

CONTEST

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PARC committee gets city endorsement

Commission votes 6-0 to support efforts of group trying to build plan for new use of Central building

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plans to save part of Central Middle School and transform the entire 18-acre site into a community recreation and cultural center gained ground last week with a strong endorsement from an official source.

The Plymouth City Commission, with a 6-0 vote, passed a resolution of support for the efforts of the Plymouth Arts

and Recreation Complex, or PARC, committee, which is working on several fronts to buy Central, which is slated to close in 2015, and rehabilitate it for community use. The PARC facility could include sports fields, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, a fitness center, an auditorium and art studio and meeting space.

"I think what we'll end up with is pretty good," PARC committee member Deb Madonna said at Monday's com-

mission meeting. Madonna asked that the entire Plymouth area support the effort. "This is one Plymouth," she said.

The commission's resolution notes that development of green space at Central, which is already used by several school and recreational sports leagues, is in the city's master plan and encourages "all interested parties to work with (the PARC committee) for the betterment of the entire Plymouth community."

Full support

Mayor Dan Dwyer, who is on a PARC-sponsored committee that is studying the details how such a facility would operate, said the commission is "110 percent behind" the project and that it's the best idea to come to the area "in decades."

The show of support pleased Madonna and Don Soenen, another PARC steering committee member. Soenen said they're trying to follow the

Plymouth traditions of community-mindedness and creating institutions that can be enjoyed for generations.

"I think we have an obligation now to build on what's been done," Soenen said Thursday.

Voting for the resolution Monday were Dwyer and Trustees Mike Wright, Ed Hingelberg, Oliver Wolcott, Meg Dooley and Diane Bogenrieder.

See PARC, Page A3

Open Meetings complaint dismissed

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A Plymouth Township resident is alleging a violation of the Michigan Open Meetings Act following an October meeting of the township's Local Officials Compensation Commission, but the township attorney has reviewed the issue and dismissed it.

Richard Sharland, a Board of Trustees watcher and frequent critic, wrote to Dec. 3 township attorney Tim Cronin, suggesting Treasurer Ron Edwards improperly engaged compensation commission members in conversation after their Oct. 14 meeting. The public had left the township hall meeting room, Sharland said, but he and two others returned when they saw Edwards at the commission dais with commission members after the meeting.

The commission met several times this fall to study setting the salaries of township elected officials for next year and 2015.

Sharland said he couldn't make out much of what was said, but that he heard Edwards offer to provide "information."

"They shouldn't be carrying on there as a group, a quorum, after the meeting had adjourned," Sharland said Friday. "I don't think you would classify that as a social, chance meeting, which the law covers."

But township Supervisor Richard Reaume said Sharland's complaint is "much ado about nothing."

"That's not uncommon for anyone to walk up to the dais," Reaume said. Members of the public often walk up to converse with Board of Trustees members after meetings, he added, with no OMA violation alleged.

"Who knows what they were talking about?" he said.

Reaume said Cronin had reviewed the matter, but saw no reason to follow up.

"At this time, he sees nothing he should take any action on," Reaume said.

Edwards declined to comment Friday.

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The Vietnam veterans draw loud applause when they participate in various around the area. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

12/8

PARTNERSHIP HELPS VETERANS GROUPS ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY

American Legion, VFW and Vietnam Veterans of America working together

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Dennis Bielskis left college after his second year, joined the U.S. Army in 1970 and was sent to Vietnam. "I had to do what my dad did," said Bielskis, whose father was in the Army Air Corps in World War II.

Ron King, meanwhile, was in officer training while in college and joined the Air Force in 1966, serving for 22 years and also going to Vietnam.

Frank Pawelak was drafted into the Army in 1960 after graduating from college.

"My country needed me," said Pawelak, who served for two years stateside and in Turkey.

Although the three took different routes to military service, they are now on the same path when it comes to recognizing other veterans and those who continue to serve.

Community action

King, Bielskis and Pawelak head the area veterans organizations that join up to organize annual commemorative events, including the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony that was to take place Saturday at Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park.

Working separately and collectively, and involving local service groups as well, their organizations also help veterans in need through such projects as clothing drives, luncheons, hospital visits and education on veterans benefits.

The cooperation gives the groups unity and helps them share costs and get more done with less.

"We're not getting that many newer members, so we have to work with what we have and we're more effective working together than separately," said Pawelak, commander of American Legion Post 391. The post of about 55 members is headquartered at the Knights of

See VETERANS, Page A2

What's in a name? Ice Festival is Ice Festival again after one-year switch

Annual winter event scheduled for Jan. 10-12

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Would a Plymouth Ice Festival by any other name really be as sweet?

With apologies to William Shakespeare, apparently not

at least according to festival organizers.

The ice festival, a display of ice carvings and showcase of winter events in downtown Plymouth, is being called the Plymouth Ice Festival once again, after briefly being called the Plymouth Winterfest. The 2014 Plymouth Ice Festival, the 32nd such event, is scheduled Jan. 10-12.

Tony Bruscato, operations director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, said festival producer James Gietzen recently received word that the Internet domain name plymouthicefestival.com was being transferred to him, after being held for several years by Sam Walton, who produced the past four festivals but had not been

heard from for several months, despite owing the city around \$20,000 for services provided for last January's festival.

In Walton's absence, Bruscato and Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce president Wes Graff had stepped in last summer to save the festival, recruiting Gietzen and others to operate it.

"We decided to keep the

name Plymouth Ice Festival because that's what everyone calls it," Bruscato wrote in an email. "We hadn't really done much advertising of the Winterfest name, so it seemed logical."

The festival has had several names in its history of more than three decades, but the

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Balogh House earns historic designation

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, announced the Tivadar and Dorothy Balogh House, located in Plymouth Township, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of Interior.

"I am thrilled that the Tivadar and Dorothy Balogh House has made the renowned list of National Historic

Places," Heise said. "The preservation and recognition of historical places, like the Balogh House, not only helps us to hold on to our cultural heritage, but these places add to the unique aesthetic and feeling of our cities and towns in Pure Michigan."

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation.

Teen, family reach out to hospitalized kids

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Peter Weir, 14, of Northville Township was in the hospital Christmas Eve a few years ago.

"The hospital brought a bunch of toys into my room while I was asleep," the ninth-grade homeschooler said. "I thought that was really nice."

From that experience, Weir and his family have created Peter's Pals, providing toys, books and gift cards for hospitalized children and teens from their collection efforts. "It's a nice feeling to be able to help people who are stuck in the hospital," he said.

He's the son of Catherine and Owen and has two older siblings who are Northville High graduates. Peter has ideopathic juvenile osteoporosis, his mom said, and uses a wheelchair.

He was at William Beaumont Hospital of Royal Oak that particular year. "He's been in the hospital before when he's gotten presents," she said. "Emo-

tionally, it's a real boost. It's a nice feeling - it just helps."

Another reason for starting Peter's Pals was to honor and remember Peter's friend Alec Cunningham. He was a friend who passed away two years ago. He and his family are very important to the Weirs. Cunningham's family lives in Northville and his brother now attends Northville High.

The Weirs deliver toys to area hospitals and one out of state where he's treated. Peter Weir got his Make-A-Wish wish this past spring and the Weirs had a team, Peter's Pals, in the fundraising walk for Make-A-Wish.

The family uses a gift box at their home, with information on donating available from Catherine via email at weirus@wowway.com.

The toys must be new, unopened and unwrapped, due to hospital requirements. "All ages are appropriate," she said. "Anything anybody's able to donate I will find a home for it. It brings a lot of joy."

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All of Plymouth's veterans organizations work hard to collaborate on the various ceremonies, including Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor Day.

VETERANS

Continued from Page A1

Columbus hall on South Mill.

"You can put the organizations together and do more," said Bielskis, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695.

"Without it, we wouldn't be doing half the things," Bielskis added. VFW 6695 has nearly 400 members, about 40 of whom are the most active, Bielskis said.

"We take care of each other," said King, the president of Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 528, which shares space on South Mill with the VFW. "We don't expect one organization to foot the whole bill." The VVA chapter has more than 250 members.

All three organizations were to have a role



The Ladies' Auxiliaries are also heavily involved, as Vickie Bennett and Carolyn Notestine of the American Legion Auxiliary, Plymouth Post 112, proved at the Memorial Day . BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

in Saturday's commemoration of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Pawelak said duties for that and other annual events are divided and coordinated between the three groups.

"I think it was a maturing of the attitude that, 'We've got to start

working together,'" Pawelak said. "For us to be effective, to do any projects and to help the veterans and show the community we were together, it was almost necessary."

The groups also coordinate an annual Memorial Day parade every

May and a Veterans Day ceremony in November.

Recent thaw

The relationship wasn't always this close, Bielskis said.

Returning Vietnam veterans were often shunned by veterans of earlier conflicts, some of whom looked down on a group they perceived as having lost the war and essentially shut out of established veterans groups, he said. That was one of the reasons behind the founding of the VVA nationwide, he said.

Today, Bielskis is a member of all three Plymouth veterans groups and appreciates the solidarity

"We don't want the younger guys who are coming home today to feel like we did," he said.

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Second man sentenced to prison in gas station robbery

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The second man involved in this past summer's armed robberies of gas stations in Livonia and Plymouth will spend at least the same amount of time behind bars as his counterpart.

Matthew Ross, 21, of Taylor, was sentenced last week to serve between 18 months and 15

years in prison as a part of a plea deal. He was originally charged with armed robbery, but took a deal that dismissed those charges and led to him to plead guilty to unarmed robbery.

Ross was charged along with 20-year-old Canton resident Tyler Robinson earlier this year. Testimony during his preliminary examination in Livonia's 16th

District Court indicates Ross was the getaway driver in a pair of gas station robberies that took place in Livonia and Plymouth the night of June 30.

Police say Robinson entered a gas station at Schoolcraft and Merriam in Livonia, as well as a gas station at Five Mile and Beck in Plymouth, and showed a handgun to both attendants, demand-

ing cash, after placing a bag of beef jerky on the counter at both locations. The robbery at the station in Plymouth was thwarted when a delivery man came inside while Robinson was attempting to obtain cash from the attendant.

Both men were originally charged with armed robbery back in July in both Livonia and Plymouth. Ross was

bound over to circuit court that month, while a competency exam was done on Robinson before his case was moved to Detroit earlier this fall.

Robinson was sentenced in November to the same term Ross was sentenced to last week by Third Circuit Judge Linda Parker in Detroit's Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. He pleaded guilty to one charge of

armed robbery and had another dropped as a part of a plea deal.

Ross will be eligible for release in 2016 after the court gave him 73 days credit for time spent in the Wayne County Jail. In addition to the prison sentence, Ross will be required to pay nearly \$1,200 in court costs and fees.

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Culinary students get a new view of food thanks to McDonald's

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Art Institute of Michigan culinary student Derrick Rassam said he was excited when he heard they would be working with ingredients from McDonald's last Tuesday.

He's very familiar with the food from the "Golden Arches" and was looking forward to seeing what new twists he could put on them.

"Honestly, I thought this sounded like a fun idea," he said while cutting up sausage to put in a southwestern breakfast skillet. "This gives me a different look at the culinary industry, a side many of us probably haven't thought much about."

Chef Jessica Foust, R.D., manager of Nutrition and Culinary for McDonald's USA, served as mentor to culinary students Nov. 12 when she hosted a cooking experience at the Novi school. A \$10,000 donation was given to the institute that day by Southeast Michigan McDonald's Operators Association for its scholarship fund.

During the event, Foust said McDonald's quality ingredients will



McDonald's Chef Jessica Foust (right) served as mentor to local culinary students when she hosted a cooking experience at the Art Institute of Michigan. PHOTOS BY LONNIE HUHMAN

be at center stage with the next generation of industry professionals creating their own dishes from ingredients used daily on the McDonald's menu.

The variety of plates was interesting, to say the least, from using a McMuffin with a hole in it for an egg to cook on

top of a slice of ham to using the shredded McWings as a topping along with cheese to a dish of fried tortilla – the variety was inspiring.

Rassam said he has enjoyed McDonald's breakfast before, so had a good idea what he was working with.

His skillet came out

looking tasty, so you never know if during the next trip through a drive-through you might see his dish on the menu.

She said the students know of the typical routes a new chef can take, but they might not know of the possibilities in the world of "fast food."



Art Institute culinary student Derrick Rassam cuts up ingredients for a breakfast dish.



These are some of the ingredients from the McDonald's menu that students worked with.

ingredients and that sometimes gets lost in the discussion," Foust said. "We are using more fruits in our menu and have traditionally used only the best meats. There are many directions they can take these ingredients to make a new dish. You never know ... they might inspire me to think about something new."

Leading culinary menu development for the Menu Innovation Team, Foust provides nutrition subject expertise to the McDonald's U.S. food and nutrition strategy. She manages day-to-day relationships with its multiple suppliers and works with a diverse and creative team to generate and develop new menu items for McDonald's 14,000-plus U.S. restaurants.

Foust discussed McDonald's menu innovations and shared details of her experience working for the largest quick service restaurant in the world. Trained as a chef and registered dietitian, she coached the students as they created a composed plate, ensuring they are preparing dishes that are delicious and nutritionally balanced.

"This gives them an idea of the various opportunities that are out there for them. Understanding and exploring the different possibilities is part of learning, so we want to help give them another look," Foust said of the workshop.

"McDonald's strives to use the best quality in-

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A tyrannosaurus keeps an eye on the Ice Festival crowd. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page A1

name Plymouth Ice Festival was the most recent and probably how the event is most commonly called.

Gietzen had tried to

contact Walton about the domain name several times in the past without success, Bruscato said.

Planning for the 2014 festival is going well, Bruscato said, though fundraising is a bit behind schedule.

"We are still working on getting sponsorships

to have the best show we can have. We need about \$75,000 to have a good show," he said. "Right now we are a bit behind, but confident we will raise the money."

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PARC

Continued from Page A1

Trustee Dan Dalton was absent.

CMS walk-through

In other PARC news, Soenen and Madonna reported that an engineer and an architect recently completed a walk-through of the school and agreed the central part of the building, the original Plymouth High School, can be saved and reconstructed as part of a community center, with meeting space and art studios. The original part of the school dates from the 1920s.

"That certainly is salvageable," Soenen said. "It's going to take a lot of work. You can't do it for nothing." They declined to name the professionals involved, saying they donated their services on their own and

were not representing their employers.

The cost of transforming the site has been estimated at \$20 million to \$25 million and the cost of the land purchase at between \$2.5 million and \$3 million. Several administrative and financing options, including the creation of a recreation authority that would have the power to levy taxes, are being discussed.

However, Soenen and Madonna said, the Central gymnasium and swimming pool could prove difficult to save and are likely to be torn down and replaced under a PARC proposal.

Aim: Save school

Soenen said the PARC group's first priority is to save the old high school and that any plan that included razing the school, should it prove non-salvageable, or unaffordable to save it, would

be approached reluctantly.

A recreation authority, Soenen said, could have representatives from both the city and the township, plus some elected at-large to the public. Users of the PARC facility, such as youth sports groups, arts organizations, the Michigan Philharmonic and even Plymouth-Canton Community Schools teams and organizations, would pay rent for their space, he said.

At its meeting Tuesday, the PCCS Board of Education is expected to take up another resolution of support for the PARC effort, this one calling for the Central site to be put to some public use once it is no longer a school. The school district is planning to replace Central with a new middle school in Canton Township.

