim when called upon.

"Division I, the Mid-American Conference, is big-time basketball," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said following the signing. "It's pretty exciting. We know he's excited and it's a good situation for him and how they play, the style of how they play."

"So I'm very excited for him and happy that everything worked out for him, especially getting it done before the season



Canton senior Jordan Nobles (left) and Chiefs head coach Jimmy Reddy during Wednesday's signing ceremony.

See NOBLES, Page B3

## MHSAA seeks scholar-athletes

The Michigan High School Athletic Association's annual Scholar-Athlete Award program will present 32 \$1,000 scholarships to top student-athletes at member high schools during the 2013-14 school year.

Applications from individual schools are limited to the number of available scholarships in their enrollment class.

Class A schools may submit the names of six boys and girls, Class B four, Class C three and Class D two.

Students applying for the scholarship must be graduating in the 2013-14 school year, carrying a 3.5 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) and have won a varsity letter prior to their senior year in a sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament.

Applications are available only in digital format at mhsaa.com.

Students must submit applications to their school athletic director, principal or guidance counselor by Nov. 25.

## Winter Games slated for Feb. 14-16

The Meijer State Games of Michigan's 2014 Winter Games will be played Feb. 14-16 in the greater Grand Rapids area. The inaugural event is expected to host more than 2,000 athletes.

The opening ceremony will be at Canningburg Ski and Ride Area and will include a parade of athletes, a torch light parade (featuring the ski patrol), fireworks and a "big-air" exhibition with professional skiers and snowboarders.

For more information, visit [www.state-gamesofmichigan.com](http://www.state-gamesofmichigan.com).

## Metro Invite starts season

A new high school hockey season begins Nov. 22-23 with the 12th annual Metro High School Invitational at Novi Ice Arena.

The event will showcase five teams from the Oakland Activities Association, including both FPS teams, playing Kensington Lakes Activities Association teams.

For more information, call Novi Ice Arena at 248-347-1010 or visit [noviicearena.com](http://noviicearena.com).

## CLASS D PREP VOLLEYBALL

## Eagles clipped by No. 2-ranked Lakers

PCA season of 'growth' comes to close in regional final

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

From the get-go Thursday night, Plymouth Christian Academy found out exactly why Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes is ranked No. 2 in Class D volleyball.

The Lakers rolled out to a 14-1 lead in the opening set, behind stellar serving from senior Kali Bagley and an active front court featuring sophomore outside hitter Courtney Wightman and senior middle blocker Lindsay Ross.

Before the Eagles knew what hit them, they were in trouble in the Class D regional volleyball final at Bloomfield Hills Roep-er. PCA did have some good stretches later on, but they were few and far between as the Lakers cruised to a 3-0 win and second consecutive regional crown.

Lakes earned 25-11, 25-12 and 25-16 victories to improve to 39-5-6 with the Class D quarter-finals slated for Tuesday at Mt. Morris Junior High.

"They have an excellent libero (freshman Lindsay Wightman)," PCA head coach Katie Decker said. "She does an excellent job of keeping the ball in play."

"And they can fire from all areas of the court. They have the outsides, they run quick out of the middle. When you can attack from anywhere, it's tough to block."

Concurring was senior outside hitter Rachael Fuller, who noted that "most of the things we tried on offense they (Lakers) were there for. Their libero was great, and I think that was the biggest thing."

Unlike two nights earlier, when the Eagles had their way against Ann Arbor Rudolph Steiner, attempted spike kills were not finding the right spots on



Celebrating a PCA point Thursday night are senior Jen Malcolm (No. 9), freshman Josie Postma (No. 10), senior Katherine Gibson (No. 4) and freshman Olivia Mady (No. 8). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

the other side of the net. "Part of that we had a little bit of breakdown on serve receive," said Decker, whose team finished at 19-16-7. "When you're not passing well, it's easy for the other team to tell who you're going to set, and so they had their blockers camped out on our outsides."

"And when you have a double

block waiting for you, it's much more difficult to put the ball down."

### Rally stymied

The opening set was a blow-out and set two followed suit, with Lakes building a 13-3 edge and coasting from there.

See CLIPPED, Page B2

*"And when you have a double block waiting for you, it's much more difficult to put the ball down."*

KATIE DECKER  
PCA head coach

## GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

## Tankers sharpen up for state meet

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

With a successful Kensington Conference varsity girls swimming and diving meet in the books, coaches for Salem and Canton are amped up for the Division 1 state meet Nov. 23 at Oakland University.

"We had a real good divisional meet, we had a real good con-

ference meet," Salem head coach Chuck Olson said. "And now we're looking forward to having a better state meet."

The Rocks led Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams with 647.5 points, good for third place at the conference meet (Nov. 8-9 at Novi High School).

Also enthusiastic about the state meet is Canton head coach Ed Weber, whose team followed

a championship at the KLAA South Division meet with a fifth-place finish at the conference meet.

"As a team, I'm very proud of the way our team swam at conference meet," Weber said. "Statistically, we had an impressive 85 percent best time achieved at the meet. That's a good way for

See TANKERS, Page B3



Salem's Linda Zhang is one of a number of swimmers from the Park who will compete at the Division 1 state meet next weekend.



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## Shootout lifts Whalers to 2-1 win

The Plymouth Whalers looked for much of Friday night as though they'd come up on the short end of the stick against Mississauga at Compuware Arena.

But a late goal by Whalers defenseman Josh Wesley forced overtime and Plymouth won 2-1 after prevailing 3-2 in the shootout.

The exciting Ontario Hockey League match-up took place before a near-sellout Scout Night crowd of 3,421.

It was a battle of netminders throughout, as both Plymouth's Alex

Nedeljkovic (31 saves) and Mississauga's Dawson Carty (30 saves) came up big time after time.

The Central Division-leading Steelheads (12-9-1-1) broke a 0-0 tie at 5:21 of the second period on a power play goal by Dylan Smoskowitz.

That edge held up for the visitors, who were unable to add an insurance goal against the game's No. 1 star, Nedeljkovic.

Finally, the Whalers (9-12-0-1) evened things up on Wesley's first goal for the Whalers. It

came with just 2:44 to play in the third and was assisted by Connor Chatham and Francesco Vilardi.

After neither team could mount much of a threat in OT, the contest hinged on the shootout.

It was tied 2-2 after the fifth round (with Plymouth goals by Zach Lorentz and Chatham) and Mississauga's Jesse Barwell could not score to open the sixth round.

Yannick Rathgeb then skated in on Carty and hit the target to give Plymouth the victory.



Stretching for the ball Thursday night is PCA freshman Olivia Mady (No. 8), with senior teammate Rachael Fuller (No. 3) in the background. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

## Crusader spikers roll in WHAC playoff opener

Despite being off for eight days, the unbeaten and fourth-ranked Madonna University women's volleyball team showed no rust in Friday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference quarterfinal match

against visiting Indiana Tech.

WHAC Player of the Year Emilie Freeman (Livonia/Lutheran Westland) recorded 11 kills and Kayla Vogel added 10 as the host Crusaders improved to 36-0 with a

25-12, 25-19, 25-14 victory over Indiana Tech.

Setter Evia Prieditis chipped in with 34 assist-to-kills, while Stacey Catalano contributed eight kills and 10 digs.

## CLIPPED

Continued from Page B1

PCA tried to chip away, trailing 16-10 following senior setter Jen Malcolm's block against a Laker.

But true to how the night went, any chance of an encouraging run went by the wayside as Courtney Wightman tallied a defensive side-out point with a tip.

The third set was a bit closer, with the Eagles going up 4-1 after an opening three-point service stint by Malcolm (20 assists, 10 digs).

Back came the Lakers, however, with a seven-point run highlighted by Ross' block and a spike by senior Allison Samulon, off a perfect set from Bagley.

Plymouth Christian senior outside hitter Rachael Fuller (eight digs, three aces) tried to spark a rally from the stripe.

She served four points in a row to make it a 16-12 deficit, with Malcolm feeding freshman outside hitter Olivia Mady for two spike kills.

Mady tallied 12 kills, while another key contributor was junior libero Callie Morby, with 21 digs. Both players led the Eagles in those re-

spective categories.

But a defensive side-out by the Lakers stopped that surge and the Eagles could not mount much of a threat the rest of the way.

According to Decker, the Lakers would have proven to be a formidable foe anyway.

But PCA was without junior middle blocker Kelsey Williamson (with her family on a pre-approved vacation), which forced Decker to juggle the lineup and give several freshmen more minutes than they might have otherwise received.

"Volleyball's a very emotional sport," Decker said. "And as soon as you mess up that balance at all, it gets emotional for the other girls and it's tough for them to play without one of the key players on the team."

"And we ended up playing four freshmen at certain times and they're not used to this level, they're not used to the intensity and speed of the game and it kind of got the best of us tonight, I think."

For Lakes, leading the charge were Bagley (30 assists, seven digs, five aces), Lindsay Wightman (12 digs), Samulon (12 kills), Courtney Wightman (nine kills, six digs), Ross (seven kills, five

blocks), senior Kristina Krupiak (four kills, five digs) and senior Angela Ludlow (seven digs).

### Year to remember

"I'm so proud of them," Decker said. "It was definitely a growing year, we had a lot of young girls. But at the same time we had some great leadership from our seniors (Malcolm, Fuller, defensive specialist Katherine Gibson and right-side hitter Joy Bauslaugh.)."

"They played hard, they played with so much heart. We went far this year. This is a lot further than last year and we just want to continue to grow and get better every year."

One of those seniors, Fuller, was sorry to see the season end.

"This season was absolutely amazing," Fuller said. "It was so much fun, the new freshmen we got this year, they were awesome and we couldn't ask for any better new additions."

"And the seniors, I just love them so much and I will like definitely cherish every moment that we had together because it was the best season that we could have had, for sure."

smith@hometownlife.com



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COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

# MU's Freeman WHAC Player of Year

Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season women's volleyball champion Madonna University took home three of the four major awards headlined by Player of the Year Emilie Freeman, a senior from Lutheran High Westland.

A total of nine Crusaders were honored following a vote of the WHAC's 12 coaches.

Senior Evia Prieditis (Milford) took home WHAC (Senior of the Year honors for the third time in her career, while Jerry Abraham was honored as Coach of the Year.

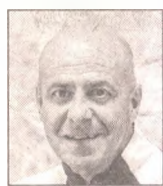
Joining Freeman and Prieditis on the All-WHAC first team was fellow senior Stacey Catalano (Utica Eisenhower).

Juniors Samantha Geile (Fruitport) and Kayla Vogel (Hastings) were tabbed to the

All-WHAC honorable mention team. Freshman Katie Breault was also the WHAC's all-freshman team.

Abraham led MU to a perfect 11-0 WHAC slate and to the No. 4 ranking nationally this season to earn his sixth Coach of the Year trophy (1997, 1998, 2002, 2005, 12). His 1,040 career wins are the most in NAIA history and 2013 marks the sixth time that the Crusaders have gone unbeaten in WHAC play.