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Radcliff Center serves chili to help stock pantry

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

It was all about chili Tuesday at Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center as staff and students staged a Chili Bowl fundraiser for the center's food pantry.

Faculty members Colleen Pilgrim, Karen Schumann, Deborah Burke, Elizabeth Grace, Alex Thompson and Helen Ditonras set aside the books to make six pots of chili, ranging from pork and turkey to beef and vegan, which were sold at lunch-time for \$1 a bowl.

"We've had staff, faculty and students coming in," Ditonras said. "Our goal is to raise as much as possible for the food pantry."

The Radcliff event coincided with the annual Empty Bowl Project, held in the VisTaTech Center on Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia. Both events benefited their respective food pantries, set up to meet the needs of students who are attending the college.

On the main campus, ceramic bowls and other ceramic pieces created and donated by the students enrolled in ceramics classes at the college were sold. The purchase price, \$10 to \$35, included a bowl of soup, a piece of bread and a glass of water provided by the college's Culinary Arts and Food Services departments.

Student need

The food pantry was set up by April Hawksford and Chris Ciabattone after a survey was done through the Service Learning Program and it was found that

there was a need among students on both campuses, according to Ditonras.

While Empty Bowls is an annual event in Livonia, this was the first time something like it was done at the Radcliff Center in Garden City. A steady stream of people stopped by to buy the chili.

Schoolcraft employees Mary Stefanofski and Jim Mansfield opted for Ditonras's pork chili, which had a secret ingredient of bacon.

"I like anything that you don't mess around with the recipe and this is pretty good," Mansfield said. "Bacon belongs in chili. Beef belongs in chili, not turkey."

Stefanofski made her choice based on the recommendation of her co-workers who had already finished their bowls of the pork chili.

"They told me it was really good," Stefanofski said. "It is yummy, everything is balanced and it's not too spicy."

With Mansfield out of earshot, Ditonras said her recipe was adopted from one that was on the All Recipes website.

"I change up recipes all the time," she said.

Apparently, her changes were for the good. The first crockpot to be emptied was hers.

"We've been fortunate so far, we've emptied one pot," Ditonras said. "We're just grateful for what people are doing. Food Service gave us the plates and spoons and my colleagues donated their time."

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Marcia Hess, faculty facilitator for the Learning Assistance Center at the Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center, gets a bowl of chili at a benefit for the center's food pantry.

PHOTOS BY KATHY HANSEN



First-year EMT students Josh Sharpe (from left), Avery Harris and Alyssa Zantello stop by during their break from class to buy a bowl of chili.



Schoolcraft College sophomore Maria Cielito Robles, an honors program student assistant at the Radcliff Center food pantry, serves up a bowl of chili to former Phi Theta Kappa chairperson Mary Stefanofski.

Concert benefits student programs

WSDP-FM (88.1), the P-CEP Choirs and Canton Student Congress present a capella vocal group THUMMp in a benefit concert for the choir and 88.1 The Park. The concert is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday Dec. 14.

THUMMp is one of the top vocal groups in the Midwest. They will be joined by a few of the student choir groups at P-CEP. The evening will also include the performance of some holiday favorites.

Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and P-CEP staff members.

"The concert is a great opportunity to enjoy a night out with the family and to support two great student programs at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools," said Bill Keith, the station's general manager.

WSDP is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The station has been serving the community since Feb. 14, 1972. The PCEP Choir Program includes 10 performance ensembles, seven distinct vocal music course offerings and more than 300 student members.

Find out more about both programs at www.881the-park.com and www.pcepchoirs.org.

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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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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PLMYOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Holiday in the Islands

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m.
Location: Canton Public Library
Details: The Canton Public Library hosts The Gratitude Steel Band presenting "A Holiday in the Islands" concert. Visitors will enjoy classics celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza with what library officials call "a tropical twist." All ages are welcome; admission is free.
Contact: Call 734-397-0999, ext. 1078 for more information.

Price hours

Date/Times: Monday, Dec. 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Plymouth) and 1:30-3 p.m. (Canton)
Locations: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main; and the Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center
Details: Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-District 10, will be conducting district office hours. The sessions will allow constituents the opportunity to sit down with Price and discuss matters of concern within the community.
Contact: For more information, contact Mike Mitchell, staff aide to Price, at 313-224-0882.

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: Jan. 8, 2014, 1-3 p.m.
Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste 250, Canton
Details: United Home Health Services offers free individual counseling with a certified MMAP counselor. The counselor can help you: understand your Medicare/Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D Drug Insurance, understand Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse. No appointment necessary.
Contact: United Home Health Services at 734-981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html

Saying 'no' to scams

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth
Details: The Better Business Bureau, serving eastern Michigan, presents a Scam Seminar.



The Canton Community Foundation, along with the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Detroit Chapter, recognized Jim Demmer of Jack Demmer Ford as a distinguished volunteer at its annual National Philanthropy Day Dinner last month. Demmer and his wife Linda are "changing lives with their kindhearted giving to not only the Canton Community through their scholarship fund and support of veterans services, but also their support of Gleaners, Open Door Ministry and Kelly's Kidz," foundation officials said.

Lisa Dilg will speak on various scams, especially ones that target senior citizens. The Plymouth Community Council on Aging will host this presentation.

Contact: RSVP at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

Colbeck breakfast

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 13, 7-9:30 a.m.
Location: George's Sun Rotine Coney Kitchen, 39430 Dun Rogger Drive (near Six Mile and Haggerty) in Northville.
Details: Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, announced that a breakfast with the senator has been scheduled for the 7th Senate District. Constituents will also have 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, visit www.senatorpatrickcolbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

Barefoot auditions

Dates/Times: Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 9-10, 7-9 p.m.
Location: Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth.
Details: Barefoot Productions is seeking actors for its upcoming dark comedy *The Twilight of the*

Blues by Jonathan Tolins. There are roles available for three men (20s, 30s and 50s) and one woman (30s). Character descriptions are: David Gold, mid-to late-20s, charming, sensitive, aspiring set designer and opera enthusiast; Suzanne Gold-Stein, early 30s, David's sister, bright, attractive, works as a buyer for Bloomingdale's; Rob Stein, early 30s, Suzanne's husband, handsome and genuine, a genetic researcher; and Walter Gold, 50s, husband of Phyllis and father of David and Suzanne, sometimes gruff, but sensitive, a New York businessman. Actors should prepare a one- to two-minute dramatic monologue and bring their resumes and head shots, if available. Auditions will also include cold readings from the script. Performances will run Feb. 21 through March 2.

Contact: For more information, visit www.justgobarefoot.com.

Blues @ The Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth
Details: Blues @ the Elks features Big Foot Bob & The Toe Tappers. Those who like blues, rock and roll, rockabilly and country should enjoy this group. There's a \$5 donation at the door.

Fatal accident on I-96 case sent to county for possible charges

By David Veselenak
 Staff Writer

The driver in the fatal accident that took place on I-96 during last month's storms could be charged.

Sgt. Joe Boitos of the Livonia Police Department said last week the department sent the case to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for possible charges. He was unsure when or if the prosecutor's office would file any charges in the case.

The accident took place during the early morning hours of Nov. 18 on eastbound I-96

near Middlebelt.

The victims, a 22-year-old Wayne resident, Daniel Davis, and a 22-year-old Westland resident had stopped their Chevrolet Cavalier on the side of the freeway. Both men got out of the vehicle on the shoulder.

After they got out of their vehicle, a Buick Century driven by a 23-year-old Redford man veered off the road, striking the two individuals, police have said. Davis was declared dead at the scene and the Westland man was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Boitos said he was unsure of the condition of the Westland man last week.

The Redford man stayed at the scene and was identified by police.

Police have said alcohol and drugs do not appear to be a factor in the incident. It was unclear if the weather that night, which included high winds throughout the area that caused thousands of power outages, played a factor.

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Angela Hospice founder earns honor

Sister Mary Giovanni recognized by her peers

Sister Mary Giovanni, R.N., founder, president and CEO of Angela Hospice in Livonia, was named one of the 30 most influential leaders in hospice and palliative medicine – the medical specialty focused on relieving suffering and improving quality of life for people with a terminal illness – by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

In celebration of 25 years serving the profession, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine asked its 5,000 members to nominate who they think are the leaders – or visionaries – in the field. They then asked members to vote for the top 10 among the 111 nominated.

Giovanni is one of 30 nurses, physicians and authors recognized by peers for the important role they played in advancing the medical specialty of hospice and palliative medicine.



Sister Mary Giovanni with her brother John Monge, who drove a U-Haul truck from Illinois filled with supplies to go to Haiti for Giovanni's work there.

Inspired by the work of Dame Cicely Saunders in 1974, Giovanni spent 11 years researching pain control, alternative comfort measures and the daily needs of dying patients and their families, before founding Angela Hospice in 1985. In 1994, she opened the Angela Hospice Care Center, the first freestanding facility

of its kind in Michigan. She now oversees more than 240 employees and 400 volunteers.

Further, she has expanded her focus internationally with medical support for the Haitian survivors of the 2010 catastrophic earthquake, leading efforts for the Blessed Angela Mobile Clinic and its staff, as well as the development of a

volunteer facility in Jacmel, Haiti.

Hospice and palliative medicine focuses on improving quality of life and relieving pain and other symptoms in seriously ill patients. Palliative care can and should be provided to patients who continue to receive treatments to try to cure their disease, regardless of their prognosis.

Hospice is a specific type of palliative care for patients whose life expectancy is likely to be six months or less. Hospice and palliative care also helps patients and families understand their treatment options and make decisions about their care, while providing information on spiritual and psychosocial resources, support for family and caregivers and grief counseling.

"This program recognizes key individuals who have been critical in building and shaping our field over the past 25 years," said Steve R. Smith, AAHPM executive director and CEO. "These individuals represent thousands of other

health care professionals in this country that provide quality medical care and support for those living with serious illness – each and every day."

The visionaries – 14 women and 16 men – are physicians, nurses and hospice pioneers such as British physician, nurse and social worker Cicely Saunders, credited with starting the modern hospice movement, and Elisabeth Kübler Ross, author of numerous books including the groundbreaking *On Death and Dying*.

Giovanni cites Saunders and Ross as greatly influencing the beginning of her hospice career, and now she is named among them as a visionary.

Five elected officials also were nominated, including former President Ronald Reagan, who was named a visionary for signing into law the Medicare hospice benefit in 1982.

More information on the visionaries project, including the list of 30 visionaries is on the academy's website www.aahpm.org.

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Unmarried couples need estate planning

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my late 50s and legally single. I have a significant other. We are not married and we live together. We have no intention of getting married, but we plan to be with each other for the rest of our lives. After reading one of your past articles, we have done medical and durable powers of attorney to protect each other and we've named each other in our wills. My questions to you:



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

many relationships where there are significant others, people fail to do the proper estate planning and it causes problems when there is a crisis.

With regard to your home, you currently own it as tenants in common. What that means is that upon either one of your deaths, the deceased person's share would go to the named beneficiary of the home in the will. Since you're leaving everything to each other, your share of ownership would go to your significant other.

However, the problem is that in order to have the house go to her, it would have to be a probate. Unfortunately, probate can sometimes be time-consuming and expensive.

My philosophy is the more you keep judges, courts and

lawyers out of family affairs, the better it is. I recommend that you change how you own the property from tenants in common to joint tenants with full rights of survivorship.

When you own property as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship, the other one automatically owns the property.

Probate is not involved. I recommend you have a quit-claim deed drafted. Then upon either one of your deaths, there will be no probate and no hassle.

On your pension issue, there is no doubt that if something happened to you, since your significant other is not your legal spouse, she would not be entitled to any of the benefits.

In addition, it is possible that the company could even file criminal charges in that she obtained money under false pretenses.

You may say it's worth the gamble, however, what you need to consider is what happens to your significant other if she does not receive

the pension. Will she have enough resources on her own or will she run into financial difficulties?

As a financial adviser and a lawyer, I recommend that people play by the rules. They may not be fair and they may not make sense, however, the rules are the rules.

Some people are asking what is the likelihood of being caught. To me, that is not the issue. The issue is the rules and it seems to me in the situation at hand, the rules are clear.

Even though you may treat each other as husband and wife and others may perceive you as such, under the law you are not married and your significant other is not entitled to your pension benefits.

Good luck.

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

Emergency food available Dec. 19

The next distribution of emergency food by Plymouth Community United Way is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 19. The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned, non-perishable and perishable items.

All recipients must preregister at Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth.

This is a supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to preregister. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) must provide documentation including proof of income and residency before receiving food on distribution days.

Distributions continue 9:30-11 a.m. the third Thursday of each month at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth.

For information and to register, call (734) 453-6879, ext. 7, or send email to randi.williams@pcuw.org.

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Salvation Army needs more help with Christmas food

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Salvation Army is being blessed this holiday season by a variety of food drives being conducted by various churches, schools and organizations to help fill the Corps' food pantry for its annual Christmas assistance program.

Turns out, though, despite all the drives, the need continues to exist.

"We are so grateful for each and every food drive scheduled during the month of December, but despite the drives, we find ourselves still running very short on food for the holiday baskets," said Laurie Aren, the Salvation Army's director of fam-

ily and community outreach.

Salvation Army staffers, with the help of National Honor Society students from Plymouth-Canton Schools, will be packing food boxes beginning Tuesday.

Here's a list of the foods they need:

- » Corn/green beans, 500 cans
- » Turkey/chicken gravy, 100 packages
- » Cranberries, 100
- » Macaroni and cheese, 350 boxes
- » Boxed potatoes (scalloped, au gratin, sour cream/chives), 200 boxes
- » Instant mashed potatoes, 483 boxes
- » Corn muffin mix, 300
- » Stuffing/dressing, 120

» Beans (canned or bagged), 210

» Yams/sweet potatoes, 250

» Assorted dessert mixes (cookies, cheese cake, key lime/lemon bars, etc.), 250

» Cereal or oatmeal (any variety), 250

» Peanut butter/jelly, 250 each

» Hams or turkeys (10-15 pound average) (turkeys frozen), 518

» Tuna, 200 cans

» Canned soup (any variety), 400

» Boxed pasta, 425

Staffers will be accepting Christmas assistance applications through Thursday, Dec. 12. Additional applications may be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

For more information, call the Salvation Army at 734-453-5464.



Christopher Rugh, Plymouth-Canton Schools' social studies and language arts curriculum coordinator, and Stephanie Keiles, Plymouth-Canton middle school math teacher, spoke about the Common Core curriculum Thursday night.

Educators say Common Core standards flawed

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

For math teacher Stephanie Keiles, teaching transformations in a geometry class is important, but was typically done near the end of the school year.

With the implementation of Common Core, everything in the course now stems from transformations, which includes flips, turns and slides.

Keiles said this mandate is one example showing that the Common Core approach to education is flawed.

"Everything in geometry now transcends from transformations," she said. "My history analogy is, imagine you're teaching a course in American history in the 20th century. And you're going to start with the Korean War. And then everything you teach has to be related back to the Korean War."

"I'm being kind of forced to teach this different way."

Keiles, an eighth-grade teacher at East Middle School in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, was one of two presenters Thursday night at the Livonia

Civic Center Library during a League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County forum on the Common Core standards in schools.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is an educational plan that sets nationwide standards for students in English and math. The plan was initially adopted by the state Board of Education in 2010, but recent legislation in Lansing would call for the full implementation in Michigan. Currently, the department's budget forbids the spending of funds implementing the Common Core standards.

The Senate approved the initiative in late October and the House of Representatives approved another version in September. Both chambers must approve identical language before the standards can be ushered in.

Christopher Rugh, the social studies and language arts coordinator for Plymouth-Canton schools, said some aspects of the Common Core are solid building blocks on the English side of learning for students that school districts can build on and improve.

"In the sixth grade, we want kids to cite textual evidence ... to support an analysis," he said. "You can see how it builds slowly as the kids get older. It wasn't like that before. They really offer us a really good base model to operate from."

Keiles said many educators are skeptical of the Common Core curriculum, especially as the main developers of the plan did not originate in the education field.

Groups such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave millions to help design the plan.

While the plan may tout getting kids ready for college all on the same page, Keiles said implementing the plan in every state could vary. For instance, a children moving mid-year may not ever receive instruction on a certain section depending on when the schools teach that subject, which can vary.

Rugh said while the Common Core could have some benefits, it would be difficult for students starting out behind their classmates.

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Video program boosts nonprofit images

Canton Partnership for the Arts teams with MU students

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When Jill Engel was looking for something to help her spread the message of what her Canton Partnership for the Arts is trying to accomplish in Lyon's Cherry Hill Village, she found a willing partner in the Broadcast and Cinema Arts Service Learning Program at Madonna University in Livonia.

Four teams of college students from Madonna worked with representatives of nonprofit organizations like the Canton Partnership for the Arts, to conceive short videos to serve as public service announcements as part of the program's service learning curriculum.

"The idea is to give students the opportunity to utilize their skills for something really meaningful," said Olga Martinez, the director of Madonna's office of service-learning. "In our own mission of service, it's a way to encourage our students to understand they can share and live our Franciscan values."

The idea is simple: nonprofits spend the word. The program takes in letters of nomination and students vote on the finalists (this year, there were four). Those four finalists were thrown into a hat and students representing each video team drew one, without knowing which they were getting.

The names were revealed together and each team had its project. Service organizations chosen by the group this year included:

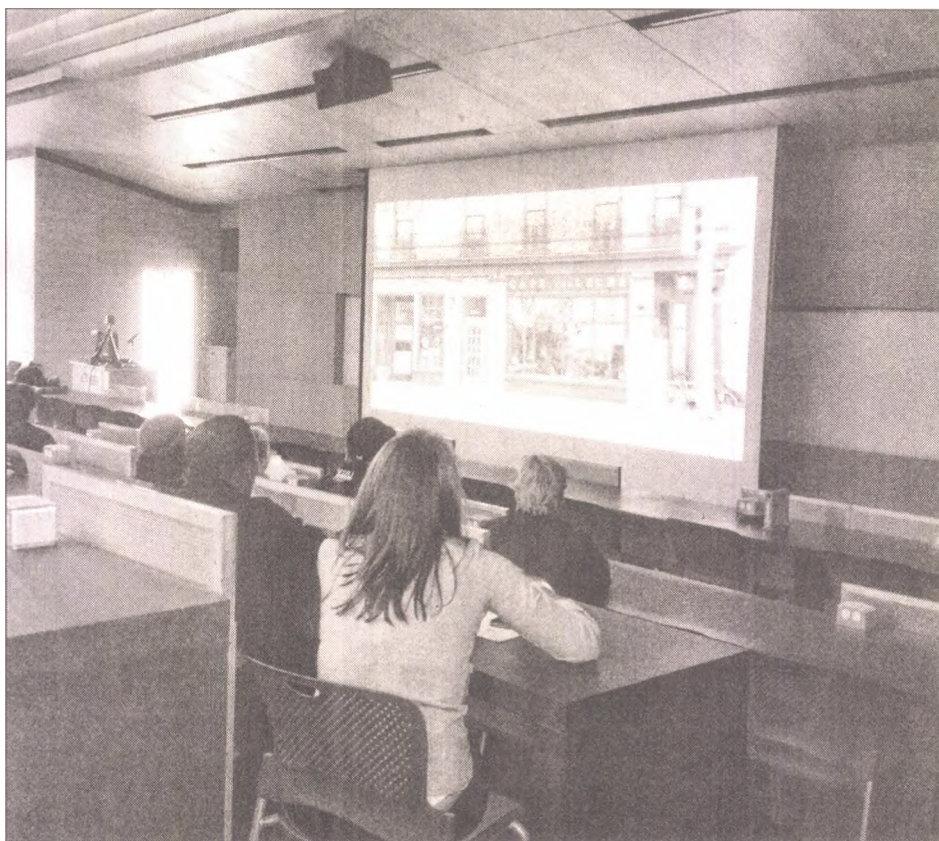
» The Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, which promotes the arts by supporting arts groups, theater groups, etc.

» Adult Well-Being Services of Detroit. It's a group that promotes health, well-being and independence of adults through advocacy, services, family and community support.

» Starfish Family Services of Wayne County, whose mission is to build stronger relationships among parents and their children, focusing on early childhood development and parenting programs, children's mental health services, after-school programs and an emergency shelter for teens and youth in crisis.

» Southwest Solutions-Adult Learning Lab in Detroit, which supports and empowers people from around the southwest Detroit area who desire to go back to school and get their GED.

Each video team consisted of three Madonna students, who made site visits, videotaped advocates for the various programs and put together the video. The three students who did the partnership's video -



Jill Engel and other representatives of nonprofit agencies watch their videos at Madonna University in Livonia.



Students Ken Hobbs of Detroit (from left) and Jordan Ozimek and Kyle Bogenschutz of Livonia with Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities executive director Jill Engel.

seniors Jordan Ozimek and Kyle Bogenschutz of Livonia and junior Ken Hobbs of Detroit - found the shoot to be exciting.

"Every door was open for us for anything we needed to do," Ozimek said.

Hobbs said the shoot, while challenging in its own right, was actually a breeze.

"Everything that occurred happened the way it was supposed to happen," Hobbs said.

The program really aids the nonprofits because the videos that were prepared on their behalf would have cost "somewhere between \$5,000 and \$30,000 to produce," according to Charles Derry, associate professor and director of Broadcast & Cinema Arts.

"That's the good part," Derry said. "That's the part where we're giving back to the community."

Engel, who has now partnered with Madonna on three parts of the partnership's factory project, was completely impressed with the quality of the product the students put together for the partnership. They talked to several advocates for the arts in the community, and folks who have benefited from the partnership.

Engel said the partnership plans to use the video to help market the project they're working on with the old Henry Ford factory in Cherry Hill Village, which Engel hopes to turn into a regional arts complex.

"As my 14-year-old son would say, (the video) is 'gi-normous,'" Engel said. "To be honest, it was a student perspective, they were all excited about the project. Everywhere we go, everyone is excited about this project. This video is really going to help us spread that word."

Tim McGorey, director of Southwest Solutions-Adult Learning Lab, knows how valuable such a positive piece can be for his organization.

"We definitely can use it as a fundraising tool,"

McGorey said. "We also had an opportunity for our students to meet Madonna students, who

can serve as a kind of role model for them."

It works the other way, too, according to Martinez.

She said Madonna students got an experience they might not otherwise have been able to have.

"They get to use their

technical skills," Martinez said.

"But they are also introduced to populations and organizations they might not otherwise be exposed to."

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* Required for Birthday Club

There are many celebrations in the month of December.

Hanukkah known as the Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication, is an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrate.

Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter and is the shortest day of the year.

Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday that celebrates African-American heritage.

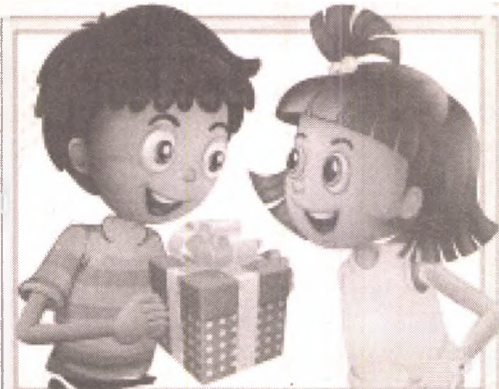
New Year's Eve is the last day of the year filled with celebration.

Did you know?

NO ONE IS QUITE SURE WHERE THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE BEGAN. IT IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEGUN IN NORTHERN EUROPE.

Create a GIFT: 3D Hand Imprint

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Kamar	Taylor	Inkster	12/19
Antonio	Biggs	Livonia	12/22
Michael	Brooks	Detroit	12/25
Damien	Dailide	Canton	12/27

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SNOWMAN

November's Winner



Preston Bognear, 3 years old of Wayne
To keep himself active, Preston hunts for bugs. He received a \$20 Gift Card to Community Bowling Center to share with his family.

Making an Onigiri

by Sabriana D'Water
6th Grader at Adams Upper Elementary School

An onigiri is an easy-to-make riceball. This is a recipe to craft the Japanese dish.

Ingredients:

- A nice amount of rice
- As much filling as you want (tuna is a good filling)
- Seaweed (you can try lettuce if you want)

Cook the rice. Let it sit until the rice feels sticky. Grab a hand full of rice. Shape it into a triangular-type shape. This is the base of your riceball! Put a dent in the middle of the rice. Put filling in the dent. After this, take a small amount of rice and completely hide the filling. Reshape it into a rounded triangle shape. Finally, put seaweed on the bottom of the riceball. This is to hold it without having to touch the rice.

Enjoy your onigiri!



Sabriana D'Water

SHARE YOUR TALENT

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about?



We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

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Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager
Design/Layout:
Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?
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Mail contest entries, birthday forms and talent submissions to:

Scoop the Newshound, Observer & Eccentric Media, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit Mi 48226 or email your submission to cbjordan@hometownlife.com by **December 27**

Winning submissions will be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.



Santa and Mrs. Claus – Bernard and Mary Ann Brewer of Westland – will be at Mr. Mike's Grill as party of a fundraiser Saturday for Blum's Landing.

Visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus benefits veterans retreat

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be taking a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas to make a very special appearance Saturday in Westland.

The North Pole's First Couple will be at Mr. Mike's Grill to help with a fundraiser for Blum's Landing, a northern Michigan bed and breakfast specifically for veterans of the War on Terror and service personnel.

The Clauses will be at the restaurant from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. to pose for free pictures with their fans, both young and old. Donations will be accepted and Mr. Mike's also will be donating 20 percent of sales for those who mention Blum's Landing.

Bernard and Mary Ann Brewer of Westland are donating their time by portraying Santa and Mrs. Claus to help raise funds and awareness about Blum's Landing. Located just east of Rogers City, the bed and breakfast was built by former Canton residents Terry and Janet Blumberg as a tribute to their son Trevor, who was killed in 2003 during his

third tour of duty in Iraq. "Before leaving on his third tour, Trevor told his parents that 'If anything happens to me, take care of my dog and take care of my guys,'" Brewer said. "Scrappy is doing well and as far as his 'guys,' well, that's the reason behind the bed and breakfast. Jan and Terry thought and prayed and realized it was the best way to keep his wishes."

Soldiers welcomed

Blum's Landing provides up to a week stay for returning veterans and their families at no charge. It is open to all vets who have served since the War on Terror began. Details and directions can be found online at www.blumslanding.org.

The Brewers came up with the idea for the benefit and pitched it to Mike and Julie Savich, the owners of the restaurant, and their son Steve. The Saviches have known the couple for several years and "with this, everyone agreed it was a great idea," Brewer said.

The couple has been playing Santa and Mrs. Claus for three or four years. They played the part at Memorial, Lath-

rup and Henry Ruff schools in Garden City. A school district employee, it was Mary Ann Brewer's connection with Janet Blumberg when she was principal at Henry Ruff that led to the couple lending their support for Blum's Landing.

Second visit

This is the second year the Brewers have been at Mr. Mike during the holidays, posing for photos and collecting donations for Blum's Landing. Through word of mouth, posting on Facebook and fliers, people have found out and have been coming to the restaurant.

The couple work for donations and "of course, every little bit helps," Brewer said. All proceeds go to the Landing.

"We have a donation basket and tri-folds Jan and Terry had made up that we hand out," Brewer said. "We don't keep a tally of if they come for dinner or for the photos."

Mr. Mike's Grill is at 6047 Wayne Road, north of Ford Road, in Westland. More information about the event can be found on the Mr. Mike's Grill Facebook page.

smason@hometownlife.com
313-222-6751

Area agency offers help to Middle East refugees

If you've drawn your coat up around your ears and tugged your gloves on during last week's unseasonably cold temperatures, then think of how Michigan's winter might be for refugees coming to the tri-county area from the Middle East.

The plight of those refugees and others who need assistance is at the forefront of concern for the Arab American and Chaldean Council, which is headquartered in Lathrup Village.

The ACC is currently accepting donations at its main office at 28551 Southfield Road during business hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Through the end of the holidays, the organization is collecting new or gently used winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens, snow pants and boots for all genders and ages.

In addition, it is accepting new or like-new furniture donations. For those interested, please call 248-559-1990 to schedule a time that an ACC representative can pick up such items.

Items will be distributed to those ACC serves across the tri-county area.



Haifa Fakhouri, president and CEO of the Arab American and Chaldean Council, shows some of the outerwear it has purchased for refugees and others needing help this season. Donations are being accepted at the ACC's Lathrup Village office. SANDRA ARMBRUSTER


The Arab American and Chaldean Council is a nonprofit human service organization that provides services to the Middle Eastern and mainstream communities, with 40 offices in southeast Michigan. Its programs deliver various educational, employment and training, behavioral health, youth recreation and self-enrichment services, cultural activities, immigration and health services.

This is not the first effort by the ACC to help those in need.

The ACC recently received a 2013 Beacon of Light Award from the Food Bank Council of Michigan for its Pantry

of Plenty Program. The award was presented to the ACC at the FBCM's Michigan Harvest Gathering Celebration Luncheon in East Lansing.

Twice each month, the ACC, through its Pantry of Plenty Program, distributes nearly 30,000 pounds of food to area residents in need. Implemented in partnership with Forgotten Harvest, who nominated ACC for the award, the program distributes prepared and perishable foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meat and juices, to 350 families at each distribution day at the ACC's Youth Center (62 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit).



**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE TO PUBLIC
BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS**

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

The following is the schedule for December Board of Review.
Tuesday, December 10, 2013 Meeting - 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

LINDA LANGMESSER, CLERK
City of Plymouth

Publish: Observer & Eccentric Newspaper December 8, 2013 LO-000170238 3x2 5

**PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for **Medical and Prescription Drug and Stoploss Carve Out Coverage**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Matt Duprey, Account Coordinator, Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. at (248) 430-2789 or matthew_duprey@ajg.com. Technical questions should also be directed to Matt Duprey. Sealed proposals are due to the PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI on or before 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2014. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Adrienne Davis, Secretary

Publish: December 8, 2013 LO-000168445 3x3

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PUBLIC NOTICE**

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates in 2013: December 10th

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Special meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Publish: December 8, 2013 LO-000162901 3x3 5

ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed bids will be received for **ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES** by the Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan as Owner, until 2:00 P.M. Official Local Time, on Monday, December 30, 2013 at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, at which time said bids will be opened and publicly read.

The Charter Township of Plymouth seeks bids for the following:

Provide Architectural Drawings and Construction Management Services for a 4,500 sq. ft. four-season park pavilion at Plymouth Township Park.

Instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 beginning Monday, December 9, 2013 or by registering with the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.govbids.com/scripts/mitn/Public/home1.asp.