Freeman, who hails from Livonia, becomes the ninth Crusader to earn WHAC Player of the Year honors joining Karen Sisong (1997), Madonna Hall of Famer Brandy Malewski (1998, 1999, 2000), Shelley Stanton (2002), Amanda Suder (2003), Natalja Tinina (2005), Caryn Inman (2006), Lubovj



Abraham Tihomirova (2007, 2008) and Prieditis (2012).



Freeman

Her selection marks the 12th time in the last 17 years that a MU player earned the conference's highest honor.

Freeman leads the WHAC in total kills with 445 and blocks with 133. Those two totals place her 21st and 5th respectively nationally. She has .392 attack percentage is second in the league and ranks seventh nationally. She was named WHAC Player of the Week twice this season and was selected to the CoSI-

DA Capital One Academic All-District team.

Prieditis is making her third straight appearance on the All-WHAC first team and takes home her third Setter of the Year trophy (2010, 2012). She currently leads the WHAC and ranks fourth nationally with 11.4 assists per set. Her 1,314 total assists is good for 11th nationally and the top spot in the WHAC as well.

Catalano, transfer from Grand Valley State, appears on the All-WHAC first team for the second straight season and ranks second on the team with 372 kills to go along with 375 digs and 58 blocks.

Vogel burst onto the scene this season, joining the starting lineup from the outset and has racked up a career-best 214 kills this season with 69

blocks. Geile ranks third among the Crusaders with 218 kills and has 190 digs to her credit.

Breault (Amherstburg, Ontario) has been a mainstay in the MU lineup as a freshman, tallying 41 blocks and 168 kills in her first season.

Junior Cassie Castro (Saline) along with senior Nastija Seremetjeva (Riga, Latvia), Freeman and Vogel were selected to the Academic All-WHAC team.

Meanwhile, Freeman was the Crusaders' selection to the WHAC's Champions of Character team as the student-athlete who best represents and carries out the NAIA's Five Core Values of respect, responsibility, servant leadership, sportsmanship and integrity.

BOYS HOCKEY

## 'Rake and Run' gives Plymouth icers chance to serve community

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

For Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team, last weekend's "Rake and Run" community service project — where they spent five hours raking leaves for homeowners — is becoming a preseason ritual.

Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento said the players are more than happy to help out any way they can because "it gets them out in the community they live and they see for themselves that people need help."

The project took place in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton with the team raking at 10 homes.

All players and coaches but one took part in the project. One player unable to attend was excused due to his father's having open heart surgery the day before.

"This was our third year doing the rake and run, and while the players know it is going to be hard work, they know what to expect and actually seem to enjoy it," Vento said. "It was a long day, raking from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., but boys had to work together to get every lawn done and that is obviously a great lesson on teamwork."

Moreover, Vento added that projects such as "Rake and



There's another bag nearly filled up, thanks to the efforts of Plymouth hockey players such as these.

Run" help high school athletes keep things in perspective, perhaps when encountering a goal-scoring slump during the season.

"A lot of times they see stories on the news and it can appear to them that those

needing help are not their neighbors," Vento said. "This hits more close to home for them and they realize there is a world outside of their hockey/high school life and that everyone can make a difference."

## NOBLES

Continued from Page B1

is a good thing for him. Now he can just concentrate on his senior year."

### Good fit

On hand for the afternoon signing ceremony were parents Darryl and Veronica Nobles of Canton.

"Very happy, it's a good fit for him," Darryl Nobles said, noting that EMU assistant coach Benny White "spearheaded the recruiting of Jordan and we appreciate his help very much."

Canton teammates watched from the back of the Chiefs' team room, adjacent to the gym, as Nobles signed the necessary paperwork. Also at the ceremony were other relatives and friends, not to mention Canton coaches.

"It's very important (that they were at the ceremony)," Jordan Nobles said. "They had as much to put into this as I did. I would like to thank all of them for being here and just supporting me throughout my life."

According to Darryl Nobles, another member of the family had a big impact on Jordan's development as a basketball player — Darryl Nobles Jr., the Detroit Country Day alum and Jordan's older brother.

"I would like to thank my oldest son, Darryl Jr., who worked with Jordan, coached him for two years in AAU," Nobles Sr. said.

Reddy has no qualms



Flanking Jordan Nobles after signing with Eastern Michigan University are parents Veronica and Darryl Nobles.

*"For his size he's very, very skilled. That's why he's playing Division I basketball."*

JIMMY REDDY, Canton coach

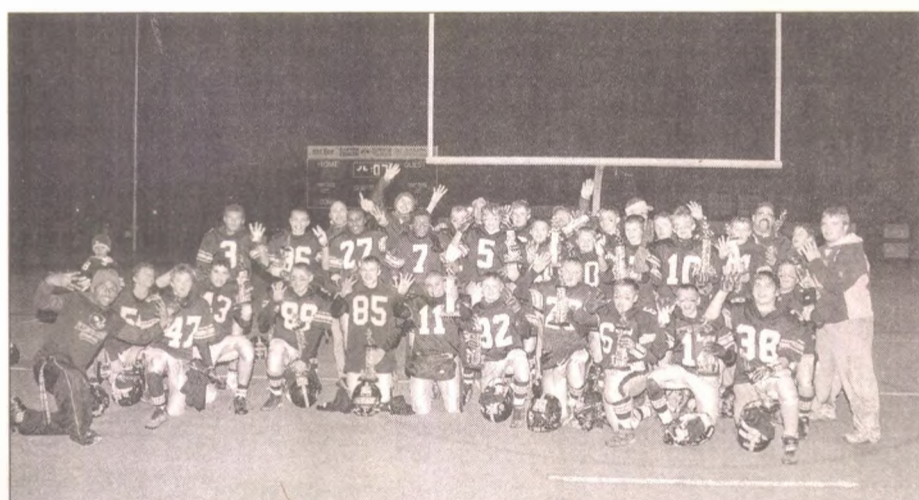
about whether the latest EMU recruit can step in as a freshman and make a contribution.

"For his size he's very, very skilled," Reddy said. "That's why he's playing Division I basketball. ... He can shoot it, he can score around the rim and handle the ball, throws it to the open player on time, contests and blocks a lot of shots defensively."

Throw in a tireless work ethic and boundless energy as other reasons why Reddy sees a big future for Jordan Nobles.

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## P-C Steelers put wraps on 'Super' seasons



The Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity and junior varsity football teams both concluded outstanding seasons on Nov. 10 by winning their respective Western Suburban Junior Football League Super Bowls that were played at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity stadium. The varsity Steelers finished 10-0 after pulling out a last-second 22-20 victory over the Dearborn Heights Redskins. The JV Steelers finished 9-1 after upending the Westland Meteors 30-20. JON VESPAZIANI PHOTOS



## TANKERS

Continued from Page B1

us to compare our performance from year to year.

"We are off to state meet with several state cuts and plan to place better than we have in several years."

The Rocks and Chiefs each qualified for the state meet in all three relays.

» In the 200-yard medley relay, Salem was victorious (1:48.89).

Freshmen Molly Rowe and Katie Xu and sophomore twin sisters Linda and Lisa Zhang finished in the top spot to easily beat the state qualifying time of 1:54.89.

Canton's team of sophomore Emily Meier, junior Emily Hagan and seniors Hannah Jenkins and Destinee Barmore-Hicks took fourth with a time of 1:53.29.

» Both teams just got in to

qualify in the 200 freestyle relay (state cut is 1:42.89).

In fifth was Salem's team of Xu, junior Stephanie Solterman, sophomore Patricia Freitag and senior Julia Suriano. They finished with a time of 1:42.10.

The Chiefs clocked in sixth at 1:42.44. On that unit were Jenkins, sophomore Emily Osika, senior Madeline Madison and Barmore-Hicks.

» As for the 400 free relay (with a state cut of 3:45.09), Salem and Canton took fourth and fifth, respectively.

For Salem, the team of Freitag, Suriano, Linda Zhang and Lisa Zhang finished in 3:40.13; Canton's squad of junior Claire Green, Osika, senior Mackenzie Dugas and Madison made the cut with a time of 3:44.44.

### Individual cuts

Following are individual state cuts for the Rocks, Chiefs and Plymouth Wildcats (seventh in the conference meet

with 286 points). The state cut per event is listed in parenthesis.

» 200 free (1:58.49): Madison, Canton, fourth place, 1:58.33; Suriano, Salem, fourth in preliminaries, 1:57.62. Also Freitag made her state cut in a Thursday meet with a time of 1:58.30, Olson said.

» 200 individual medley (2:13.89): Salem's Linda Zhang, first, 2:05.76; Canton's Green, fourth, 2:11.08 and (also on Thursday) Salem's Xu with a time of 2:12.57.

» 50 free (25.19): Salem's Lisa Zhang (second, 24.67) and Canton's Barmore-Hicks (fourth, 25.05).

» 100 butterfly (1:00.59): Salem's Lisa Zhang finished second with a time of 57.40 seconds.

» 100 free (54.79): There were no state cuts at the conference meet for P-CEP swimmers.

» 500 free (5:18.79): Qualifying with a fourth-place time of

5:08.49 was Canton's Green.

» 100 backstroke (1:01.19): Salem's Solterman (second, 59.68) and Rowe (third, 1:00.97) made the cut. Also qualifying, in the preliminaries, was Plymouth junior Alexa Earls — who finished in 1:00.72.

» 100 breaststroke (1:09.79): Salem's Linda Zhang was first place overall with a time of 1:05.12.

### Good swimmers

Weber listed a number of other Canton swimmers who had strong performances at the conference meet, although not making state cuts.

Those were as follows: Sydney Darnall (200 free, 2:16.32 in prelims), Hagan (200 IM, 2:25.90 in prelims), Jocelyn Moraw (50 free, 26.61 in prelims), Meier (50 free, 26.29 in prelims), Courtney Smith (50 free, 27.91 in prelims), Melissa Green (1-meter diving, 280.55 in 11 dives), Osika (100 fly, 1:02.60 in prelims), Brenna

Wayne (100 fly, 1:06.90 in prelims), Amanda Esler (100 fly, 1:09.89 in prelims), Emily Dugan (100 fly, 1:09.15 in prelims), Jenkins (100 fly, 1:03.39 in prelims);

Also Faith Goodwin (100 free, 58.41 in prelims), Madison Dugas (500 free, 5:41.97 in prelims), Mackenzie Dugas (500 free, 5:21.56 in prelims), Alyssa Jacobsen (500 free, 6:18.47 in prelims), Maura Shennan (500 free, 6:19.18 in prelims), Meier (100 back, 1:02.91 in prelims), Hagan (100 breast, 1:11.22 in prelims), Rachel McGue (100 breast, 1:15.78 in prelims), Madeline Brownley (100 breast, 1:22.43 in prelims), Laura Weisz (100 breast, 1:23.82 in prelims) and Adrienne Paton (100 breast, 1:25.78 in prelims).