The Township reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
Plymouth, MI**

Signed: Nancy Conzelman, Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

PUBLISH: Sunday, December 8, 2013 LO-000176665 3x3 5

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The Jan. 1, 2013, Commitment Day 5K drew crowds at venues throughout the United States. This year's Michigan race is in Farmington.

Farmington to host New Year's Day 5K

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

When it comes to New Year's resolutions, "Getting in shape" or "Living a healthy lifestyle" are two of the more common list-toppers.

This Jan. 1, Farmington is hosting an event to get you started right away — or keep up your good habits — and have fun, too.

The second annual Commitment Day 5K, which debuted Jan. 1, 2013, at Detroit's Ford Field, will be held in downtown Farmington this Jan. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Sponsored by LifeTime Fitness, it's open to all ages to kick off the new year and promote fitness and health. Both LifeTime Fitness members and non-members are welcome to participate.

The Farmington run is one of more than 30 to be held in cities throughout the United States on New Year's Day.

Jim Jackson, local race director, said Farmington offers the venue he was looking for when scouting for the 2014 event's location.

"Farmington is a perfect fit ... we wanted a more suburban setting with restaurants that athletes can go to before and after the race," he said, noting several will be open especially because of the race.

The run at Ford Field this past January drew some 1,200 participants and Jackson said he's hoping for an even better turnout for the upcoming race.

The first 1,000 registered will receive a commemorative Commitment Day metal and everyone gets a T-shirt, he said.

Commitment Day 5K can also help Farmington Public Schools. Jackson said he's contacting the district's high schools to get students to volunteer at the event and in return the schools' boosters will get a donation from race proceeds.

Jackson said he expects plenty of families — kids included — at the "fun run-walk," an event geared for beginners as well as more advanced runners. So far, registration is strong, he said,

and includes out-of-state residents who will be visiting family in the area over the holidays.

"If you want to kick off fitness and health in the new year, this is a great place to start," he said.

The Farmington City Council recently gave the thumbs-up to Commitment Day 5K. "I think it's a fantastic event," council member Steve Schneemann said. "I'm thrilled it's going to be in Farmington and I hope we host it for many, many years to come."

Jackson said a permanent home for the annual race would be ideal, but where that will be hasn't yet been decided.

Race fees are \$35 for Life-Time members and \$40 for adult non-members. It's free for anyone under 18 accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to register in advance, go to www.commitmentday.com.

awingblad@hometownlife.com
248-933-4054
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Eastern Michigan student wins moot court competition

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Nino Monea was not expecting huge success when he and his teammate signed up to compete in the regional American Collegiate Moot Court Association competition earlier this year.

The Livonia native and senior at Eastern Michigan University began practicing for the competition, which is a law-based challenge that pushes students to make legal arguments before a panel of judges similar to what attorneys do before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Monea and his teammate, Saline native Steven Moore, won the competition held last month at Saginaw Valley State University, beating out 26 teams from the Midwest, including SVSU, Youngstown State and Wooster College.

"We practiced hard, but we were going into it thinking it was going to be a trial by fire," he said. "It was incredible and a huge surprise."

The 2010 Livonia Franklin High School graduate will now travel Jan. 17-18 to Arizona State University to compete against dozens of other undergraduate students across the country in the national competition. Monea, who plans on going to law school next year but is unsure where, said he did not have a huge interest in law while at Franklin High School, but it grew after going to EMU.

He joined organizations such as the mock trial club and enjoys the critical thinking skills that come with the challenge of crafting a convincing

argument.

Monea and his teammate were given two cases and several hundred pages of Supreme Court opinions related to those topics that they had to use and create an argument.

"Between the two of us, there were probably over 400 pages of case law that both of us needed to read," he said. "The hardest part perhaps is synthesizing all those pages of reading into a 10-minute argument."

Monea's coach, C. Robert Dobronski, said while this was the first time the students have participated in moot court, Monea and Moore adapted quickly and performed well.

"Appellate advocacy or moot court is completely different than trial practice or mock trial, so there was a bit of a learning curve," Dobronski said. "The students all did a remarkable job picking up on the legal issues and the methodology I instructed them on."

After exams are over next week, Monea said he plans on using some of the break before school starts again in January to brush up on the assigned cases being used in the national competition, which includes search and seizure procedures and the president indefinitely detaining residents suspected of terrorism.

"A lot of it is running through practice rounds," he said. "Just like an athlete, you have to keep your brain in constant performance or else it will get rusty really fast."

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313-222-5379
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



Nino Monea of Livonia (right), along with his teammate, Steven Cole of Saline, received top honors at a regional moot court competition last month in Saginaw. They will compete at the national level next month at Arizona State University.

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Southfield draws crowd for Festival of Lights

By Sandra Armbruster
Staff Writer

The Festival of Lights again came to Southfield recently with the lighting of the Menorah on the front lawn of city hall.

However you spell it, Chanukah or Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday "celebrates the triumph of light over darkness," according to Michael Mandelbaum, a candidate in this year's council election who has attended the ceremony with his family for three years.

Mandelbaum said the holiday began "more than 21 centuries ago, when, against all odds, a small band of faithful Jews defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth. After the battle, when they sought to light the menorah (the seven-branched candelabrum) in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, they found only one day's supply of oil. Miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days."

In commemoration, Jews each year light one candle on the first night of Hanukkah, followed by an additional candle each night thereafter, until all are lit. That is accompanied by special prayers, food and gifts.

This year, Southfield Councilman Sid Lantz lit the first candle, with the assistance of fellow Councilman Jeremy Moss. Similar events take place around the world, including the nation's Capitol, Mandelbaum said.

This year, the event took place Wednesday, Nov. 27, which was the first night of Hanukkah. That coincided with the time of Thanksgiving, resulting in many popular references that combined the words for the two events, which will not occur together again for many thousands of



Rabbi Mendel Stein (left) stands on a ladder at the Festival of Light in Southfield where Councilman Sid Lantz (right, looking up) helped to light the menorah for the first night of Hanukkah. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Michael Mandelbaum holds his daughter Allison, 5 who has enjoyed attending the menorah lighting for three years.



Tom Joseph of the Detroit Circus swallowed fire after the menorah lighting at Southfield City Hall.

years. And why the two spellings? Mandelbaum said that Chanukah is the Hebrew translation, but since some don't like what he said was the "flem" sound with the "ch," some simply drop the "c" at the beginning.

This year, the event was sponsored by Lubavitch Yeshiva, located in Oak Park, and it was organized by staff member Rabbi Mendel Stein, a Southfield resident.

The event was focused around a nine-foot menorah located on the front lawn in front of city hall, where it was joined by other holiday decorations, including a Christ-



Rabbi Mendel Stein organized this year's Festival of Light in Southfield.

mas tree lighting Monday.

It was a cold night, Mandelbaum said, but there was a good turnout, which included many

city officials. Brief remarks were made by Stein, who reportedly explained the history and reason for the public lighting. He spoke of the miracle that occurred and the affirmation and celebration of freedom, of right over might and of understanding and justice over intolerance and bigotry.

Stein also thanked the city of Southfield for allowing the opportunity to have the event and council President Sylvia Jordan thanked those who braved the cold weather. She added that the event adds to the diversity of Southfield.

After Lantz recited

the blessings before lighting the menorah, a busload of students from the Lubavitch Yeshiva broke out in song and dance with the audience joining in.

This year, an added bonus was a "live fire show" by the Detroit Circus, which entertained the crowd with acrobatic tricks with fire. Refreshments followed the lighting.

"I have attended this event the last three years with my oldest daughter,

Allison (age 5). She loves going to see the big menorah and especially loves the cider and doughnuts that are offered afterward," Mandelbaum said. The father of three, he is also chairman of Southfield's Total Living Commission.

"It helps bring her and others that attend into the festive mood of the holiday. After the event, many went home to light their personal menorahs and spend quality time with their family."

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OUT OF THE FURNACE (R)
11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55

FROZEN (PG)
11:25, 11:45, 2:00, 2:20, 4:25, 6:50, 7:15, 9:10

3D FROZEN (PG)
11:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 9:50

HOMEFRONT (R)
11:05, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13)
12:15, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45

DELIVERY MAN (PG-13)
11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:05

THOR: THE DARK WORLD (PG-13)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

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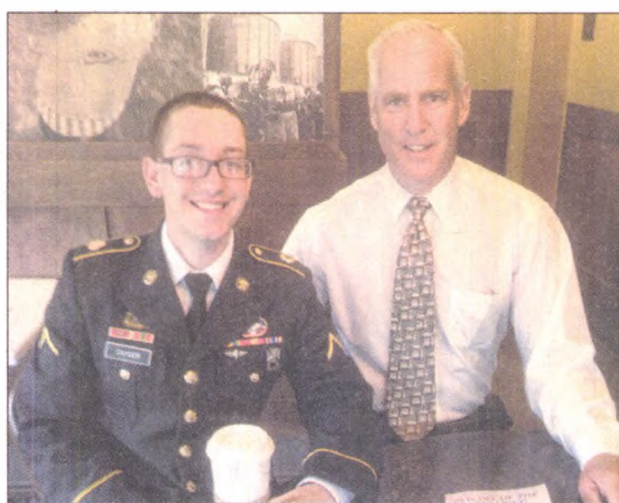
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Tragedy, turmoil help mentor, student bond

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Jeff Brandt, 53, admits he was a broken man. Disheartened, disillusioned and searching for answers. All that and more after he found out in 1996 that his wife was having an affair with her therapist. Her betrayal tore their family apart and started a harrowing chapter of Brandt's life. But it was also the catalyst for him to write new chapters – a book, in fact – and put him on a path of helping others who might be looking for support or a helping hand.

As chance would have it, that path led Brandt directly to a troubled fifth-grade boy by the name of Jay Snyder. Brandt began as a mentor for Jay, who had a mother and siblings, but no real father in his life – at least not one who was a very good role model. Brandt ultimately filled that space in Jay's life, offering him guidance and whatever assistance



Jay Snyder, 21, and Jeff Brandt, 53, helped each other fight through some troubled times. Brandt's book, "Beware of the Therapist!", details their relationship. KURT KUBAN

the boy needed.

With Brandt's help, Jay transformed from that boy who didn't quite fit in at his elementary school to an outgoing achiever who would go on to graduate from Northville High School, where he was a self-described "band geek" and member of the school's all-state jazz ensemble.

Today, Snyder is a member of the U.S. Army and hopes to someday become a therapist, so he can help other people in need. And he credits Brandt's guidance for that transformation.

Their bond, as unlikely as it may seem, has made them both richer people. They have helped each other navigate through the waters of

depression and uncertainty

Shattered life

To fully understand the special bond that developed between Snyder and Brandt, you first need to know how Brandt's own life went astray and ultimately found a greater purpose.

Before the fateful night when Brandt's life "came crashing down," he was deeply in love with his wife Gini. After a courtship, they married and made their home in Northville. But not all was bliss. She had three daughters and two of them had some serious issues that included truancy, drug abuse and teen pregnancy. The list goes on.

And to make matters worse, after being married for about a year, some of Gini's own demons from her past began to catch up to her again. She grew up in a home with an alcoholic father and a highly-critical mother; her sister

was killed by a drunken driver; and she married an abusive husband when she was just 18. Brandt said this brought on thoughts of suicide for his wife, even failed attempts.

They knew they needed to get her help and she began to see a local therapist. But instead of providing the help Brandt was hoping for, the therapist became romantically involved with Gini.

Earlier this year, Brandt published a book about this painful chapter in his life titled *Beware of the Therapist!* "Gini didn't succeed in taking her own life, but she did die in another way," he writes in the book. "At the lowest point in her life, when she was as emotionally, physically and mentally vulnerable as a human being can be, she was abused by her therapist. Over a six-month period, he regularly drank and slept with her, methodically dismantled her trust in me and muscled his way into my family by alienating me from my step-daughters."

Divorce soon followed. His family had been torn away from him. Devastated and alone, Brandt decided he needed to pick himself up and start over.

"The hardest thing in my life was being separated from my family," Brandt said. "I had to pick up the pieces of my life. I wanted to make a bigger contribution to society."

Destined to meet

Brandt first approached and signed with Big Brothers Big Sisters, then was led to Northville Youth Assistance, where he volunteered to be a mentor for troubled children. That's when he was introduced to Snyder, who at the time was in fifth grade and having trouble at school. His parents had gone through a divorce and he was having trouble adjusting.

Snyder's teacher at the time recommended he seek help through Northville Youth Assistance (www.ci.northville.mi.us/Services/YouthAssistance/YouthAssistanceOverview.asp), a local organization that provides social services like counseling and mentoring to troubled youth and their families. Destiny stepped in as

Brandt and Snyder were paired up for a three-month mentorship.

At first the two went to public places and just hung out. Brandt said he got "a lot of one-word answers" from the boy. But trust began to grow as they would go to the Tuscan Cafe to play Scrabble or participate in events like Relay for Life.

"I didn't know what to expect," Snyder says. "All I knew was that Jeff treated me better than my own father."

Jackie Snyder, Jay's mother, began to notice a big difference in her son. Looking back, she says it was the best thing that ever happened to Jay.

"He didn't have a decent male role model in his life and needed some help just to work through things," she said. "Jeff came into his life and suddenly he had an example of what a man is supposed to look like and be like."

Role model

The family moved to Northville in 2003 and Brandt's relationship with both the family and especially Jay only grew stronger. Whether it was taking Jay to band practice, helping him with homework or talking about girl troubles, Brandt was always there for him. And when he decided to join the Army after graduating from Northville High in 2010, Brandt was there to offer encouragement. Snyder enlisted in 2011 and joined a year later.

Today, Snyder, 21, is a private stationed at Fort Bragg, where he works as a parachute rigger in the 82nd Airborne Division. Seeing his one-time protegee in a military uniform brings great pride to Brandt because he knows he made a difference.

He also realizes how Snyder was able to help him through some pain of his own.

"For me to have made such a good impact on his life is all I could ever have asked for," Brandt said. "Getting outside myself again has been very fulfilling."

Brandt's book, *Beware of the Therapist!*, is available in paperback and Kindle versions at www.amazon.com. For more information, contact Brandt at jbrandt1023@gmail.com.



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BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 2

WING NUTS

Led by Cole twins, high-octane Rocks to buzz more than bang boards this basketball season

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Opponents of the Salem Rocks will be subjected to dizzying double vision this season in the form of Brady and Connor Cole.

Salem's twin spark plugs will start the 2013-14 season next to each other in the backcourt as the Rocks try to overcome the graduation of eight players.

Gone are last season's top six scorers, led by post player Chris Dierker, followed by point guard Kevin "K.J." Mack, Nate Sass, Ahmad Khalid, Austin Whitted and Cameron Werner.

But longtime Rocks head coach Bob Brodie, along with new assistant coach Ryan Nimmerguth (formerly the JV head coach) aren't sulking about the turnover.

They'll just put out a group of hungry, snarling players such as the Cole twins, who won't give an inch out on the floor as Salem looks to compete in the tough KLAA Central Division.

"Chris played with us for quite a while," said Brodie, beginning his 30th season at the Salem helm. "But he's nowhere to be found anymore, he's moved on. So the bus moves on and we got to go ahead and try to adjust and make the best of it."

"There's a lot of potential here, these players are real athletic. Not tremendous size, but they're very athletic and quick and they can play both ends of the floor. Hopefully a couple of them will step up for us and fill that void."