Plymouth junior diver Megan McKeehan also had a solid performance. She totaled 284.80 in her 11 dives.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



# Area's top runners set fast pace, high standard

## FIRST TEAM

**Zane Berlanga, Sr., Plymouth:** From the first practice to the Division 1 state final, the senior was everything and more any coach could ask out of a go-to runner.

"Zane started the season and finished the season as our No. 1 runner," coach Jon Mikosz said. "He stepped up at the big meets and showed that he has what it takes to run with the top guys in the area."

Berlanga became the seventh all-state runner in the 11-year history of the team, placing 23rd at the state meet with a time of 16:01.04.

He was the driving force behind Plymouth's third-place finish at the D1 regional at Willow Metropark; his time of 16:03 was good for fourth overall as the Wildcats qualified for the state meet as a team.

Mikosz added that a wet and muddy course at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn might have cost Berlanga a chance for the fastest time in Plymouth history. "I bet he would have been around 15:45 to have a new school record."

Other highlights included placing third at the Wayne County Championships (16:15.9) and fourth at the Kensington Conference meet with his personal best of 16:00.51 — fifth fastest in Plymouth history.

**Tony Floyd, Soph., Franklin:** The sophomore had a breakout season, finishing 56th at the Division 1 meet (16:25.6) after posting a personal best 16:05 en route to a sixth-place finish at the regional. He was the ninth sophomore to finish overall at MIS.

Floyd's other top finishes included fourth, Livonia City meet; fifth, KLAA Invitational; seventh, Wayne County Invitational; and 14th, Kensington Conference meet.

"Tony improved so much this year — his time came down from a 17:33 in his first meet to a 16:05 at the regional," Franklin coach Walt Reaser said. "Tony did himself proud by qualifying as a 10th-grader and coming in 56th at the state finals meet."

"Tony's phenomenal improvement is a direct result of his strong work ethic and commitment to achieving lofty goals. Tony



Z. Berlanga



T. Floyd



D. Gibson



S. Fenech



M. Pahl



K. Jones



M. Bradley



M. Jordan

will be a force to be reckoned with next season as he continues his steady time improvement."

**Devin Gibson, Jr., Wayne:** The junior was the top finisher for the Zebras in every dual race this season, including five firsts and a pair of seconds.

Gibson, who carries a 3.52 grade-point average, took fourth in the Division 1 regional at Lake Erie Metropark (16:25.0) followed by 92nd at the state meet (16:40.8).

Other top finishes included first, Crestwood Charger Invitational (16:41); third, Warrior Classic; 10th, Wayne County (16:37.9) and River Rat (16:40.6); 11th, Kensington Conference (16:29.5); 13th, Mustang Invitational; and 25th, Coaching Legends (16:37.7).

"Devin set personal goals for himself and the team this year, and he accomplished all of his goals," Wayne coach Tom Gibson said. "He broke Wayne's home course record, ran the fastest time at Wayne since 1996 and is third fastest junior for the 5K in Wayne's history dating back to 1980."

"His regional was by far his best race of the season. I'm looking forward to his junior year of track and his senior year of cross country to see what he can accomplish."

**Stephen Fenech, Sr., Stevenson:** The senior placed fifth at the regional (16:04.0) and wound up 128th in Division 1 (16:54.6).

Other top finishes included a first at the season-opening South Lyon Invitational (16:48); eighth, Wayne County (16:29.2); and 12th, Kensington Conference (16:29.9).

"Stephen had a very good senior season," Stevenson coach Chris Inch said. "He started by winning the South Lyon invite. His best performance came at regionals in a career best 16:04. Stephen ran the fourth fastest 5,000 meters in Stevenson's history. I am really proud of how Stephen ran



J. Weekley



M. Cohan



T. Gibson

## 2013 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM

Zane Berlanga, Sr., Plymouth  
Tony Floyd, Soph., Liv. Franklin  
Devin Gibson, Jr., Wayne  
Stephen Fenech, Sr., Liv. Stevenson  
Matt Pahl, Jr., Plymouth  
Keenan Jones, Jr., Liv. Franklin  
Max Bradley, N. Farmington  
Malik Jordan, Jr., Wayne  
James Weekley, Soph., Harrison  
Matt Cohan, Jr., Liv. Churchill

## SECOND TEAM

George Bowles, Sr., Liv. Churchill  
Liam Cardenas, Sr., Plymouth  
Luke Green, Jr., Liv. Stevenson  
Micah Orr, Sr., Westland Glenn  
Erik Grisa, Jr., Liv. Stevenson  
Sean McKoon, Sr., Liv. Churchill  
Blair Mena, Sr., Plymouth  
Max Rogowski, Sr., Plymouth  
Evan Dunklee, Sr., Canton  
Colin Murphy, Sr., Liv. Churchill

## COACH OF YEAR

Tom Gibson, Wayne

## HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Patrick Dahlin, Jon Hovermale, Jon Alessandrini, Andrew Malik; Franklin: Matt Lepper, Jacob Forgacs, Nathan McCall, Gage Wheeler; Stevenson: Ryan Cole, Andrew Bambach, Andrew Stratton, Alex Mikonczyk; John Glenn: Ben Bieber, Chris Codd; Wayne: Tim Flores, Zack Williams, Uriel Figueroa, Michael Gibson; Lutheran Westland: Hunter Roedel; Canton: Billy Toth, Ammar, Christi, Evan Childs, Nick Socha; Plymouth: Jonny Dalton, Mayur Patel, Matt Dotavio; Salem: Noah Engerer, Jason Rogers, Brendan McCann, Nabil Ahmed, Donovan Drouillard, Chaz Jeffress; Plymouth Christian: Jacob Bailey, Joey Fanelli, Gareth Matson, Paul Chamberlain, Torre Crown; Harrison: Sam Finn; North Farmington: Joe Burger; Garden City: J'haira Johnson; Redford Union: Anise Grady-Shelton.

this year. He is a hard worker and a good kid."

**Matt Pahl, Jr., Plymouth:** Tireless training paid huge dividends for Pahl, who improved tremendously from his sophomore season, Mikosz said.

"He put in a lot of extra miles both over the summer and during the season," Mikosz said. "He went from just making the varsity team last season to being in the top three on the team in every race this season."

Pahl shaved more than a minute off his previous PR (17:23), finishing the conference meet in 16:13.10 (13th overall).

Other top showings for the junior included 13th place at the Wayne County meet (16:41.75), 11th at the D1 regionals (16:31.39) and 97th at the state meet (16:41.9).

"He showed that if you

put in the time and run over the summer it can really pay off," Mikosz said.

**Keenan Jones, Jr., Franklin:** The junior was the Livonia City champion and undefeated in dual meets.

He also took 10th at the regional and 116th at the state finals (16:50).

Other top finishes for Jones included a fifth in the Kensington Conference with a personal best 16:02; sixth, Wayne County; 14th, Coaching Legends; and 16th, MSU Invitational.

"Keenan had a tremendous year capped off by his second trip to the state finals meet," Reaser said. "Keenan was the Livonia City meet champion as a junior and was the first one to cross the line in each of our five dual meets this season. Keenan worked so hard all year long and deserved all the success he attained. I look forward to his leadership and outstanding performances in his senior season next year."

**Max Bradley, Sr., N. Farmington:** The FPS city champion had an outstanding senior season, qualifying for the Division 1 state meet with a 10th-place time of 16:44 at Hess-Hathaway Park in Waterford. He was 10th among area runners in the state race, finishing 168th in 17:08.

At regular-season invitationals, Bradley was fourth at the Early Bird, sixth at River Rat, fifth at Linden and 10th at Spartan. He was seventh in the OAA White Division. Bradley had a best time of 16:24.

"Max had a terrific season," coach Paul Welch said. "He was extremely focused and committed to reaching his goals and I am proud of the effort and dedication he showed throughout the season."

"It has been a joy watching Max grow and develop over the past four years as an athlete, leader and respected young man. I am confident Max will continue to make an im-

pact as he enters his next chapter of life."

**Malik Jordan, Jr., Wayne:** The junior was Wayne's No. 2 finisher in 13 of 15 races this season, including a seventh at the Lake Erie Metropark regional (16:45) followed by a 107th in the Division 1 state meet (16:46.7).

Other top finishes for Jordan included second, Crestwood Charger Invitational (16:42); 10th, Warrior Classic; 14th, Mustang Invitational; 21st, Kensington Conference; and 29th, Wayne County.

"Malik is in his first year of cross country and only his second season of competitive running," Gibson said. "He had to learn how to run cross country and he finally began understanding the strategy of running a competitive 5K in October. His best races were in the last four meets."

"He's a mentally tough young man, balancing cross country with JROTC where he is a second lieutenant. He carries a 3.3 grade-point average. He'll be one of the keys to our team's success in 2014."

**James Weekley, Soph., Harrison:** Weekley is one of the top up-and-coming runners in the state. He qualified for the Division 1 state meet by finishing 13th in the regional at Hess-Hathaway Park in Waterford with a time of 16:47.

He was the fifth among area runners at the state final, placing 105th overall with a time of 16:45. Weekley was the runner-up in the FPS city meet and had a number of other top finishes at invites.

"James is a true leader in every sense of the word," coach John Reed said. "Guys look up to him and often follow his example to become better runners."

"Our entire team has improved since James started competing for us. We are very proud of James and excited to see what his future holds."

**Matt Cohan, Jr., Churchill:** The junior was 15th at the Division 1 regional with a personal best

16:22.9 and placed 200th at the state meet.

Other top finishes included sixth, Livonia City meet and KLAA Invitational (16:53.7); seventh, Monroe Jefferson Invitational; 15th, Wayne County (16:51.7); 18th, Kensington Conference (16:37.6); and 32nd, MSU Invitational Green race (16:49).

"Matt had a real year nice year," Churchill coach John McGreevy said. "He really ran well in the bigger meets. Matt is a very dedicated runner who really wants to improve weekly. He was an important factor in any success we had this year as a team. He is a good student who loves many sports. Matt is a bundle of energy. He seems to be constantly moving. He possesses a unique sense of humor who is really liked by his teammates."

## COACH OF YEAR

**Tom Gibson, Wayne:** The third-year coach guided the Zebras to their first state finals berth in 29 years after third place finish at the Division 1 Lake Erie Metropark regional.

"We started the season with 14 runners, the largest team in seven years, but eight of the boys had never run cross country," said Gibson, who ran at Westland John Glenn High and the University of Detroit. "The boys were prepared for the season with six running at least 500 miles during the summer. At the first practice, the boys knew this could be an incredible year."

Wayne, which finished 5-2 in dual meets, also captured the Crestwood Charger Invitational. Other top finishes included third, Warrior Classic; fourth, River Rat Open; fifth, Wayne County; and seventh, Kensington Conference.

"I am very proud of this team," said Gibson, whose team took 23rd out of 27 in the state finals. "Every team member gave 100 percent in every practice throughout the year. Their dedication and commitment to the team made it easy to coach them. The dual meet against Plymouth, where we narrowly lost 25-31, was the turning point of the season. During that race, eight boys ran an overall personal best and the other six ran a course P.R. They knew they could compete with the best in the area."

# Madonna runners 6th in WHAC championships

The Madonna University women's cross country team placed sixth out of 10 teams in Saturday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championships held at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

Cornerstone University, led by individual winner Julie Oosterhouse, captured the team title with 38 points followed by Indiana Tech (55), Aquinas College (64), Siena Heights (113), Davenport (122) and MU

(153). Oosterhouse covered the 5,000-meter course in 18:30.78.

Junior Bianca Kubicki (Canton), back after a month layoff because of injury, was Madonna's top finisher in 24th (19:51.94).

Rounding out MU's top five was Jaclyn Sawasky, 34th (20:14.54); Karlie Gallagher (Livonia Stevenson), 35th (20:16.91); Kim Ader, 36th (20:19.33) and Ni-

cole Murley, 49th (20:53.45).

On the men's side, Aquinas led the 10-team field with 25 points followed by Indiana Tech, second (55); Siena Heights, third (84); Cornerstone, fourth (127); Davenport, fifth (135); and MU, sixth (186).

Louis Falland of Cornerstone was the 8K winner in 24:54.37.

Nathaniel Theobald was MU's top finisher in 22nd (27:00.83) followed

by Jeff Grzywinski, 27th (27:22.98); Ryan Carrigan, 34th (27:58.89); Nick Brubaker, 76th (32:13.12); and Erick Roth, 79th (33:28.41).

## WHAC All-Academic

A total of six Crusaders were named to the Academic All-WHAC team led by two-time selections Kayla Daugherty (Brighton) and Grzywinski (Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central). A student-athlete

must be a junior or senior and have a 3.25 cumulative grade point average or better to be eligible for consideration.

Joining Daugherty on the women's side were juniors Shannon Dusute (Grosse Ile), Brittany Hayden (Canton/Dearborn Divine Child), Kubicki and Sawasky (Ida).

Theobald (Monroe CC) was also selected on the men's all-academic team.

Dusute and Theobald

were also the Crusaders' selections to the WHAC's Champions of Character team as the student-athletes who best represent and carries out the NAIA's Five Core Values of respect, responsibility, servant leadership, sportsmanship and integrity.

MU's Patrick Daugherty was selected by his fellow women's cross country coaches as the Coach of Character for the 2013 season.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### AAU Jr. Crusaders

Tryouts for the AAU Junior Crusaders will be Sunday, Nov. 17 for the following age groups at Madonna University Activities Center, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia:

Girls 12s and 13s — noon to 1:30 p.m.; 14s and 15s — 1:30-3 p.m.; 16s, 17s and 18s, 3-4:30 p.m. Players born before Sept. 1 are in the older age group. (A player born on Aug. 30, 2001 would be in the 13-year-old age group.)

Practices for the 2014 season begin Tuesday, March 4, 2014. All practices, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Practice times are TBA at this time.

The program cost is \$565

(five tournaments including the state AAU).

For more information, contact the MU volleyball office at (734) 432-5612; or assistant coach Brian McClain at bgmccclain1@aol.com.

### MU volleyball

And open tryout for the Madonna University women's volleyball team will be from 10 a.m. until noon Sunday, Nov. 24 at the MU Activities Center.

The tryout is open to any high school senior or college transfer interested in Madonna University and in competing for a spot on the volleyball team for the 2014 season.

For more information contact assistant volleyball coach

Brian McClain at 248-495-5307; or via email at bgmccclain1@aol.com.

### Golf instruction

PGA professional Tami Bealbert will stage a golf enhancement session from 6:45-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 at the Oasis Practice Center, 3950 Five Mile Road, Plymouth Township.

Bring a friend to practice and share a swing station. For the first 15 minutes you will learn proper exercises followed by swing drills to improve your swing. Then a short one-on-one swing tip to meet your specific needs. (Cost is \$25.)

You can received an on-

course playing lesson at the virtual golf simulator from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at High Velocity Sports, 46245 Michigan Avenue, Canton. (The cost is \$30 each; limit 3-6 persons).

A golf conditioning class will be offered from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier Road, Superior Township. (Cost is \$25.)

RSVP no later than four hours before the start time of any one class. (Class days and times subject to change each week.)

To register, visit [www.TrainwithTami.com](http://www.TrainwithTami.com).

For more information, e-mail [TrainwithTami@yahoo.com](mailto:TrainwithTami@yahoo.com); call or text (734) 731-

0238.

### Rock the Clock

The first Rock the Clock 5-kilometer run-walk will be at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

Race proceeds will benefit the Gerad Meteyer Foundation, which helps support Camp Midicha for juvenile diabetes.

Each participant will receive a long-sleeve tech moisture wicking race shirt if registered before Dec. 1.

A Rock the Clock pint glass will go to the first five finishers in each age group.

For more information or to register, visit [rocktheclock-run.com](http://rocktheclock-run.com).



## Holiday cards benefit charitable causes

Greeting cards from nonprofit organizations offer a way to spread holiday cheer while also supporting a good cause. Here's a sampling:

» The Michigan Humane Society offers one card style this year. Each box contains 15 5- by 7-inch cards and 16 envelopes. They cost \$12.95 plus tax and feature a Pekingese named Prince and kittens Sterling and Veronica, all animals that found new homes through MHS.

The inside greeting is "Sending you warm and fuzzy holiday wishes!" The MHS logo and messaging appears on the back of each card.

Order cards online at [www.ShopMichiganHumane.org](http://www.ShopMichiganHumane.org) or by calling 800-866-9189, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. They also are available at MHS adoption centers in Rochester Hills, Detroit and Westland. The Westland shelter is located at 900 N. Newburgh, south of Ford Road.

At MHS' online store, shoppers can create their own, personalized greeting cards. Photo holiday cards are available in packs of 20 and include the MHS logo on the front. Shoppers customize their cards with a high-resolution photo and short greeting on the front, along with a custom message on the back. Cost is \$24.95 for one box, \$19.95 for two boxes and \$17.95 for three boxes.

» Forgotten Harvest Cards and envelopes are sold in packs of 20 for \$28 and include shipping and handling. A tribute card, which can be slipped into the holiday card, is available for \$5.

The collection includes two new holiday cards, designed by Matt

LeBarre Illustration in Royal Oak, and also features two of Forgotten Harvest's 2012 bestsellers, Two Turtle Doves and Snowy Farm Scene.

Last year, the proceeds from card sales helped Forgotten Harvest rescue 45.5 million pounds of food. The organization collects surplus prepared and perishable food from 455 sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free of charge to feeding programs throughout southeastern Michigan.

Buy the cards online at [www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org). Allow five to seven days for shipping.

For more information about Forgotten Harvest holiday cards, contact Rebecca Gade-Sawicki at [rgade-sawicki@forgottenharvest.org](mailto:rgade-sawicki@forgottenharvest.org) or 248-967-1500, Ext. 151.

» Seedlings Braille Books for Children offers several different holiday cards to help support its mission to providing high-quality, low-cost children's literature in braille. But its newest card, and the only one with a braille message, is a 5- by 7-inch snowman card.

A child in the Livonia Public Schools preschool program for students with visual impairments created the artwork on the card. The greeting inside says "Happy Holidays and Best Wishes!" and includes the same message in braille. Each package contains 12 cards and 12 envelopes and is available for \$16.



Matt LeBarre Illustration in Royal Oak created this new greeting card for Forgotten Harvest's holiday collection.



Prince, the Pekingese and kittens, Sterling and Veronica, send "warm and fuzzy holiday wishes" to recipients of the Michigan Humane Society holiday card.

Seedlings also offers two additional sizes of holiday cards, a deluxe size and a smaller size. Both versions are created by Pumpernickel Press and priced at \$18 per box of 16 large cards and \$10 per box of 10 smaller cards. To view the full selection of Seedlings' holiday cards, visit: [www.seedlings.org/2013cardbrochure.pdf](http://www.seedlings.org/2013cardbrochure.pdf).

Proceeds from card sales will help support Seedlings' programs and services and enable them to place braille books into the hands of visually impaired children locally and around the world.

Buy the greeting

See CARDS, Page B6



Forgotten Harvest's four-card collection includes this 2012 best seller.



A child in the Livonia Public Schools preschool program for students with visual impairments designed this card for Seedlings Braille Books for Children.



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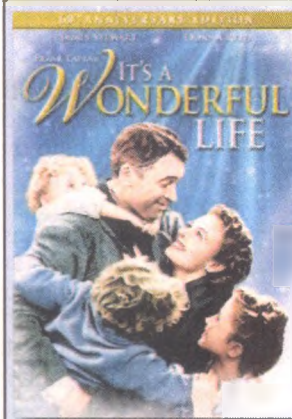
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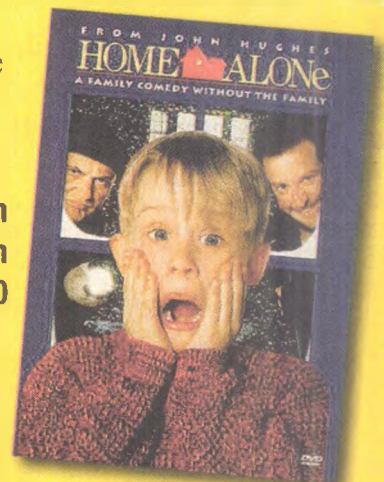
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# A journey to the glory days of Spain, Portugal

By Jay Young  
Correspondent

A trip to Spain and Portugal today provides a vivid reminder of the days when these two countries ruled most of the known world from the 15th-17th centuries. Wealth acquired from explorations to the New World is evident today in the magnificent palaces, galleries, cathedrals and monuments throughout southern Spain and Portugal.

We started our tour at the Royal Palace in Madrid, Spain's capital. Modeled after Versailles, it has more than 2,000 rooms and is filled with luxurious tapestries, chandeliers, priceless porcelain and gold leaf.

The Prado Museum, the must-see site to view the Spanish masters, contains more than 3,000 canvases. It can be overwhelming, but if you're diligent, you'll find whole rooms filled with the works of the great Spanish painters Francisco de Goya and Diego Velazquez as well as other Italian and Flemish masters.

After three days in Madrid, we headed south with our 35 Grand Circle Travel companions to the medieval city of Toledo, picturesquely set on a hill overlooking the Tagus River, and then on to Cordoba, which provided a fascinating glimpse into the interplay of Moorish and Christian architecture.

Its most famous landmark, the Mesquita, is a former mosque with 850 stunning colored granite and marble arches. In the center is a 16th century Renaissance cathedral. It stands as a symbol of the remarkable tolerance and cooperation among the monotheistic religions that characterized Cordoba during its heyday.

## Sprawling palace

From Cordoba we traveled past endless olive orchards, castles perched atop hills and windmills right out of "Don Quixote," to the last and greatest Moorish palace in Spain, the Alhambra. Sprawling over a hilltop overlooking Granada, the Alhambra is a complex of palaces designed to be a paradise on earth. The architects created ornate stuccoes, plaster stalactites, multiple colored tiles, scalloped windows overlooking the city and courtyards with crystal clear reflecting pools.