Trial by fire

The first test is at 7 p.m. Tuesday at home against



Connor Cole will play a big role for Salem this season. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New year, new recipe for PCA cagers

Two senior holdovers expect to carry the load early

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With the 2013-14 boys basketball season about to begin, Dominique Washington might think he's more of a chef than head coach for Plymouth Christian Academy.

After all, Washington will be mixing different "ingredients" into his lineup with hopes of something good brewing.

Other than senior holdovers Daniel Jipping and Jacob Bailey, he really doesn't know what he's got as the Eagles get busy against the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference Red Division.

"This is a true rebuilding year," said Washington, the former Salem star entering his third season at PCA. "We lost 78 percent of our offense to graduation. So we have a lot of young guys, a lot of JV guys."

Only Jipping and Bailey saw significant playing time in 2012-13, when the Eagles finished 12-10. They'll start either at the post or wing and pretty much play close to 32 minutes per outing.

"Those are going to be the guys this year, offensively and defensively," Washington said. "We want to get to the point where they don't have to play 32 minutes and get these other guys acclimated."

"But they're going to play a lot, it's a heavy load they're going to have to assume. But they're up for the challenge, they're ready to go."

The 6-3 Jipping and 6-0 Bailey will need to up their games, too, at least on offense. Last year, they averaged a combined nine points per contest.

Another player who could help in the paint is 6-5 junior forward Michael Slater, a backup player last season.

"He's a long, pretty athletic guy and he has a good mid-range basket," Washington said. "He's able to attack the basket and he pretty much brings a good all-around game."

Defense first

Starting at point guard will be junior Evan Horne, a varsity backup in 2012-13. What he can bring as far as leading the offensive attack is something Washington hasn't yet

See EAGLES, Page B3

PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW - PART 2

Chiefs ready to bring it

Pantaleo, Griffin lead determined Canton into 2013-14 season

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Disappointed by injuries last season, Canton senior wrestlers Alec Pantaleo and Ben Griffin are motivated to finish their prep careers on top.

And the co-captains expect their teammates to join them, as the Chiefs challenge for team titles in the KLAA South Division, Kensington Conference — and hopefully beyond.

"The coaching staff and I are very excited about this year's team," Chiefs head coach Cory Mancuso said. "We have a lot of kids that really love the sport of wrestling and enjoy working hard to get better."

In 2012-13, even with Pantaleo's broken hand and Griffin being hampered by a torn meniscus, the Chiefs had a strong season (17-11 overall).

And both have unfinished business to attend to, with Pantaleo and Griffin slotted for the 152 and 135 weight classes.

"These two senior captains have one thing on their mind and that is a state championship," Mancuso stressed.

"They will be disappointed with anything less. Pantaleo is itching to get back on the mat and prove why he is one of the top wrestlers in the state of Michigan."

Griffin's toughness enabled him to place at the state meet, despite his knee injury. He will be shooting to become the third wrestler in team history to be a four-time state placer along with Corey Phillips and Donnie Watkins.



Pantaleo



Griffin

See CHIEFS, Page B4

PREP HOCKEY

Early goal dooms 'Cats

Chiefs can't rebound in opener

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Fans of boys high school hockey came out to enjoy two non-league tilts Friday night at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton and left having witnessed what looked like a playoff game.

At least, that's how Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento viewed the prime-time matchup between his Wildcats and physical Northville — won by the Mustangs, 1-0.

"It was a one-goal game," said Vento, whose team dropped to 2-3. "I thought we had the better chances but their goalie (senior Jeremy Onofrio) played a heck of a game."

See HOCKEY, Page B4



Plymouth senior captain Kyle Bauer, shown from earlier this season, competed Friday against Northville.



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COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Madonna spikers earn spot in NAIA quarterfinals

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Madonna University women's volleyball team bounced back from its first loss of the season with a 20-25, 27-25, 25-20, 29-27 win Thursday over MidAmerican Nazarene (Kan.) in the third and final day of pool play in the 2013 NAIA National Championship held in Sioux City, Ia.

The seventh-seeded Crusaders, who improved to 40-1 overall, finished 2-1 in Pool D and advanced into Friday's Elite Eight against 30-10 Columbia (Mo.).

Once again MU used a balanced hitting attack as Stacey Catalano and Kayla Vogel led the way with 16 and 15 kills, re-

spectively.

Also chipping in was Emilie Freeman (Livonia/Lutheran Westland) and Katie Breault with 14 and 10, respectively, while Samantha Geile added nine.

Setter Evia Prieditis finished with 56 assist-to-kills and 11 digs.

Amanda Obyrcki contributed a team-high 20 digs, while Catalano added 13.

Zoraida Heredia and Linjun Ji paced Nazarene (27-4) with 20 and 19 kills, respectively.

Heredia also had 23 digs, while setter Taryn Salum finished with 48 assists. Nazarene went 1-2 in Pool D.

First setback

The old adage is that all good things must

come to an end unfortunately held true Wednesday for MU, which had its 39-match winning streak snapped by No. 16 The Master's College (Calif.), 25-16, 23-25, 25-19, 26-24, in the second round of pool play.

The Crusaders' streak began with the season's first match against Indiana-South Bend as MU dropped just 12 sets in their 39 wins.

Freeman paced the MU offense with 16 kills and a .375 attack percentage

Geile chipped in with 10 kills, while Catalano tallied nine kills and 16 digs.

Obyrcki had a team-high 18 digs, while freshman Payton Maxheimer matched her career-best with 15 digs.

GYMNASTICS PREVIEW - PART 1



Jocelyn Moraw is shown performing a routine on the uneven parallel bars last season for Canton.

Chiefs primed for another big year

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For three straight seasons, Canton's bid for a state gymnastics championship came up just short.

This year's team hopes to take that final step from runner-up to champion.

"We have a top five team and have a state championship trophy as our goal," Canton veteran head coach John Cunningham said. "If we stay healthy and keep improving, it can happen."

Things got off to a great start Thursday as the Chiefs defeated Waterford United, 137.525-117.5. Cunningham's group competed without junior Jocelyn Moraw and senior Melissa Green, attending the Canton varsity girls swimming and diving team banquet.

"For a first meet early in December — our earliest ever — the falls and bobbles were to be expected," Cunningham noted. "It was a strong team performance, leaving lots of room for improvement."

"With two more meets in December, we should



Melissa Green returns from Canton's state runner-up team last year.

be very strong for the Rockford Invitational the first week in January. This starts the third year of undefeated dual meets for Canton."

There is plenty of talent on the 2013-14 team, just like in recent seasons. Moraw is a returning state champion on balance beam while senior Erica Lucas also is a reigning state champ on vault.

Despite the graduation of state medalist Nicole Lasecki, the Chiefs "might even be stronger than last year."

Returning state medalists Green, sophomore Maddie Toal and sophomore Hailey Hodgson "will be even better this

year. Two others who will be scoring nines this year are (sophomores) Ellie Bachman and newcomer Stephanie Cox. Juniors Katie Lawera, Katie Kleabir and Kaley Lazarski also plan on joining the scoring mix."

Leadership duties will be shared by Lucas, Green and Moraw.

Strong debut

The Chiefs had it going on Thursday against Waterford, with Hodgson scoring first on vault (9.0) and tying for first on floor (8.9, with teammate Toal) and tying for first on uneven parallel bars (8.6, with Lucas).

Lucas also took seconds on vault (8.9) and beam (8.85) while Cox tallied the top spot on beam with a 9.1 score.

Other promising performers included Bachman (thirds on beam and floor, 8.75 and 8.6, respectively) and Lawera, finishing fifth on bars (7.6) and floor (8.2).

Canton registered the top six all-around scores. Those included Lucas (34.95), Hodgson (34.9), Cox (33.5), Toal (33.475), Bachman (33.25) and Lawera (31.85).

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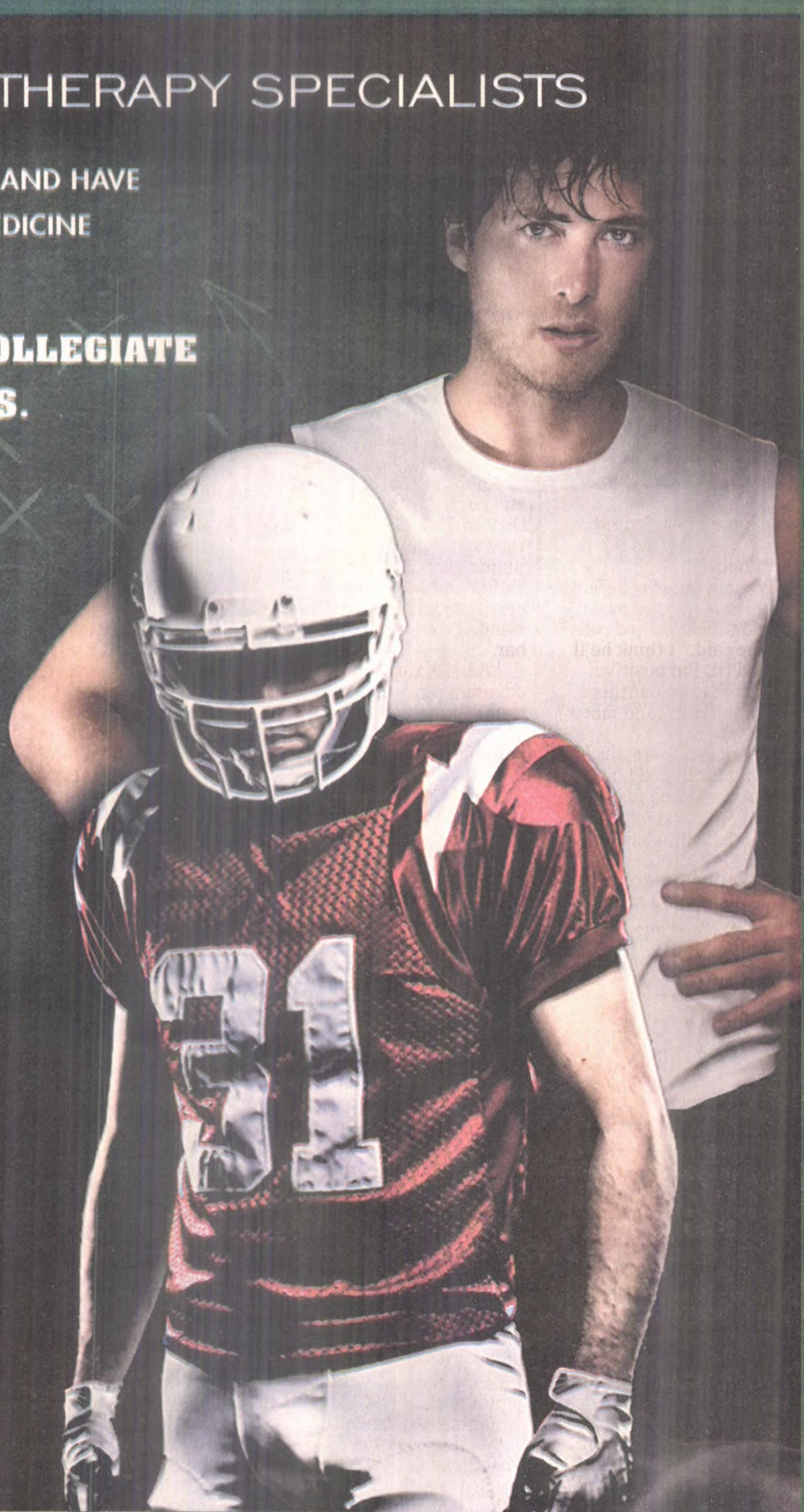
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GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Windle's back at helm for new-look PCA

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Something old is something new again with Rob Windle back at the Plymouth Christian Academy coaching helm.

Windle knows the 2013-14 season will be a challenge for the Eagles varsity girls basketball team, with the unexpected departure of former head coach Carol Gerulis just before tryouts.

On top of that, one of the prime movers and shakers in last year's march to the Class D quarterfinals — Emily Gerulis — decided not to play out her senior season following her mom's decision to step down.

"Emily's play and leadership will be greatly missed," Windle said. "She was also a leading scorer and made everyone on the floor better."

Two other mainstays from the 2012-13 team also have left, with point guard Jenna Abraham and leading scorer Karen Windle having graduated.

Still, coach Windle is glad to be back where he once was. He was PCA's head coach from 1993-2000 before moving over to Livonia Churchill for four seasons.

Last year, he assisted Carol Gerulis on the sidelines.

"I'm excited about this year's team," he said. "They are a group of quality young women who desire to please the Lord in their efforts on and off the court."

According to Windle, a quartet of strong seniors is "working hard to fill those gaps" left by the loss of Emily

Gerulis, Abraham and Karen Windle.

» Captain Jen Malcolm will start at center, but can move to other positions as needed.

» Rachael Fuller is a "scoring threat who also is a defensive stopper."

» Starting point guard Martha Mullett will be the "floor general who will put great pressure on opponents with her defense."

» And Rachel Smith "is a threat in the post and will be a scoring threat from the perimeter as well this year."

PCA's supporting cast includes juniors Raina Postma and Danielle Witkowski (JV players last season), freshmen Aliyah Pries and Lydia Chapel.

"Our bench players are inexperienced but are working hard to improve and will bring great energy to our team," he noted.

Great start

The Eagles launched the season in grand style Thursday, knocking off Class D finalist Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes, 43-28.

Smith and Mullett led the way with 16 and 10 points, respectively.

Malcolm chipped in with seven points and 11 rebounds.

Fuller tallied four points and five boards while Postma registered four points, three rebounds and two steals.

A strong second quarter sparked PCA. After leading 5-4 following one frame, the Eagles went on a 14-7 tear in the second to build a 19-11 halftime edge.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chiefs give Marlins fits; Salem offense comes alive

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Yes, it goes into the books as a loss.

But Canton varsity girls basketball coach Brian Samulski is looking at Thursday's 37-33 defeat to visiting Farmington Hills Mercy a bit differently.

Samulski saw his squad (0-2) trail 12-4 after one quarter only to chip away and ultimately catch the Marlins midway through the fourth quarter before ultimately falling back again.

"The kids played their butts off tonight," Samulski said. "Mercy got up on us a few times and the girls could of quit playing but to there credit they hung in there and kept battling."

"The girls played so hard and we had chances down the stretch to win and that's all I can really ask for as a coach."

Mercy (2-0) was paced by senior guard Candice Leatherwood (17 points), who was a freshman when the Chiefs defeated the Marlins on the same floor in a Class A regional final.

Canton senior Paige Aresco tallied 16 points to lead the Chiefs, who lost Tuesday to another strong Catholic League team in Bloomfield Hills Marian.

Also in double figures for the Chiefs was senior center Taylor Hunley — who scored 11 points and hauled down eight rebounds, six on the offensive glass.

The Chiefs trailed 16-10 at halftime after tightening up on defense in the second quarter. It was a 26-21 contest after three.

Canton got to within two points of the Marlins with 10 seconds remaining, but turned the ball over.

Mercy's win over Canton was the first in six years.

"We continue to really struggle taking care of the ball, which is on me," Samulski noted. "I really need to find a way to help this team handle the ball and take care of it. Which we will find a way to get done."

"Playing two of the top teams in the state was a great challenge for us this week. We might be 0-2 but I guarantee the girls got better and they learned a lot. We will continue to work and get better



Canton senior Paige Aresco goes up for another basket Thursday night against Farmington Hills Mercy. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

each day."