We continued our journey to the Costa del Sol and the seaside city of Malaga. The old city retains a distinctly Spanish flavor, with twisting, narrow streets and gardens with palm trees lining the modern port. A side trip to the nearby town of Salinas allowed us to meet and have lunch with several local families, a unique "learning and discovery" featured on all GCT itineraries.

We ended the Spanish leg of our journey at Seville, a city famous for its massive Gothic cathedral, the burial site of Christopher Columbus, and the riveting music and dance performances of the Flamenco.

## Portuguese horses

From Seville we continued northward toward Lisbon, stopping at the Brito Paes ranch in the Alentejo region of Portugal. This 1,000 acre stud ranch has been in existence for more than 200 years, initially breeding work horses for their strength and endurance. For the past 25 years, the owners have concentrated on Lusitanian sport horses which they sell worldwide.

After a stop at the



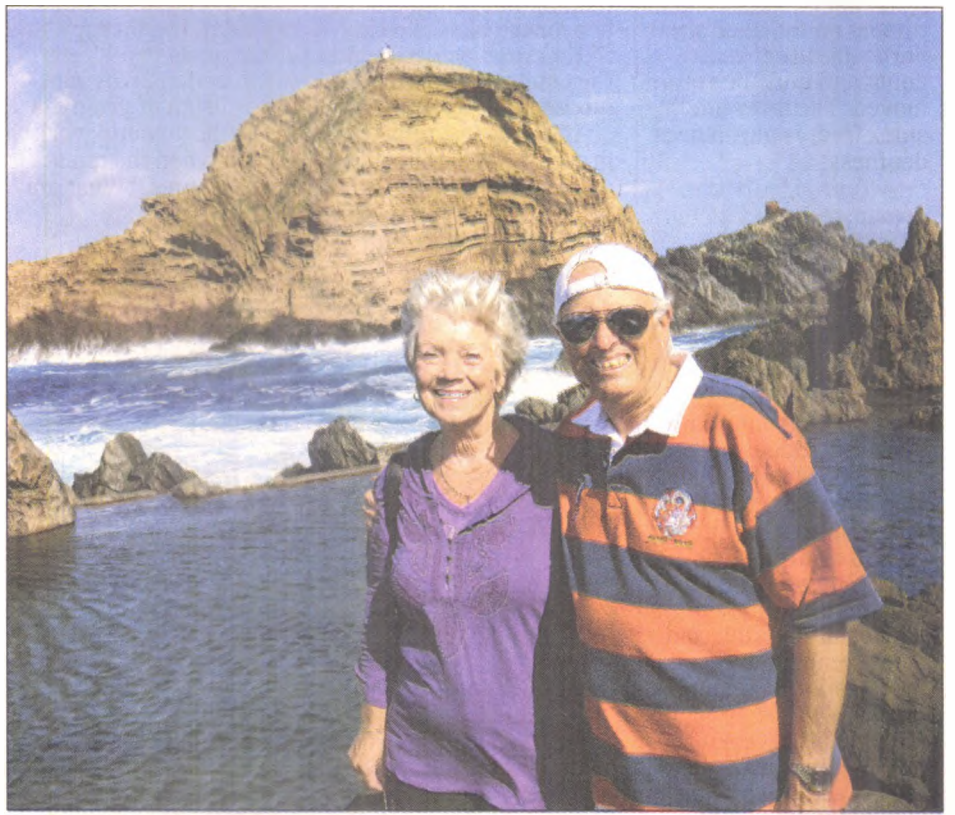
The Explorers monument in Lisbon, headed by Henry the Navigator, was the starting point for many journeys of discovery by intrepid Portuguese explorers

coastal town of Cascais, we traveled up the forested mountainside to the town of Sintra, site of the summer residence of the Portuguese royal family, and then ended our trip with a five-day stay at Madeira, a volcanic island located about 500 miles off the coast of Morocco.

Madeira provided a beautiful and restful way for us to conclude our own voyage of discovery of the present-day reminders of the Golden Age of Spain and Portugal.

For more about Grand Circle Travel adventures, visit [www.gct.com](http://www.gct.com) or call 800-221-2610.

Jay Young is a Canton resident and frequent traveler.



Jay and Linnea Young of Canton are pictured along the rugged, volcanic coast of the Portuguese island of Madeira, one of only two possessions remaining of the former Portuguese empire

## CARDS

Continued from Page B5

cards from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, at the Seedlings office, 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia and online at [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org). Call 734-427-8552 for directions and more information.

» Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary offers a card with artwork by Claire and Lucy Thomson of Clawson.

They created the pictures, of a snowman under a dark, starry night for the card front, and a Christmas tree with presents for the back, in honor of their sister, Natalie, who was a patient at the hospital from birth until she died from end-stage renal disease a few days before her first birthday. The inside of the card reads, "Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season."

The holiday cards are \$20 for a pack of 20 cards. Cards may be

imprinted with the sender's name for an additional cost. Gift cards are also available by making a donation to the auxiliary. For a minimum donation of \$5 per card, the donor will receive a special card acknowledging the gift.

Buy holiday cards online at [childrenshospitalofmichiganauxiliary.org](http://childrenshospitalofmichiganauxiliary.org), at the hospital, 3901 Beaubien, Detroit; or at Good Neighbors Family Pharmacy, 1956 Venoy, Westland; 734-722-8774.

# WESTLAND GOODFELLOWS

**"2013-  
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The Westland Goodfellows is holding a toy and food drive. Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations. All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas.

**Donation boxes available November 1 to December 7th, 2013**

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# Support group addresses needs of neurofibromatosis patients

Neurofibromatosis is an orphan disease. Orphan diseases occur so infrequently that they don't get much community and medical attention, nor research funding, compared to more commonly heard of diagnoses, such as diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy, to name a few.

There are three kinds of neurofibromatosis, NF1, NF-2, and schwannomatosis (S-Type). NF-1 is said to occur in one of 3,000 births, worldwide, and is characterized by multiple coffee-colored spots and tumors on or under the skin. Occasionally, tumors develop on cranial nerves and the spinal cord. Deformation of bones, along with curvature of the spine also may occur.

NF-2 type, seen in approximately one out of 25,000 individuals, causes tumors to develop on nerve cells. Often, tumors on the auditory nerve are life threatening and must be removed. The unwanted side effect is permanent deafness.

S-Type affects approximately one in 40,000 individuals. Symptoms may overlap with those of NF-2. However, tumors are not found on the auditory nerve and there is no acquired deafness.

Support groups can be a tremendous help for people and families who have a devastating diagnosis of a medical or mental disorder. They can promote an increased awareness of a particular disorder and help members overcome the isolation of feeling they are the only one that has such a condition. We hear a lot about cancer support groups, stroke support groups, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc. However, support groups for many of the orphan diseases either don't exist or are hard to find.

**NF-2 support group**  
In May — National Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month — I had the distinct honor of meeting the members of the Michigan NF-2 Support Group in Farmington Hills. I was asked to



Len McCulloch  
OUR MENTAL HEALTH

speak to the group about the psychological and emotional components of orphan diseases. The group is organized by Dorothy Barnier and her co-facilitator, Terri Rausch. Barnier told me that there is a strong need for members of this stricken population, along with the medical teams that work with them, to know about the role of psychological therapy in dealing with NF-2.

The NF-2 Support Group is open to people in Michigan, Western Ontario, and neighboring areas. Some members have been dealing with the diagnosis for decades, and others have been diagnosed more recently. As I understand it, Michigan appears to have the only (NF-2) support group in the country, that accommodates deaf people.

Like other support groups I have worked with over years, the leadership and members

of this group are exemplary. I sensed a great deal of support and empathy among them during their meeting. Captioning is provided for members with deafness. This unique service is accomplished through partnership between the University of Michigan and the National Neurofibromatosis Network.

### Psychotherapy's role

Having a disorder that affects only one out of 25,000 individuals can be very hard to swallow and digest. The task to create a meaningful life in spite of it can be huge. Anxiety and depression about the myriad decisions, treatments, and dashed hopes can be overwhelming. A good deal of psychotherapeutic work with people of trauma involves being with them in an empathetic way through difficult stages. In addition to support and encouragement, the therapy often needs to address the question "Why me?" A good sign of progress in the therapeutic work is seen when the question becomes, "What am I going to do about it?"

I recently worked with a person who had to discontinue her 20-year career as a teacher because of a devastating medical diagnosis. When asked about her plans, she said there had to be something meaningful in life for her, although she didn't know what it was. Then she said, "I'll have to find it. I will find it." Similar is the strength and courage of Barnier's NF-2 survivor son Gregory, a South Lyon resident. I asked him how he has found a life after trauma, and he said, "It's about how you keep on keeping on."

### Resources

- » Dorothy Barnier e-mail: gbarnier@mi.rr.com
- » www.advocarenf2.org
- » www.neurofibromatosisnetwork.org

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in mental health, substance abuse, brain injury, traumatic stress, and social work. McCulloch can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22.

# Boy Scout honored for achieving Eagle rank

Peter Romero of Farmington Hills recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. His achievement was recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor Sunday, Nov. 10, at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

Romero, the son of Lee and Suzanne Romero, began Scouting in 2001 with Pack 321 at Beechview Elementary School. In 2006, he was awarded an Arrow of Light award and joined Boy Scout Troop 179.

He quickly moved through the ranks of New Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, where he served as patrol quartermaster and assistant patrol leader. As a Star Scout, Romero served as patrol scribe, new Scout instructor, and troop guide, and was elected to the brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow, a national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. As a Life Scout, he again served as a new Scout instructor and as troop representative for the Order of the Arrow. During his seven years with Troop 179, he spent 128 nights camping, and earned 26 merit badges.

He began working on his Eagle project last



Romero

year. He led a team of individuals in building a wooden sailboat for North Star Junior Sailing, a nonprofit community sailing program. His project was completed in June 2013.

Romero graduated at the top of his class from Harrison High School in June 2013. While at Harrison, he applied the many leadership skills he honed in Scouting to his positions as field commander of the Harrison Farmington Phoenix varsity swim team.

He attends the University of Michigan, where he studies computer science engineering and plays trombone in the marching band.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

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

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www.hometownlife.com

### ALBRIGHT, PAUL JOHN

Of Eaton Rapids. Went to be with the Lord, November 14, 2013. Paul was born in Dearborn, MI, September 1, 1930, the son of Raymond and Frances (Grayheck) Albright. He served in the U.S. Army as a fire fighter at Ft. Benning, Georgia during peace time after the Korean War. Paul was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. When he was younger, he worked with his dad at their milk farm. Paul was a fire fighter, public safety director, and loss prevention inspector in Plymouth Twp. Paul was the manager of product development and advertising for Michigan Millers and also worked for the Eaton Rapids Twp. Fire Department. He enjoyed camping and was always doing for others. Next to serving the Lord, the love of his family was very special to him. He will be sorely missed by his family and the community. Paul is survived by his wife, Gwen Albright of Eaton Rapids; sons, Christopher (Patricia) Albright of Lansing, Duane Albright of Laingsburg; daughters, Karen (Don) Meyers of Portland, LeAnn Albright of Eaton Rapids, Carol (Phillip) Hicks of Ceresco; 15 grandchildren; brother, Rev. Raymond Gerard Albright of Detroit. Paul was preceded in death by his parents; daughter-in-law, Kathy Albright. A Mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Saturday, November 16, 2013 at St. Peter Catholic Church, 515 E. Knight St., Eaton Rapids, with Fr. Bennett Constantine celebrating. Interment will follow at Munger Cemetery with full military honors. Visitation will be Friday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the Shelly-Odell Funeral Home, 518 S. Main St. with a Rosary prayed at 7 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Peter Catholic Church or Eaton Community Palliative Care, 2675 S. Cochran Rd., Charlotte, MI 48813. Please visit our website to place online condolences or to sign the guest register. www.shellyodell.com

Shelly - Odell Funeral Home

### ALFORD, KEITH ALAN (SKEETER)

Of Dexter, MI. Died on November 14, 2013 at age 79. Keith was born November 22, 1933 to Thora E. (Carlson) and Arthur J. Alford, in Lansing, Michigan. He grew up in the Iron Mountain and Plymouth areas. Keith graduated from U of M in 1955 and 1961 and was an educator in the Plymouth Community Schools. He served two years in the U.S. Army. Keith married Janet (Morrison) in 1962 and she survives. In addition, he is survived by his beloved sisters, Marjorie (Donald) Easley and Nancy (Gregory) Boitano; in-laws Kathy Morrison and Richard Morrison; nephews, Steven, Michael, Richard, Kent, and Patrick; nieces, Christy, Deborah, Pamela, Melissa, and Teresa; and their families. Keith was especially fond of all his dogs; especially Lucy. He was a gentle man with a dry, pithy, sense of humor who loved teasing everyone and always wore a baseball cap. In former years he enjoyed woodworking, fishing, horseshoes, country music, playing poker, and was one of the remaining Dirty Dozen that helped the beginning process of turning Newkirk Camp into the present United Methodist Church campus, in Dexter. He described those years as being the happiest of his life. A memorial service will be held Monday, November 18 at 11:00 a.m. at Dexter United Methodist Church. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Chelsea Retirement Community Heritage Foundation or the Dexter United Methodist Church. Please sign Keith's guestbook at www.borekjennings.com or leave a message of comfort for his family by calling 877-231-7900.



### BERGQUIST, RICK JAMES

November 12, 2013. Age 22. Beloved son of Rick A. and Cindy Bergquist. Loving brother of Tori. Cherished uncle of Ayden Bailey. Also survived by many loving grandparents, family, and friends. Services were held at the Neely-Turowski Life Story Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile (between Merriman and Middlebelt). Memorials may be made to Growth Works or Livonia Save our Youth. To view Rick's life story, where you may sign the guest book, share a memory or upload photos, please visit: www.TurowskiLifeStory.com.

Life Story Funeral Homes

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

### BONANDER, JOHN VICTOR

Age 78 passed away peacefully on November 8th, 2013 at the Cleveland Clinic surrounded by his family. He was born October 16th, 1935 in Chicago IL. John graduated from Miami University of Ohio where he met his wife of 54 years Joan (nee Viall). He founded the Michigan Paper Company and he retired as president from HAMCO Paper Company in Hickory NC. After retirement, John became concerned about the effects of teenage school dropouts and was moved to author the book "Drop Out... or Tough it Out?" John also was an avid sailor. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who devoted his life to God. John is survived by his wife Joan; his children, James (Pat) Bonander and Karen (Jim) Canfield; his grandchildren, John "JP", Billy and Libby; his sister Margery (David) Lundquist; and his brother David (Martha) Bonander. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a Boys and Girls Club that serves your community. A memorial service was held on Monday, November 11th at 1 PM at the Willowby Hills United Methodist Church 34201 Eddy Rd, Willowby Hills OH 44094

### COOPER, JILL MARGENE

Age 64, of Battle Creek, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at The Manor of Battle Creek. She was born on June 9, 1949, the daughter of Howard Leroy Dunlap and Patricia Lorraine (Conery) Dunlap. Jill was a graduate of Plymouth High School. She earned LPN and RN certifications at Kellogg Community College and later earned a Bachelor's Degree at Spring Arbor College. She worked as a nurse in the Battle Creek area for many years, in the emergency room, intensive care units, and later in home health care. Jill is survived by her husband of 43 years - Donald Cooper of Battle Creek, MI; daughters - Christa Cooper of Hartland, MI and Patrice (Kyle) Neff of Bellevue, MI; son - John (Kara) Cooper of Traverse City, MI; grandchildren - Colyn Neff, Ryan Neff, Ruby Cooper; mother - Pat Dunlap of Canton, MI; sister - Jackie Foust of Canton, MI; brothers - Joe (Diane) Dunlap of Bokelia, FL and John (Anne) Dunlap of Redford, MI; sister-in-law - Diane Ponzio, nieces - Jennifer (Jay) DeMink, Sarah (Chris) Rush; nephews - David Foust, Andrew (Stephanie) Ponzio, Adam (Katherine) Ponzio. Jill will be dearly missed by her family as well friends including her devoted friend Debbie Buck. Jill was very artistic and creative. She enjoyed many hobbies including painting, sewing, knitting, weaving, and spinning wool. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Visitation will be held at the Baxter Funeral & Cremation Service, 375 W. Dickman Road, on Sunday November 17, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Jill's honor may be directed to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. https://donate.lls.org/lls/donate. Arrangements by the Baxter Funeral & Cremation Service 269-788-9800 www.baxterfuneral.com

### COWDEN, MAXINE M.

Age 92 of Bear Lake, died Wednesday November 13, 2013 at Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital. She was born May 12, 1921 in Benton Harbor the daughter of McDonald and Fern (Quisenberry) Council. She attended Bear Lake School and James Whitcomb Riley High School in South Bend, Indiana graduating in 1939. On June 21, 1939, Maxine married Gerald Keith Cowden at the Methodist Church in Bear Lake; he preceded her in death on October 7, 1969. She was employed as a secretary/bookkeeper in the public school system in Livonia, Michigan from 1970 until her retirement in 1986. She was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. She was an excellent Bridge player, an avid reader, and the best barley-beef soup maker in Manistee County. Maxine is survived by two sons, Ronald (Phyllis) Cowden of Manistee and Richard (Silvana) Cowden of New York, New York; seven grandchildren, Veronica Fischer of Grand Rapids, Scott Cowden of Columbia, South Carolina, Craig Cowden of Tampa, Florida, Jeremy Turner of New York, NY, Jessica Turner of San Francisco, California, and Jennifer Turner of Austin, Texas, Joseph Cowden-Guido of New York, NY; eight great-grandchildren, Kelsea, Ryan, and Connor Fischer, Camrin, Carson, and Cager Cowden, and Kaylyn and Axel Dominique. She was also preceded in death by her father, McDonald Council; mother, Fern Novis; daughter, Gerilyn Turner, and sister, Charlene Eminger. Cremation has taken place and no services are scheduled at this time. A family memorial service will be held in Bear Lake in the summer of 2014. Final interment will be in Fairview Cemetery in Bear Lake. Memorial contributions in Maxine's name may be directed to the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Please visit her personal book of memories at www.oakgrovefh.com to share a photo or story with her family. The family has entrusted funeral arrangements to Oak Grove Funeral Home & Cremation Center in Ludington.

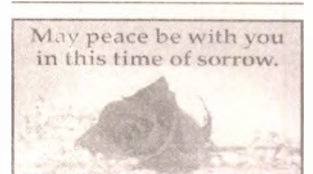
### MIKOLAJCZYK, FRANK A.

November 9, 2013, age 83. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather passed away peacefully with his wife Patricia of 62 years by his side; they were married on November 24, 1951 in Toledo, Ohio. Frank was born on March 06, 1930 in Toledo, Ohio and has been a Westland, Michigan resident for the past 49 years. Proudly served his country in the United States Air Force and was a warehouseman with Kroger/Foodland for 42 years; he retired in 1992. He enjoyed painting, golf, and bowling; Frank was bowler of the month in December of 1987 at Westland Bowl, when he shot a 300 game and was 132 pins over average. Survived by his wife, Patricia Margie (Leonard), and his children, Frank L., Craig, and Cheryl Mikolajczyk; grandchildren, Nicole Vandriessche, Frank A. Mikolajczyk, Brandy Burda, Mandy Mikolajczyk, Bryan Burda, and Kyle Mikolajczyk, great-grandchildren, Frank L. and Madison Mikolajczyk. Cremation has taken place.



### STEBBINS, NANCY JANE

Age 72, passed away on November 10, 2013; beloved mother of Diane, Robert, Cathy, Douglas and Susan; devoted daughter of Ernest and Lucinda and sister to Richard and Bruce; loving grandmother of Mia, Emma, Katrina, Samuel, Sara, Ian, Zach and Naomi. Nancy was a top student at Flint Central and UoM and passed the importance of education on to her children, who were raised in Livonia and obtained degrees from NMU, CMU, UoM, and two Ivy League schools (Penn and Columbia); she financed these educational expenses on her social worker's salary. She loved literature, theater, travel and most of all, people, as she could light up a room with her smile; her children followed her lead and developed wide-ranging interests, with three living for extended periods in Asia, one volunteering for the Peace Corps and one an academic All-America football player. Nancy was a selfless person who touched countless others, working as a social worker, helping high risk adults and volunteering her time to metro Detroit charities and her church; she lived by The Golden Rule and we miss her dearly. Nancy will be buried next to her mother and father in Mt. Pleasant and a memorial service will be held on June 28, 2014 at Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, Michigan. View her complete obituary and share memories at: www.clarkfuneralchapel.com



## REUNIONS

### CLARENCEVILLE CLASS OF 1973

40-year reunion, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 30. For ticket information, call Sharon at 734-261-3264 or email her at rsculbert263@gmail.com.

### FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973

A 40-year reunion is set from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, Nov. 29, at the Iroquois Club, 43248 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Call 248-451-9653. Tickets are \$75 presale only. Get tickets from www.73fhs40reunionmanager.com. Join the reunion Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/503456823023714. Reunion contact is Sande Eastwood Rouke.

### LIVONIA CHURCHILL CLASS OF 2003

Ten-year reunion will run 7 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Nov. 29, at One Under, 35780 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door and include open bar and snacks. Email to livoniaCHS2003@gmail.com or visit on.fb.me/18sUG9X.

### WAYNE MEMORIAL CLASS OF 1964

50th class reunion is set for Friday, May 16, 2014, with a social event planned for Saturday, May 17, 2014. Email to kchorbagian@hughes for more information.