Canton returns to action Friday, Dec. 13 at Dearborn Divine Child.

Salem wins big

Two nights after Mercy routed Salem 55-32, the Rocks' offense came to life in a 56-22 triumph Thursday over visiting Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Salem (1-1) had six players with at least seven points, parlaying aggressive, two-way play into plenty of points.

"We rebounded well as a team and played very well as a team," Rocks head coach Fred Thomann said. "We were more aggressive tonight (than against Mercy), much more in sync and offensively we

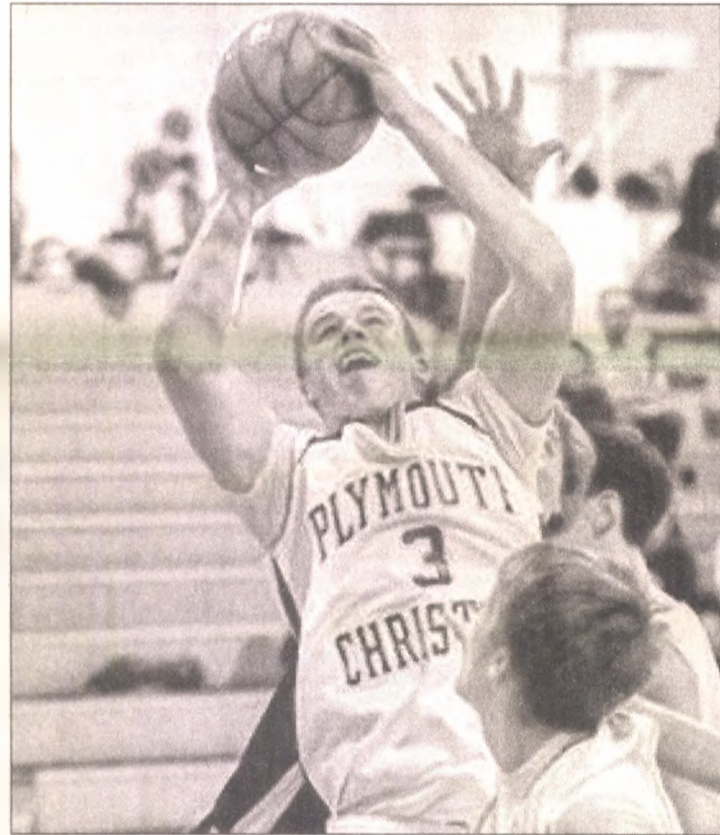
moved the ball very well."

Leading Salem was Shara Long, with nine points. Contributing eight each were Kelly Whalen, Maranda Armstead, Katie Latack and Janyra Wilson. Adding seven was Ashley Baker.

Salem built leads of 15-7 after one frame and 26-13 after two before really blowing the game wide open in the second half (outscored the Pioneers by a combined 30-9).

The Rocks face a busy week, visiting Dearborn Divine Child Monday before hosting Brighton Wednesday.

Dan O'Meara contributed to this report.



Daniel Jipping (No. 3) will be a vital part of the PCA lineup in 2013-14. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EAGLES

Continued from Page B1

determined.

"My main focus is defense, getting these guys to understand the defensive rotations," he said. "I think he'll be a good fit. I'm positive he'll be able to go out there and take the reins and move forth."

Also a possible starter is speedy junior guard Lucas Albrecht, expected to create plenty of havoc on opponents, turning steals into baskets.

"Lucas is really, really active, really fast, great footwork," Washington said. "Last year (on junior varsity) he scored his majority of points from steals, going

coast-to-coast."

Rounding out the roster and contributing whatever they can will be senior guard/forward Ryan Hobermale, junior guard/forwards Jordan Talbot and Joey Fanelli, junior forward Tanner Hay and sophomore guard Luke Yakebar.

"A lot of these guys are coming up from the JV ranks," Washington said. "They played a lot at JV, but it's a big jump from the JV level to the varsity level."

"Just seeing if their game translates from that to the next level will be interesting to see. I'm confident in these guys' ability to make that translation. It depends on how bad you want it."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Brandon nabs first varsity win with help from senior trio

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The "Plymouth Trio" cut loose Tuesday night with a catchy number that has Wildcats first-year girls basketball head coach Nick Brandon singing.

That threesome of senior center Shelby Cheston, senior wing Jada Woody and senior point guard Kylie Robb struck the right chord in Plymouth's 46-35 victory at Dexter to open the 2013-14 season.

They also did the heavy lifting in helping Brandon earn the first win of his new varsity coaching career. He was Plymouth's JV coach last season.

"Our experience was the major factor in this win," Brandon said. "Dexter has a very young team and I thought all four of our seniors led the way and showed the intensity and focus that it takes to win at

this level."

In addition to Cheston (12 points, 10 rebounds), Woody (10 points, six rebounds) and Robb (eight points), Plymouth senior Brooke Senkbeil "really stood out defensively and really stepped up her game tonight. I thought it was the best game she's had as a varsity player."

Brandon had plenty of praise for the other seniors, of course.

He described Cheston as "the true difference maker for us tonight. Her work in the post forced Dexter to double-team her on every catch and we were then able to get some good looks in space for our wings."

Robb played the entire 32 minutes "showing great strength and composure. She



Brandon

did a great job quarterbacking our offense and getting our running game moving."

The top scorer for Dexter was senior forward Taylor Olson, with 11 points.

"It certainly was not a work of art and we have a long way to go and a lot of improvements to make," Brandon said. "But I am so proud of the way we just kept grinding and protecting our lead."

Next up for the Wildcats is Monday's 7 p.m. home game against North Farmington.

Roster update

Brandon has another player on the varsity team in junior forward Nadia Lengel. She was not included in the Nov. 28 team preview in the Observer due to an inadvertent oversight. We apologize for any inconvenience.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

SALEM

Continued from Page B1

Ann Arbor Skyline, a non-league foe described by Brodie as "a force." Following that are contests against KLAA South Division rivals Canton, Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn.

"Our predivision schedule is going to be tough," Brodie said. "Time will tell right away whether we can compete at that level or not. We'll find out."

Unlike last season, when the Rocks finished 12-9 overall and second in the KLAA Central with a 7-3 mark, the offense won't hinge on getting the ball inside to Dierker, among other options.

"There's a lot of weapons out there," Brodie said. "There's not going to be a one-dimensional team like it's sometimes been in the past. We'll be a little more up-tempo than we've been. We're going to have to run the floor a little bit better this year."

Brodie stressed that his team will get after it on offense and defense more than in previous seasons to make up for a lack of size (the tallest players are 6-4 senior forward Alec Winfrey and 6-4 junior forward Jake Lenders).

And the Coles will be in the middle of things, running and gunning as a tandem.

"They're as good of ball-handlers as I've ever had at the guard position," Brodie said. "You look at them and you don't think they are, but it's

very tough to take the basketball from them and they'll get it right back from you if you (do)."

He added that having the Cole twins play together might provide a psychological edge of sorts, too.

"We recognize who they are and their buddies (teammates) know them well enough," Brodie said. "It might confuse the opponents a little bit, which wouldn't bother me too much. They're a force to be reckoned with. They're non-stop out there."

Another holdover who could play big-time minutes is 6-3 center Michael Hoover, a backup player last year.

"(Hoover) had a lot of playing time last year," Brodie said. "He'll probably do a lot of playing time in the post for us.

He'll be backed up by (6-2 junior) Evan Klenk and Jake Lenders."

Salem's front court to open the season probably will be Hoover, Winfrey and 6-3 junior Tyler Brooks.

"Alec is coming back as a senior and Tyler has been a two-year JV player for us," Brodie said. "He's a rugged, tough kid that plays inside and he does a good job. Tyler and Alec will probably anchor the two wings for us starting."

Ready to help

Whenever one of the Coles gets into foul trouble or needs a rest, Brodie will first call on senior guard Alex Kenrick.

"He (Kenrick) is probably our best pure shooter on the team," he said. "He can shoot the basketball from the perim-

eter."

Other backups at guard include juniors Jon Swift and Jake Stropes, both on the junior varsity in 2012-13.

Meanwhile, 6-3 junior forward Allante Wheeler looms as an option when the team needs a boost up front.

"He (Wheeler) was good on the JV last year and we look for good things from him," Brodie said. "Another versatile player."

Ready to step in on the wing or in the post will be 6-2 junior Joey Miazek.

"I don't think we're going to lose too much when we come in with substitutes this year," Brodie said.

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PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW - PART 2

Getting better all the time

Youngsters ready to help
Rocks take next step

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With every passing year, more and more talented wrestlers are making their way to the Salem varsity team from the middle schools and Plymouth Canton Wrestling Club feeder program.

And that is something Rocks head coach Pete Israel figures will pay off in a big way at some point, perhaps even in 2013-14.

"Even though the Salem wrestling team is young on paper, there is a lot of experience on this team thanks largely to a strong middle school program and club program that has paid dividends for the entire sport in the district," noted Israel in an email to the *Observer* about the new season. "This should be a very exciting year for the Rocks as we bring in a lot of talented freshmen and sophomores to the lineup to join some experienced upper classmen."

There indeed are some talented juniors and seniors looking to help Salem improve upon last winter's 4-8 record.

At the top of that list is junior Mitch Gross, who will fill the 189-pound weight class. Gross was a district champion and won 45 bouts in 2012-13.

"He has everything it takes to be on the state podium this year," Israel said. "If he can hit the right gears this year he will be a force to be reckoned with."

He would be following the footsteps of his older brother, Tyler Gross, who graduated and is wrestling at Ashland University. Also gone to graduation is Alex Arble. Tyler Gross and Arble were four-year letter winners.

Plenty of talent

Salem's 145-pound slot will be pretty strong, thanks to senior Ahmad Abed and junior Caleb McCabe.

"Ahmad has the talent to become very good at wrestling," Israel continued. "If he keeps training hard I wouldn't be surprised to see him go deep into the season."

"Caleb McCabe is going to have a great year. I don't think he has gone a week without wrestling since last march and I know he has aspirations to make it to this year's state tournament."

Experience should help Salem at 119 (with returning lettermen Russel Gaubatz and Andrew Lindsay) and 125, with junior Charlie Woody entering his second year.

"Charlie is ready to make a splash and should have a very exciting and standout year," the coach noted.

At 130, the Rocks will feature senior Mitch Rosinski and freshman Chris Bain.

"Mitch has been wrestling for a long time now and if he puts everything on the mat the wrestling world will be surprised," Israel said. "Mitch will be pushed by Chris and I have confidence Chris will do whatever it takes to learn and survive out on the mat."

Another tag-team of sorts could play itself out at 171, with senior Connor Thornbury and sophomore Roy Foster.

"Both of these kids are poised for huge seasons," Israel went on. "I have seen both hang with state caliber kids and if they keep the pace there on we will look for both of these two come this March."

Competition abounds at 140, as well. In the mix will be Joey Taylor (described as having a "very unique wrestling style") and senior Taylor Born.

Young guns

One spot in the lineup where a PCWC alum could make an impact is at 135, with freshman Bruce Haslitt.

"He does not like to lose and it won't take long before he becomes very successful on the mat," Israel emphasized.

Sophomore Tyler Moore won 10 bouts at heavyweight last season as a freshman and could really take the next step.

"It will be interesting to see him wrestle kids his weight," Israel said. "If should be a great year for Tyler if he can get this going."

In a couple of the middle weights, the Rocks will have a young look.

Freshman Peter Bushaw and sophomore Dimitrius Fields are set to wrestle at 152 and 160, respectively.

"Peter is an outstanding wrestler," Israel added. "He is going to have early success at a tough weight class and that won't be a surprise to his coaches."

"He is a hard worker and just has that *feel* you need to be great at this sport."

Fields "is much stronger than he looks. It should be a very exciting year for Dimitrius."

Covering the lower weights will be Akash Rai (103) and Cameron Shaughnessy (112).

"Akash is a tough kid who learns quick," he said. "Cameron has been working hard all summer and is poised to raise some eyebrows this year."

In summing it up his team's chances entering 2013-14 — with Saturday's Waterford Mott Invitational and Wednesday's quad meet at Plymouth — Israel said "as long as we keep focus and keep healthy we should have a good season."

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CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

Pantaleo (signed with the University of Michigan) and Griffin (who will wrestle at Eastern Michigan University) are far from a two-man band, however.

They'll be tough

Other key returnees include seniors K.J. Wooley (215), Jevon Hill (171), Nathan Samoy (152) and Dylan DeClue (171).

"Wooley (also a captain) just missed out on a trip to the state tournament last season," Mancuso said. "He is bigger and better this year and we expect him to be a big surprise at the end of the year and place very high."

Hill's "great balance and speed" make him tough to defeat, noted Mancuso, adding that "(we) believe he has a chance to have a special season."

Junior Ty Jasman is another top returnee who will be slotted in at 140.

"Jasman has really worked hard to get better this off-season," Mancuso noted. "He trains with Griffin and Pantaleo every day in the room."

Also back for another season are juniors Jacob Thornton (130), Sammy Baraka (119), Kyle Schwiebert

(171), Andrew Blevins (285); sophomores Maxwell Wilkinson (189), Harrison Samoy (112), Ryan Apley (112) and Sam Orr (119).

Quick learner

Mancuso is enthusiastic about several newcomers, particularly junior Victor Villarini (145), who recently played varsity football for Canton.

"I have wanted Victor to wrestle ever since I seen him in the weight room as a freshman." He is a self-motivated kid. He has all of the characteristics of a great wrestler.

"Unfortunately he just started this season or he would be a name that everyone knew. He has an uncanny ability to pick up the moves quickly."

Freshmen Ryan Demers (103) and Justin Winnie (125) also look to contribute.

"Ryan is really strong for his size and (is a) very intelligent wrestler," Mancuso said.

About Winnie, he noted that "It took me one day of watching Justin Winnie wrestle to know we had something special. The kid attacks you. He wrestles with no fear."

Canton opened the season participating at Saturday's Warren Woods Tower Duals and will host New Boston Huron 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Salem girls
lax meeting

The Salem girls lacrosse program is hosting a player/parent information meeting on Wednesday at Salem High School.

The meeting is slated to begin at 7 p.m. and last about one hour, in Room W2112 (second floor). Topics include tryout information and fees.

All girls interested in playing in the spring are invited to attend, with their parents. Additional information

about the program can be found at www.salemgirlslacrosse.com.

Coaching vacancies

The Salem girls track and field team is looking for two assistant coaches for the 2014 season.

Coaches should have a background in sprints, relays, hurdles, high jump or long jump.

If interested, contact the Salem athletic department at 734-416-7774 or head coach Dave Gerlach at 734-416-7708.

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

"We're going to be in these games all year long. I just told the boys, come playoff time we're going to be battle tested because of this."

Northville (3-1-1) scored a power play goal late in the first period and it held up for the victory thanks to Onofrio's 26 saves and a big, physical defense protecting him.

"They (Mustangs) played well but I thought we played a heck of a hockey game," Vento continued. "I've got nothing to complain about. If we play like that all year we're going to win our fair share of games."

Also playing well in defeat was Plymouth junior netminder Jared Maddock, who stopped 21 of 22 shots.

The lone blemish on his record came with just 1:44 left in the first period, in the late stages of a Northville power play.

Jack Meacham muscled his way into the left face-off circle and one puck-off-the-skate later it was in front of Maddock, where Buster White hit the twine.