May you find comfort in family and friends

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- **Lightfest 8K Fun Run/Walk on Nov. 12**
- **Bike Through the Lights on Nov. 13**
- **Reindeer Nights**  
Back by popular demand! There will be live reindeer at Santa's Workshop on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9 and 16.
- **Toy Night Tuesdays**  
Nov. 19, 26 and Dec. 3, 10 and 17. Bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee. Toys will be donated to the Wayne County Family Center.
- **Live Entertainment**  
Santa's workshop on Dec. 4 and 11!
- **Photos with Santa**  
at his workshop nightly starting Nov. 22 until Dec. 23 at the end of the Lightfest.

For fees and registration information, visit [www.waynecounty.com](http://www.waynecounty.com)



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# USA WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2013 usaweekend.com

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HELPFUL TIPS TO FIGHT HEARTBURN

# LOVE & FAMILY

Those two elements dominate Oscar winner **Forest Whitaker** in his private life and his new movie 'Black Nativity'

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If high schools were filled with people like filmmaker Oliver Stone, musician Swizz Beatz, financial expert Suze Orman, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson and astronaut Mae Jemison, “the fast life” would be less tempting, argues rapper/entrepreneur **50 Cent**, 38, whose *Dream School* series aired this fall on the Sundance Channel. “We should promote the possibility of achieving after a mistake,” says 50 Cent, who hopes to get the “army of people” without high school diplomas to “choose a better direction.” Recalling his own difficult childhood, he says famous folks whom kids look up to “have to use the influence we have ... around what’s important.”

**birthday buzz**



**Tina Turner**, who turns 74 on Nov. 26, is a newlywed. She married longtime love Erwin Bach in July in Zurich, their home for nearly 20 years.

**11.24** Sarah Hyland, 23; Katherine Heigl, 35. **11.25** Jenna and Barbara Bush, 32; Joe Gibbs, 73. **11.26** Garcelle Beauvais, 47; Natasha Bedingfield, 32. **11.27** Caroline Kennedy, 56; Jaleel White, 37. **11.28** Jon Stewart 51; Paul Shaffer, 64. **11.29** Don Cheadle, 49. **11.30** ; Billy Idol, 58.

**In the spirit**

**N**icollette Sheridan likes being the boss.

“It’s wonderful to have your fingers in all the different pots,” she says about producing and starring in the Hallmark Channel movie *The Christmas Spirit*, airing Dec. 1. Sheridan came up with the story and worked closely with the writer of the film, which involves the spirit world — a familiar topic for the actress.

“My grandmother was a spiritualist and a healer,” Sheridan, 50, reveals. “She’d have spirits visit her often, like Olympia Dukakis does in our movie. I had my experience with a spirit once. He came to my bedside at 3:04 a.m. Two minutes passed. and I closed my eyes and thought, ‘Thank you for coming to me. Please go away. I’ve not seen him again.’”

Sheridan hopes her *Spirit* character will return in another holiday movie. “I might write the next one,” she says, “and I’ll think about directing another one.”



**Mayim Bialik**

Actress, *The Big Bang Theory*; mommy blogger at [kveller.com/mayim-bialik](http://kveller.com/mayim-bialik)

**What:** Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, which helps those suffering from leukemia, lymphoma and other cancers and genetic disorders find matching donors for blood and marrow transplants.

**Why:** “I emceed their dinner two years ago, and I got to see people meeting their donors,” Bialik says. “It’s one of those things that literally restores your faith in humanity.”

**When:** The 8 Days of Giving for the Gift of Life Foundation, inspired by Hanukkah, raises funds and encourages people to sign up to become donors.

**How:** To get swabbed, donate or host a fundraiser, visit [www.makesomemiracles.com](http://www.makesomemiracles.com)

**CONTRIBUTING:** Gayle Jo Carter, Nancy Mills, Arienne Thompson.

YOU CAN DO IT **Mary McDonnell**



**W**ith a sense of humor and humility, success is yours for the taking, says Mary McDonnell, now starring on TNT’s *Major Crimes*, returning Monday. The Oscar-nominated actress boasts an impressive résumé (*Dances with Wolves*, *Battlestar Galactica*), but there have been bumps in the road. “You’re going to get ... brought to your knees and swung at by a giant bat,” says McDonnell, 61. “So, learning to take your licks is key to finding the next beautiful thing.” As for her 29-year marriage to actor Randle Mell? “Things that used to make me angry now make me howl with laughter, and I say, ‘If only I could have gotten there sooner.’”



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## It's in the bag

Paul Haidet of Hallandale Beach, Fla., was pressed for time and had no garment bag. "I needed to find the quickest and most convenient way of transporting my business suit without the worry of getting it dirty or wet," he says.

He used two scented trash bags. "Turn one upside down, make a small hole at the top and guide the hook of the hanger holding the garment through the hole. Then take a second bag and overlap the first, and wrap the drawstrings around the hanger. You are ready to carry your clothes in total protection against rain, snow, heat, even mud."

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## Start a cinematic holiday tradition

**O**n Thanksgiving Day, hitch up the recliner and let your turkey settle while you take in a movie with a sense of how and why this is a defining American holiday. Check out these picks from the blog [AmericanFoodRoots.com](http://AmericanFoodRoots.com):

**Avalon.** (1990) This film by director Barry Levinson tracks an immigrant family as they grow, change and assimilate, Thanksgiving included.

**Pieces of April.** (2003) Poor April Burns is adrift, and her estranged family is coming to her tiny New York apartment for Thanksgiving. When she discovers her oven is broken, she enlists the Asian family downstairs, explaining to them why this holiday is so important.



Julianna Margulies, Lainie Kazan and Kyra Sedgwick serve up some family tension in *What's Cooking?*

### Home for the Holidays.

(1995) Holly Hunter is a laid-off single mom who returns to spend the holiday with her family, which registers merely average dysfunction, though someone gets a turkey in the lap. Anyone with siblings will appreciate this.

### The Ice Storm.

(1997) Definitely not light. But daughter Wendy makes a wonderful teen speech about materialism and exploitation at the Thanksgiving table.

### The Blind Side.

(2009) The whole story is about opening your heart and your family to outsiders. And the first instance is on Thanksgiving.

### What's Cooking?

(2000) Just so you know everyone argues the same way on Thanksgiving, this movie follows four families – Hispanic, Vietnamese, African-American and Jewish – as they prepare and endure the sacred American holiday.

## NEW RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

**F**rom serving a federal prison term for dealing crack to working as a top chef in Las Vegas, Chef Jeff Henderson has come a long way. He has synthesized what he learned in prison into strategies for discovering one's potential



Chef Jeff Henderson

in his book *If You Can See It, You Can Be It: 12 Street Smart Recipes for Success*. His tips:

**Tap into your talents** Your gift is something you excel at with the least amount of effort," says Henderson, who earned \$35,000 a week selling drugs. A fellow prisoner saw his strengths in leadership, logistics, budgeting and people skills – all qualities a successful

CEO would possess. The only difference? "All you gotta do is change the product."

**Write it down.** Inspired, Henderson read all he could. He realized he loved to cook, and he earned praise working in the prison kitchen. He wrote down his short-term, mid-term

and long-term plans. "Many people have mental plans, but you forget those sometimes," he says.

**Make connections.** Relationships built on common interests have more integrity than just networking to exchange business cards, he says. "If you build strategic relationships, you build access to opportunity." — Cheryl Alkon

## A curious color for 2014

**A**s sophisticated grayish violet dubbed Exclusive Plum is Sherwin-Williams Color of the Year for 2014. "This dusky, filtered violet is refined without being stuffy, elegant yet easy, and layered with romantic potential," says Jackie Jordan, the company's director of color marketing.

The 2014 forecast features 38 colors in four palettes: Reasoned, Diaphanous, Intrinsic and Curiosity, which is "largely driven by science and geology," and where Exclusive Plum fits in.

The company says the 2014 color is versatile and can be used in a variety of spaces: For a cozy, masculine den, Jordan recommends pairing it with accents of copper and worn leather. It can be layered with gold, gray and white for an "elegant, dreamy bedroom," or highlighted against white subway tile and chrome in the master bath. Pops of magenta and chartreuse make for a more energetic space.



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# FAMILY TIES

BY NANCY MILLS

As the holiday season begins, Oscar winner **Forest Whitaker** explores values in his Christmas movie, 'Black Nativity.'

**WHEN FOREST WHITAKER** slips into the book-filled conference room in his office suite near Universal Studios, the air barely flutters. It's almost as if he is channeling Cecil Gaines, the discreet White House butler he played so convincingly in *Lee Daniels' The Butler*.

No fuss. No muss. He is even wearing a crisp white shirt and black trousers.

"I have a zen-like approach to things," Whitaker says, settling his slender, 6-foot-2-inch frame onto a sofa.

But don't be fooled. Whitaker, 52, has a black belt in kenpo karate. As a young man he excelled on the football field because he was so aggressive.

On the other hand, he practices yoga. He also has great simpatico with women, successfully directing chick flicks like *Waiting to Exhale* and *Hope Floats*. He is surrounded by women at his office and at home — wife Keisha and three daughters (Autumn, 21, True, 17, and Sonnet, 16). He also has one son, Ocean, 22.

Love and family are strong elements in his recent films, too. His new movie *Black Nativity*, opening on Wednesday, "centers around the healing of a family and the sticking together of a family through love," Whitaker says. "Those are important themes to me."

A modern adaptation of celebrated poet and activist Langston Hughes' Christmas musical, *Black Nativity* showcases him singing. At one point, he duets with Jennifer Hudson, who plays his estranged daughter.

"My character is a singing preacher," Whitaker says. "He's carrying with him a lot of regret. He tried to take control of his daughter and get a man out of her life, and because of that, he lost her trust. By reconnecting with his grandson, a door is opened."

Whitaker could have been a preacher himself. "That's what my grandmother used to say when I'd ask her questions," he recalls. "I do come from a line of preachers."

*Continued on page 8*



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From left: Jacob Latimore, Angela Bassett, Jennifer Hudson and Forest Whitaker sing out in *Black Nativity*.

Continued from page 6

He talks fondly of his early years in Longview, Texas, when he lived near his grandparents. "Our family was very tight," he says. "You might live one door down from my grandfather or in a trailer on his property. We had reunions all the time."

When Whitaker was 4, his family moved to Los Angeles. "For opportunity," he says. "My dad was hoping for a different life."

**"Hopefully love will cover any mistakes."**

Every summer in my youth I spent in Texas with my grandfather. After he retired from the railroad, he had a farm, and I would help with the pigs and cattle and plow fields."

When Whitaker became a father himself, he made sure his children learned family history. "For school projects they interviewed their grandparents on both sides," he says. "Everyone still comes together for Thanksgiving, not just immediate family but all the relatives."

"Keisha really celebrates the holidays, and the house goes through seasonal changes. At

Thanksgiving, there's dried corn, autumn leaves and other symbols of harvest. At Christmas, there's the tree, lots of lights and snow and a cinnamon smell. It's a full experience for the kids.

"Now that both my brothers and my sister have kids, there will be at least 25 of us. We'll be getting our camera phones out. It's not like when we were little and had Polaroids."

Food preparation has also switched generations. "My mom used to be the main cook, and my grandma made rolls and desserts like German chocolate cake and sweet potato pie," Whitaker says. "This year my brother Damon will do a lot of the cooking."

Although Oscar buzz has been building for Whitaker's performance in *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, he insists that he is rooting for Michael B. Jordan, who stars in *Fruitvale Station*, a film he produced.

"*The Butler* revitalized something in me," Whitaker says. "I admired Cecil's quiet reverence and the appreciation of service. Service is one thing everyone can give to others in some way — even if it's just a smile." □

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB D'AMICO FOR EW.COM



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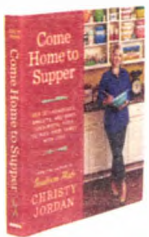
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**Come Home to Supper**, by cookbook author and Southern food enthusiast Christy Jordan

# food

## Leftover lovers

Leftovers can be an amazing thing — especially after Thanksgiving. “To make these potato cakes, I have to double the amount of mashed potatoes I make, and then hide them,” says author Christy Jordan, who wrote this book to encourage families to return to the dinner table. “If you make a habit of eating together, your children will open up to you,” she says. “It’s a natural way to bond.”



### POTATO CAKES { Yield: 4 servings }

- 2 cups cold, leftover mashed potatoes (recipe at right)
- 1 large egg
- ¼ cup all-purpose or self-rising flour
- 2 Tbs. finely diced onion (optional)
- Vegetable oil

**Place** the mashed potatoes and egg in a medium-size bowl and mix with a fork until well blended. **Add** the flour and onion, if using, and mix well. The mixture will be very stiff.

**Pour** the oil into a large skillet to coat the bottom and heat it over medium heat. **Line** a plate with paper towels.

Working in batches, **scoop** out a heaping tablespoon of the potato mixture and carefully place it in the hot oil. **Dip** the back of the spoon into the oil and **mash** the potato mixture to flatten it to about ¼-inch thick. (Dipping the back of the spoon into the oil prevents the potatoes from sticking to it.) Continue adding spoonfuls of the mixture to the oil, being sure to leave enough space between them for flattening.

**Fry** the potato cakes until they are lightly browned on the bottom, 3 to 5 minutes. **Flip** them and lightly brown them on the other side, 2 to 3 minutes. **Remove** the potato cakes to the paper-towel-lined plate to drain. Keep them warm while you continue frying the remaining potato mixture. Serve warm.

**Per serving** (3 pancakes): 221 calories, 20g carbohydrates, 4g protein, 14g fat (5g saturated), 2g fiber, 62mg cholesterol, 269mg sodium

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# sidedish



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## FOLK HERO

In various cultures, people believe the potato has superpowers: that its juice can eliminate blemishes, that a slice in a sock tied around your neck helps a sore throat, that carrying one in your pocket can relieve a toothache.

## MASHED POTATOES

{ Yield: 4-6 servings }

7 to 8 medium-size potatoes (3½ to 4 pounds), washed, peeled, and cut into thick slices or large cubes (Yukon Gold or any kind of potato)

2 tps. salt

½ cup evaporated milk or whole milk

½ cup (1 stick) butter, cut into chunks

½ tsp. ground black pepper

Place the potatoes in a medium-size stockpot, add water to cover by a depth of 1 inch, and add 1 tsp. of the salt. Place the pot over medium-high heat and bring it to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium and boil gently until the potatoes are extremely tender, about 30 minutes.

Drain the potatoes well and add the remaining ingredients, including the remaining teaspoon of salt, to the pot. Mix with an electric hand mixer on medium speed until smooth and creamy. Serve warm. ☐

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# health

## 'Tis the season for acid reflux

But serious heartburn, or GERD, may require medicine, lifestyle changes

It's that time of year again — big dinners, lots of parties and celebratory toasts. For some holiday revelers, that means more heartburn. Getting a burning sensation in your chest now and then is normal, particularly after overdoing fatty or fried foods, chocolate and alcohol. But when it's more than twice a week, you may have GERD, or gastroesophageal reflux disease. This chronic condition results when stomach acid or bile backs up into the esophagus; the "reflux" of acid irritates sensitive tissue that lines your food pipe. What you need to know:

**It causes more than heartburn.**

Though that's the telltale sign, not everyone with GERD experiences it. Other signs: regurgitation of food or a sour-tasting liquid, nausea, chest pain, hoarseness or sore throat. Some may have difficulty swallowing or feel as if food is stuck in their throat. GERD can also cause dry cough or bad breath.

**Losing weight can help.** That's because

excess fat around the belly increases pressure on the stomach, which forces acid back up into your esophagus. Maintaining a healthy weight both reduces risk of developing GERD and helps treat it. Other changes that may help: wear loose-fitting clothing around your waist; quit smoking; eat smaller meals and skip foods that trigger heartburn. Also: wait at least three hours after eating before you lie down; if possible, raise the head of your bed with wood blocks or a wedge between your mattress and the box spring. The goal is to elevate your body from the

waist up so gravity can help keep stomach acid down. (Pillows don't provide the same effect.)

**You'll likely need medicine, too.** Diet adjustments, lifestyle changes and antacids may help mild symptoms, but for many people with GERD, stronger meds are needed. H-2-receptor blockers reduce acid production;



proton pump inhibitors block acid production to allow the esophagus to heal. Both are available in over-the-counter or prescription strength. If drugs don't help, your doctor may discuss surgery. Some medical centers now offer a new, less invasive procedure called the LINX system, which involves laparoscopically implanting a magnetic ring at the bottom of the esophagus to improve symptoms.

Talk to your doctor to determine your best course. Left untreated, GERD can sometimes cause serious complications, from an ulcer to precancerous changes in the esophagus. □

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Choose Ladies'/Men's and indicate your size and quantity!

Ladies' Item no. 11-1062	Size* (Ladies' 6-11)	Quantity*	1 pair = \$14.95 2 pairs = \$29.90 3 pairs = \$44.85
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Please print clearly! **Total** \$

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Extremely lightweight and comfy!



Simply rinse off under a faucet!



Wide opening – easy to slip on or off!



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\*Based on user sessions on the PlanPrescriber insurance plan comparison tool, powered by eHealth (10/15/12–11/19/12), expressed as an average of potential savings. Typical savings identified by calculator are in the \$375–\$475 range per year based on user-inputted drugs or other data. Your costs may vary depending on the Part B premium, a plan's cost-sharing obligations for your drugs, any Part D penalty that may apply, and whether you qualify for Extra Help from Medicare with paying your drug costs. CVS/pharmacy calculator prepopulates data based on CVS/pharmacy preference and prior prescriptions filled by CVS/pharmacy. Potential savings identified using CVS/pharmacy calculator may vary from PlanPrescriber national averages. \*\*CVS/pharmacy does not endorse any particular plan.

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2-Toe Pad

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**B.** If paying by credit card (we accept MasterCard®, VISA® or Discover®/NOVUS®), include the credit card number, exp. date & billing address (if different from your shipping address). You may also mail a check or money order.  
**C.** Dept. 67800  
**D.** Indicate number of items ordered:  
Toe Alignment Comfort Pad @ \$7.97 each  
#99154, Single-Toe #99155, Double-Toe #99156, Triple-Toe (Right) #99157, Triple-Toe (Left)

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412 DREAM LANE, VAN NUYS, CA 91496

**fun**

## STICKDOKU

BY TERRY STICKELS

Use your logic to find the correct number for each square. When finished, all nine rows across, all nine columns down and all nine 3-by-3 boxes must contain all nine numbers, 1 through 9, with no repeats.

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

At [usaweekend.com](http://usaweekend.com), click on the "Games" tab to play our online interactive sudoku.

## FRAME GAMES

BY TERRY STICKELS

Can you solve these puzzles? Each communicates a well-known saying, person, place or thing. Answers below.



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

STICKDOKU ANSWERS:

1. Rise from the ashes
2. Cast a long shadow
3. Air hockey
4. Mark Cuban

NEXT WEEK IN USA WEEKEND

**Drew Barrymore**  
and our  
**Holiday Gift Guide**



DON'T  
MISS IT!





# TIRED OF GRAVITY?

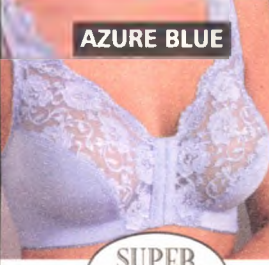
## STOP SAG & SLOUCH!



## 3 Women Designed The Ultimate Bra That Corrects Your Posture and Provides a Super-Lift!



NUDE



AZURE BLUE



WHITE

**The 6 Main Secrets behind the perfect bra design!**

- 1 Super stretch material self-adjusts to periodic changes!
- 2 Lifts and shapes your bust to perfection!
- 3 Easy-hook front-closure!
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### Say No To Saggy Bust & Slouching Body – Presenting The Bra With Amazing Support, Incredible Comfort And Super-Stretch!

The amazing Posture Comfort Bra has a robust X-shaped design in the back, that provides serious spinal support – it pulls back your shoulders to improve your posture. Along with the wide shoulder straps, the reinforcements relieve the weight of your bust and ease back and shoulder pressure. The bra helps you walk and sit more upright. It lifts and sculpts your bust to perfection. No uncomfortable underwire. Hooks in front can be adjusted to the desired width. Fashion import with unique blend of 85% nylon and 15% spandex that cradles your bust in comfort. Choose Azure Blue, Nude, Grape, or White. Machine washable. One cup stretches to fit cup sizes B, C and D and the other cup size stretches to fit DD and E. Sizes 34-52.

### 4 COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM!



MSRP \$29.97  
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One cup stretches to perfectly fit **B-C-D** Another fits **DD-E**

GRAPE

UP TO SIZE 52

PLUS-sizes at no extra charge!

Offer not available in stores!

NO underwire!

## SAY NO to all this:

- ✓ No slouching!
- ✓ No underwire!
- ✓ No shoulder pain!
- ✓ No rolling or bunching!
- ✓ No chafing!
- ✓ No back fat or bra lines!
- ✓ No saggy bust!
- ✓ No straps to adjust!

- Wonderful stretch material makes it really comfortable to wear!
- Cups that self-adjust for periodic changes in your body!
- X-shaped reinforcements in the back provide perfect posture and support!
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#12-5468	#12-5484	#12-5245	#12-5252	#12-5245	#12-5252	#12-5260	#12-5278	1 bra \$11.97
Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	2 bras \$23.94
								3 bras \$35.91
								4 bras \$47.88
								5 bras \$59.85
								6 bras \$71.82
Subtotal:								\$
Add shipping & handling \$3.99 per order! Save when you buy more than one bra! Same S/H no matter how many you buy!								\$ 3.99
Residents of FL add 7% sales tax.								\$
Value Code <b>FPT 358</b>								Total \$

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Better sound through research



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It was like a sitcom. I'd turn up the TV volume to hear the dialogue. And he'd turn it down because the music and sound effects were too loud. Over and over. What's funny is how quickly that problem disappears when you have

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