"Just a little scramble, their guy got better positioning, he found an opening and put it in," Vento said. "And sometimes in games like this that's the way it is."

The Wildcats brought some big-time pressure to open the second period.

Answer man

But every time, Onofrio was there with the answer.

He snagged a blast off the left wing taken by Mike Scarpello, kicked out a leg to deny Charlie Supernois and used his blocker to knock a drive by Jake Zaborowski into the corner.

Maddock also had to come up with some timely stops to keep his team within one goal. He made a dazzling pad stop against Northville's Brett Ridener with about 4:30 to play in the middle frame.

In the third, after both teams traded a series of penalties, Maddock held the fort once again during a Northville power play — snagging White's shot from the left circle.

Then with power play about to expire, Maddock stopped a point shot by Alex Stuart as well as the rebound try by Meacham.

Plymouth missed another chance to cash in on the power play, when a shot hit the left post with about five minutes



Plymouth's John VanDenBurgeury (No. 5) and Canton's Kurt Snow (No. 9), shown from earlier this season, played in separate games Friday night at Arctic Edge. ANN ESPINOZA

left in the third.

Two minutes later, it was Onofrio's time to come up big. He sprawled across the crease to rob Supernois, who had taken a centering feed from Alex Bump.

Vento pulled Maddock with just over a minute remaining in an attempt to score the tying goal, but the Wildcats could not muster any dangerous chances.

Chiefs stymied

Canton hosted Stoney Creek in Friday's opener, and the Chiefs (1-4) could not overcome a hat trick by Josh Niederhauser as the Cougars (3-1) prevailed 5-3.

It was a 1-0 Stoney Creek lead entering the final minute of the first when Cam Scharret fired the puck past Canton starting goalie Justin Kolbicz to make it a two-goal edge.

Canton's Christian Flack cut that lead in half just 1:14 into the second. He snapped a wrist shot from the bottom of the left circle into the top-right corner. Setting up the goal was Tommy Kiddle.

That's how the game stayed until the third. At 2:13, Tyler Ducharme batted in a rebound past Kolbicz to put the Cougars up 3-1.

Not long after that, Kolbicz was injured and sophomore netminder Isaac Salinas took over for Canton.

Then at 5:37, Niederhauser's second of the night made it 4-1.

The Chiefs then rallied to make things interesting. Nick Richmond deposited a rebound behind Stoney Creek goalie Carston Redshaw with 6:07 left and the Arctic Edge crowd came to life with 3:53 remaining when defenseman Colin

Smith found the mark.

Canton then pulled Salinas for the extra attacker in an attempt to force overtime, but the empty netter by Niederhauser spoiled that plan.

According to Canton head coach Brad Barath, the way the Chiefs fought back was a positive step.

"The Churchill game (Wednesday) we kind of collapsed after we went down a couple goals in the third," Barath said. "This game was completely different."

"Once they (Cougars) got a couple goals and we went down a few in the third we (the Chiefs) dug deep, fought back and did an excellent job."

PLYMOUTH 2, DIVINE CHILD 1: Senior forward Corey Smith's goal 1:22 into overtime lifted the Plymouth varsity hockey team to a 2-1 win over Dearborn Divine Child in a

tight-checking battle Wednesday at Arctic Edge Arena. Plymouth improved to 2-2-0 on the season.

The forward line of Smith, Michael Scarpello and Mitchell Langell battled around the net as defenseman Jake Zaborowski's shot from the point deflected into the crease and Smith was there to tap in the loose puck.

The linemates scrapped around the net to manufacture the game-tying goal in the third period when Scarpello poked home a puck in the crease. Plymouth tied the game 37 seconds after Divine Child's Colin Juszczysk opened scored on a rebound at 7:08 of the third period.

The Wildcats (2-2) outshot the Falcons 39-30. Plymouth's Erik VandenBosch made 29 saves to earn the win in goal. Divine Child, which suffered its first loss of the season, had two goals disallowed because shots were tipped in with a high stick.

CHURCHILL 5, CANTON 2: On Wednesday night at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia, the Chiefs (1-3-0 overall, 0-1-0 in the KLAAs South Division) could not contain the Chargers' C. J. Cromie (two goals, three assists).

Canton received a goal in the first period by Connor Wherrett (assisted by Tommy Kiddle and Christian Flack). The Chiefs also scored in the third, when Flack finished a play from Kiddle and Colin Smith. Making 22 stops for Canton was goalie Nick Borg.

Livonia Churchill improved to 1-3-1 overall and 1-0 in the KLAAs South.

PCS PENGUINS 6, REGINA 5: On Tuesday at Arctic Edge Arena, the Plymouth-Canton-Salen Penguins rallied from an early 2-0 deficit to defeat Regina.

Scoring twice for PCS was Loren Hitch (whose goal 23 seconds after Regina went up 2-0 with 5:10 left in the first got the Penguins on the right track). Tallying one goal and two assists was Lizzy O'Donohue while Morgan Cusumano chipped in with two assists.

PCS trailed 3-1 early in the second before Amanda Hoehn (unassisted), O'Donohue (from Cusumano) and Jessica Marek (from Bryanna Lanzilotti and Megan Brace) put the home team up 4-3 going into the third.

Both teams traded goals in the final stanza, with PCS goals scored by Jenna Carter (from Cusumano) and Hitch (from O'Donohue).

Earning the win in goal for PCS (2-1) was Gwen Gadulka.



The Evans family, Kirk (left), June, Pete and Kerri Wheeler at Disney World.

Ex-Livonia residents brighten holidays for needy

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Peter and June Evans live in Florida but keep Livonia close to their hearts.

The couple has given food baskets to needy families in the Franklin High School area at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the past 26 years.

"Our kids were raised in Livonia and graduated from Franklin. They got a great education and had a wonderful network of friends and teachers," Peter Evans said, in a phone interview last week. "I was privileged to give back. I was active in Little League sports and Scouts. We got to mingle with a lot of families in the area. We decided in 1987 to buy meals."

Evans and his son, Kirk, bought food for complete holi-

day dinners and then donated the meals to families through Franklin's student assistance program. Kirk Evans, married and the father of two children, now lives in Tennessee. The Evans' daughter, Kerri Wheeler, is married, the mother of two children, and lives in North Carolina.

Evans and his wife moved to North Carolina in 1992 — and then to Florida in 2003 — but wanted to continue helping families in their former hometown.

"We didn't have the ability anymore to actually go out and pick the products. I contacted Larry's Foodland and they said they'd be happy to do so on my behalf," said Evans, who turns 66 this month.

Families receive turkeys for Thanksgiving Day and hams for Christmas, along with all of

the trimmings.

Matching donations

"It's such a wonderful project and we're delighted to be involved with it," said Sherrie Beaver, deli manager at the store. She has worked with Evans for the past seven years. "I look forward to his phone call in the fall and at the end of the season I like to drop him a note and tell him how it went."

Beaver said the store matches the couple's donations. Food for Thanksgiving meals went to 10 families last month. Another 10 will receive Christmas dinner.

"Larry (Lokuta) takes care of most of it, but a lot of times (employees) will get turkeys as gifts. They'll donate them," Beaver said. "It's nice to know there's something this time of year we can do."

Lisa Walker, student assistance coordinator at Franklin, will decide next week which families would benefit most from the Evans-Foodland donations.

Evans hopes his outreach inspires others to give. He said his son, who owns a bar and grill in Nashville, Tenn., often cooks meals for a local food bank. His daughter volunteers through her church.

Learning to give back

Both Evans and his wife were raised in Detroit. They moved to Florida to care for their elderly parents after Evans retired and ended up fulfilling a longtime desire to work at Disney World. Both Evans and his wife are "seasonal characters" stationed at the Haunted Mansion attraction.

Evans said he and his wife learned about the importance of "giving back" when they were youngsters.

"This all came from the way my wife and I were raised. Our parents were stellar," he said. "They gave back and they taught the importance of giving back. It was all part of growing up Catholic, and of being good citizens."

Through the years, Franklin administrators have shared some of the thank you cards they received for the food baskets.

"One comment that struck me was from a lady," Evans recalled. "She said 'when I get back on my feet, I'm going to do the same for another.' Maybe this is going to be an incentive for some of those families to say, if we can, we'll give a meal to someone."



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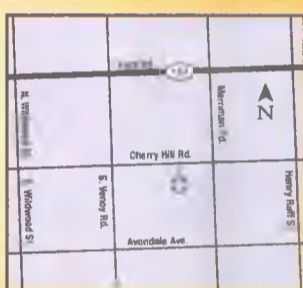
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Cleaning dishwasher, oven

Let me begin this column with a favorite quote I use when speaking with young students about to go out into the hard knocks of tomorrow: "Life is but a stage and you are the actor." I have just lived this quote for two days talking with hundreds of homeowners shopping for major home appliances.

I absolutely just loved every moment of it and although I was so physically tired, I kept that smile going knowing that I was in my element. One common statement was that I always tell it like it is and how much that is appreciated. So today, I tell you like it is. By the time you read this, I will have gone through some serious surgery and be on the road to recovery or I will be in "appliance heaven."

Jim writes: "The discharge hose on our dishwasher, which goes to the garbage disposal, gets plugged with something that looks like grease. We are fanatical about cleaning food off anything that goes into the dishwasher. Could it be the brand of soap we are using? Any other thoughts would be appreciated."

Reply: Yes, Jim, it would appear as grease and here are a few reasons. A dishwasher needs an internal cleaning a few times a year and I've recommended the Tang treatment for more than 30 years. I have that prescription for you if needed. Just send me a request and it's yours.



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

Years of usage causes a buildup of undissolved detergent inside the dishwasher in areas you can't see. This affects the door seals, spray arms and motor impellers and when you rub your fingers on it, it is just like grease.

Powdered dishwasher detergent is recommended and very little should be used compared to what most homeowners do use - two level teaspoons if you have a water softener and eight level teaspoons if you are on city water. This little tip is critical and I do mean to be exact. The drain line should have no kinks in it and sometimes that can be accomplished by wrapping an old wire coat hanger on the line where it makes a bend. The last thing is be sure you clean the inside of the garbage disposer every few weeks by filling it with ice cubes, letting them sit for an hour and then turn on the disposer.

Gale writes: "My mother has been hand cleaning the electric range that is a self-cleaning range. She was afraid of the high temperatures. Would it be safe now to run the clean feature on the range after years of hand scrubbing?"

Reply: Please, tell your Mom again that she is a very smart woman. I am

in charge of our self-cleaning range in my Valorie's kitchen and I am also afraid of the high temperatures. The cupboard walls on each side get very hot, so I move the plastic or paper products away from the walls. I make sure there is nothing made of plastic in the pot and pan drawer at the bottom of the stove. I also do this in the cold months of the year because in summer the high heat in the kitchen makes the central air conditioning system go on overload.

As for cleaning by hand, it is important not to use anything so abrasive that it removes the special coating on the oven walls, ceiling and floor. If she did, she can still put it through a self-cleaning cycle, but the spots that were abused will still show signs of baked-on matter. She will have to use a soft form of cleaning by hand in those areas.

My most sincere thanks go out to all of you who read this column and so many of you who drop me an email. The holiday season is upon us and if Shakespeare was around today, he would say, "It's time for family and a time to share the love in your hearts. Think of what the season is all about and even if it's just once a year, life is but a stage." Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. each Saturday on WAAM-AM (1600). You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

REUNIONS

Send reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

ica@woway.com; 734-377-1745.

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

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Holiday cards still have stamp of approval, but some send electronic greetings

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Barb and Jim Berberet of Canton used to send about 80 Christmas cards each year, but have winnowed that down to around 30.

"People can send email now and wish you a Merry Christmas or even text. Times have changed, for sure," Barb Berberet said, adding postage is a factor.

"We mostly send to out of state and family and close friends," said Berberet, a retired HR manager for a plastic injection company in Livonia. She and Jim lived in five towns in three states for his work as plant supervisor with Texaco Inc., so they met many people.

The Berberets have three grown children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

"I love getting cards, especially ones with pictures of people we haven't seen in a long time," she said. She's 70 - an age she reveals with great pride as a two-time cancer survivor - and agreed retirees often cut back on their card list.

The Berberets' kids are spread out geographically and out of state, so their celebration gets smaller. "But that's the circle of life," she said.

She enjoys taking small gifts like homemade bread to neighbors on Christmas Eve: "Something homemade."

Cards for students, elderly

Mary and Graham Martin of Plymouth Township are active in their Lake Pointe Bible Church. She'll send

Christmas cards to students she teaches, such as youngsters from MOPS and AWANA, as well as Sunday school and adopt-a-student.

Mary Martin, a homemaker, also mails cards to her grandchildren who are old enough to enjoy getting mail, to international friends and to elderly shut-ins.

She and Graham, a retired Plymouth-Canton schools art teacher, don't go all out on cards. For some 40 years, they've run the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp and had a December mass mailing to get out.

"Just to get that out was about all we could handle," she said. The Martins have four grown children, 11 grandchildren and another on the way.

Their church used to do a bulletin board to share yule cards, with money saved then going to charity. Martin said they now get around 15 cards a year.

"Most of those include a letter or picture, which is nice," she said.

Martin's daughters-in-law are creative with their family cards. One does "pretty little handmade cards" and another is a photographer who makes her own. That daughter-in-law also does a gift Advent calendar with family photos.

"So they're doing better than I am," she said. "We always had a picture card when I was growing up."

Her dad had worked in photofinishing for Fox Photo. "So it was a natural for him," she said of those family photos taken in the living room or by the piano.

Personalized cards

Tiffany Zendejas and husband Julian of Canton send some 125 cards a year.

"My husband has a really big family," said Zendejas, owner of the Sincerely Yours stationery store on Center Street in downtown Northville. "He's the second youngest of seven."

The couple has a son, Alexander, 2½, and is now adopting a second child, this time from China. Tiffany Zendejas has owned Sincerely Yours almost 15 years.

"I find that more and more people want to do something personalized," she said of cards. The store can easily incorporate family photos such as vacation shots into yule cards.

Sincerely Yours also sells traditional cards and she's found corporate clients are back to sending those. They tend to be "Peace in the New Year" or "Celebrate the Season," with the corporate name usually inside. Winter scenes like birch trees or cardinals are common for corporate cards.

Scott and Yvonne Lorenz of Plymouth, parents of two grown children, send cards to family and friends.

"Sometimes we go photo, sometimes we go newsletter," said Scott Lorenz, 57, who runs his own public relations firm, Westwind Communications.

"I don't do any corporate stuff," he said. "We like getting cards from friends and family." It's fun to see their children grow up, he said.

"We have some friends who do really



Graham and Mary Martin (center, back row) of Plymouth Township enjoy getting together with family over the holidays. The Martins don't go all out on yule cards, partly due to a mass mailing for the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp they've handled in December for years.

humorous newsletters," Lorenz said. One woman joked about her husband putting in a fence, which took place over a long,

long course of time. The Lorenzes hang their cards on a door in the kitchen. He noted the crossover in his

work and personal life: "And a lot of clients are friends as well."

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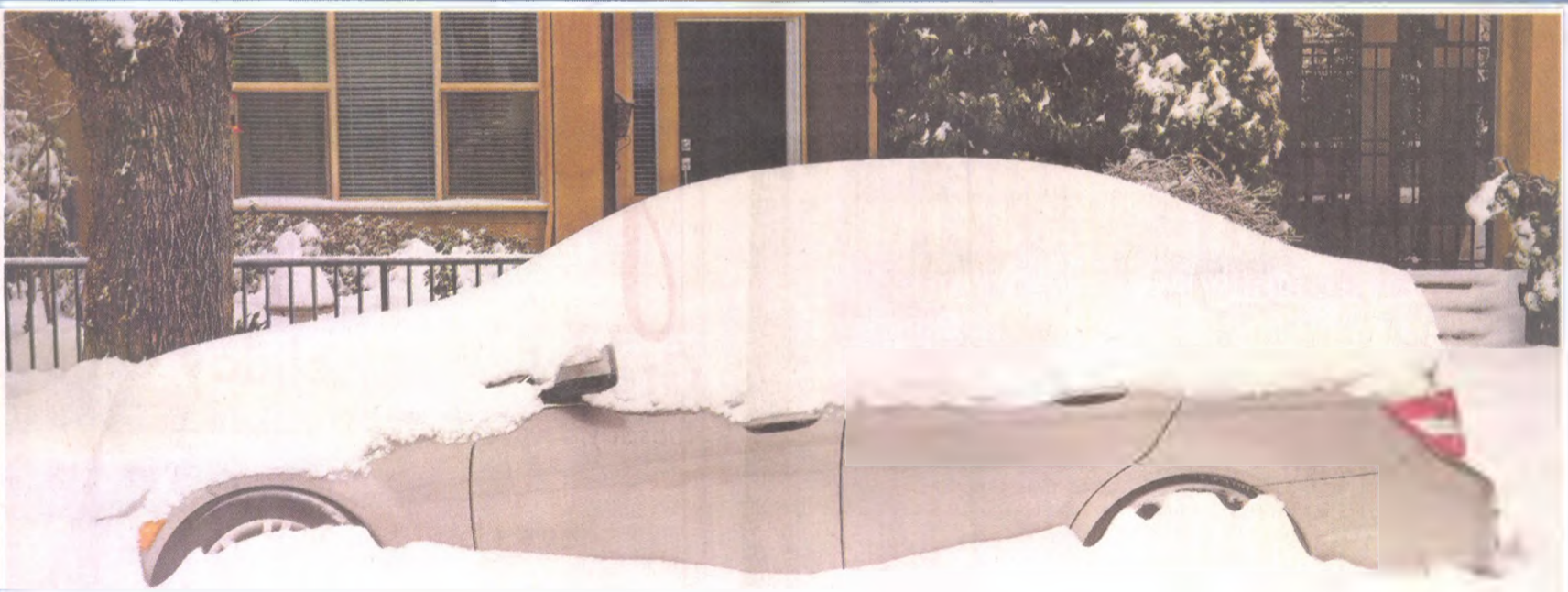
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Cookie sales offer dozens of varieties

It's cookie walk time at local churches.

St. Helen's Philothochos will sell 50 varieties of holiday and ethnic cookies, Greek pastries, and homemade spinach pie, from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 14, at St. Constantine and Helen Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy road, Westland.

Coffee also will be available. For more information, call 734-

525-6789.

Get European cookies, nut and poppy seed rolls, sweet bread, stuffed cabbage and more at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's annual sale, starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for coffee and company. The church is located at 36075 Seven Mile, Livonia. Call 248-476-3432 for more information.

Polish history group sets annual Christmas program at Livonia parish

The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society, will present its Eighth "Annual Oplatek" Sunday, Dec. 29, in the Activities Center of its headquarters, St. Collette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, north of Six Mile, in Livonia.

The Society will honor the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (P.R.C.U.A.), St. Stan's Society #718 — which was founded at St. Hedwig Catholic Church in Detroit, the Society's original headquarters — on its 100th anniversary.

A Mass will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the church. The Filarets Women's Choir of Troy will perform at 2 p.m. The concert will feature Polish Christmas carols and a sing-along led by choir director, Robert Barnhart.

Traditional sharing of oplatki wafers will follow with a light reception that will include sandwiches, Polish desserts, and coffee. Admission is free, although donations will be accepted.

R.S.V.P. for headcount purposes by Dec. 22 by leaving a message for Laurie at 1/855-POLONIA (765-6642) or emailing lgomulka@detroitpolonia.org.

The Society's Heritage Room will be open for members and non-members alike to view firsthand the Society's ar-

chives. Also, for Society members, this will serve as the annual meeting and a sign-in sheet will be available.

The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in February 2006. It exists for the observation, study, appreciation, and preservation of the history of west side Detroit Polonia's neighborhoods and the Polish-American immigrants who settled and who continued to build the community through-

out the decades. This includes their descendants and their neighbors, surrounding institutions, businesses, and churches. The Society also serves as a repository of historical archives, including artifacts, documents, oral histories, and other significant records relevant to its mission and purposes.

Visit www.detroit-polonia.org to download a membership application, or call Laurie A. Gomulka at 855-POLONIA or email lgomulka@detroitpolonia.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 11 and 18

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The theme for meditations is "Waiting for the Savior."

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne, Westland

Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10. Santa Claus will visit and there will be live musical entertainment

Contact: 734-425-4421

CANDLELIGHT NIGHT

Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Location: Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Reception starts at 5 p.m., followed by evening ceremony at 6 p.m. Potluck dinner after the ceremony. Bring a vegetarian dish with no garlic and no onions.

Contact: RSVP to michigan-temple@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: Late night worship is candlelight service

Contact: 734-427-3660

CONCERT

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 35000 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: The combined choirs of Newburg Methodist Church and Garden City Methodist Church, along with dulcimer and piano accompaniment, will present *Appalachian Winter*, a cantata for Christmas, by Joseph M. Martin. A reception follows.

Contact: 734-422-0149

CONCERT

Time/Date: During 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, Dec. 8

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: The Advent/Christmas Cantata will include adult and children's choirs, handbells, brass and string instruments

Contact: 734-522-6830; christ-toursavior.org



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OFF WORK AND ARTHRITIS

Only a few physicians have read the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 but all physicians are held to its provisions. The Act and its protections come into play every time a doctor writes an off work slip for a patient with a joint or muscle problem that precludes that person from working.

The Disabilities Act prohibits a physician from discussing a patient's diagnosis with any employer or employer representative except an organization's medical director or nurse practitioner. A doctor is not allowed to write an employer a letter such as: "Your employee John X has an attack of gout in his foot and cannot return to work until the episode clears." Instead, the physician can only state that: "Your employee John X is under my care. Because of his condition he cannot return to work at this time. He can resume his usual duties when his condition resolves."

The protection for the patient comes from the privacy the letter provides. The Disabilities Act says, in effect, that a person's state of health is a private matter between doctor and patient. An employer has the right to know that an employee is off work for a legitimate reason, but the medical issue is personal and private. The patient's doctor can only share that private information with another physician such as a company's medical director.

Another issue of off duty letters is how long will the patient be unable to work, or is it feasible to have the person working part time, or undertaking some but not all of the usual work duties? There are no quick answers; the doctor's response, by necessity, is shaped by the medical condition under treatment and the nature of the patient's work.

Guide to Employment

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Observer & Eccentric Media specializes in community-based information on a variety of platforms — print, web, mobile and video. O&E Media publishes 13 individually edited newspapers, a website and more than 75 special sections and specialty products annually. The staff includes more than 40 journalists, 25 advertising account executives and other key support personnel in circulation and production. O&E Media - Because local matters. Come join our team.

Observer and Eccentric Media is looking for an Account Executive for the South Lyon, MI Territory. This position will work out of the South Lyon, MI location.

RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Hometown Weeklies, Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new business. The Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

REQUIREMENTS: An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.

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The company's 82 U.S. daily newspapers, including USA TODAY, reach 11.6 million readers every weekday and 12 million readers every Sunday, providing important news and information from their customers' neighborhoods and around the globe. USA TODAY, the nation's No. 1 newspaper in print circulation, and USATODAY.com reach a combined 6.6 million readers daily.

The Broadcasting Division's 23 TV stations reach 21 million households, covering 18.2 percent of the U.S. population. Through its Captivate subsidiary, the Broadcasting Division delivers news, information and advertising to a highly desirable audience demographic on 9,500 video screens located in elevators of office towers and select hotel lobbies in 25 major cities across North America.

Newsquest is one of the U.K.'s leading regional community news providers and its digital portfolio of newspaper and online-only brands attracts nearly 7.5 million unique users each month. It has a portfolio of 17 daily paid-for newspapers and more than 200 weekly newspapers, magazines and trade publications. Newsquest owns a successful online publisher called s1, which is a leading recruitment site in Scotland. Gannett is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity for all persons.

Email resumes to: lvermon@gannett.com. Attn: Sales Please specify the territory you are interested in on the subject line of your email. EEOC

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Auto Account Executive

The Observer and Eccentric is looking for an **Auto Account Executive** to cover the suburban Detroit area. This position will work out of the Sterling Heights, MI location.

his position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing auto businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new auto business. The Auto Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Auto sales experience a plus. Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.

Gannett is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity for all persons.

Observer & Eccentric Media, a Gannett company, specializes in community-based information on a variety of platforms — print, web, mobile and video. Local is what we do best. Come join our team!

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MILESTONES

WEDDING

HARRIS-WOLFE

Kayla Sue Harris and Thomas Harry Wolfe were married Aug. 31, 2013, in Anchorage, Alaska. A mutual friend, Staff Sgt. Brent Allen, officiated. The bride is the daughter of Mindy S. Gates of Rougemont, N.C., and the groom is the son of Jerry and Kathy Wolfe of Livonia. Kayla is an airman phar-

macy technician. Thomas is a 2004 graduate of Stevenson High School and is an airman first class C17 avionic technician. Both work at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. The wedding was attended by friends and coworkers in Alaska, as well as both families from home via Skype. The reception was held at a chalet on the base.



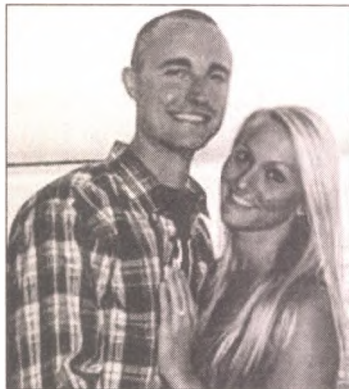
Kayla Sue Harris and Thomas Harry Wolfe

ENGAGEMENT

MILLER-MCALEER

Martha R Miller and Brandon S. McAleer announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Ken and Laura Miller of Canton, graduated from Divine Child High School and earned a B.S.N. degree from Eastern Michigan University. She works as a registered nurse at St Joseph Mercy Hospital's

Emergency Department. Her fiance, son of Gary and Cathy McAleer of New Hudson, graduated from South Lyon High School and earned a B.S.N. degree from Madonna University. He works as a registered nurse in the neurosurgery spine unit at St Joseph Mercy Hospital. A September 2014 wedding is planned in Plymouth.



Martha R Miller and Brandon S. McAleer

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Send holiday entertainment items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Send photos as jpg attachments.

COMEDY

GO! COMEDY

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, through Dec. 21
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: *The Worst Noel*, the fifth annual holiday sketch revue. Tickets are \$15 Thursday, \$20 Friday and Saturday, available at gocomey.net
Also playing: *Frosty*, 10 p.m. Dec. 5, 12 and 19, is an original late night show about Frosty the Snowman who returns to the town of Armonk from the North Pole to find the children he once knew have grown up and are home from college. Tickets are \$10.
Contact: 428-327-0575

DANCE

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BALLET CO.
Time/Date: 2 p.m. Dec. 8
Location: Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, 48181 Joy, Canton

Details: The Michigan Philharmonic will perform the music for the ballet. A Sugar Plum parade will be held following the performance. The audience will be invited to meet the dancers. WDIV Channel 4's Ashlee Baracy will open each performance with a reading of *The Night Before Christmas*. The P-CEP Madrigal Choir will perform choral work during the ballet. Tickets at the door are \$25 for adults and teens and \$18 for children. Sugar Plum Parade tickets are \$3 each
Contact: 734-676-7233; www.plymouthcantonballet.org

FILM

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 20 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 21
Location: 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Avenue, Detroit
Details: *White Christmas*; tickets \$5. Bring your camera to get a photo with Santa. Donations of nonperishable food items will be accepted for St. Christine Food Pantry.
Contact: 313-537-2560

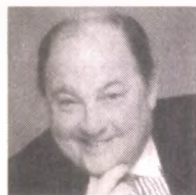
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BRETHEN, CHARLES A. III "CHIP"
November 28, 2013, peacefully at home in Bloomfield Hills, age 67. Proud veteran United States Air Force. Longtime executive in the automotive paint and coatings industry. Beloved husband of Gail K. (nee Powers). Dear father of David A., Geoffrey C. (Kiara) and the late Charles A., IV. Son of Barbara A. and the late Charles A. Brethen, Jr. Brother of Susan Lapelle (Hunter) and Nancy Strickland (Tom). Uncle of John Lapelle, Susan Muskovitz (Andy), Nicki Arnold (Jack), Steven Strickland (Julie) and Scott Strickland (Anne). A Celebration of Life Service will be held in the spring of 2014. Family Memorial Services were held at Christ Church Cranbrook. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Cranbrook Educational Community. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at:
DesmondFuneralHome.com
A.J. DESMOND & SONS



CLOSE, DORIS I.
Age 94, of Northville, passed away peacefully November 30, 2013. She was born May 14, 1919 in Plymouth, Michigan; daughter of Harold and Olive (nee Roberts) Compton. She was a graduate of Plymouth High School in 1937. Doris was united in marriage to Donald "Mike" Herrick on December 2, 1940, who passed away April 13, 1973. Doris was then united in marriage to Richard Close on May 1, 1977; they spent 18 loving years together until his death in 1995. Doris worked as a seamstress and designer for Cadillac Drapery in Plymouth, doing freelance seamstress work as well. She has been a resident of Northville since 1990; formerly of Union Lake and Plymouth. She and her husband Richard enjoyed many summers on Round Lake in the home they built together. Doris sang in the church choir for most of her life. She began while a member of the First Baptist Church of Plymouth, and continued her love of singing with the First United Methodist Church of Northville after becoming a member in 1970. She was very active with FUMC throughout the years; her involvement included co-founding the Youth Club program, serving on the Youth Club Board, the FUMC Scholarship Fund, as well as the Christian Education Department. Doris also served as a co-crew leader using her building expertise for the Appalachian Service Project, making homes in that area warmer, safer, and drier. It was a passion she shared with her family, especially granddaughter Kelly. Doris was caring, resourceful, and brilliant. Following her mother's death when Doris was 14, her father taught her and her sisters how to be inventive and creative. She instilled in her own children how to be respectful, goal oriented, and independent; without question her family was raised the right way. She loved to dance, even participating in amateur ballroom dancing competitions with her husband Richard at Arthur Murray Dance Studio; in fact, she and Richard met while dancing. Doris is survived by her loving children, Judy (Russell) Dore and Nick (Judy) Herrick; her step-daughter, Barbara Close; her grandchildren, Patrick (Karen) Calhoun, David (Cathy) Dore, Kelly (Greg) Moore, Jay (Roseanne DiPonio) Herrick, and Kevin M. Herrick; and her great-grandchildren, Anna and Russell Calhoun, Alice, Charlotte, and Claire Dore, Sophie Moore, and Julianna Herrick. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald "Mike" Herrick and her husband Richard Close; her parents; her step-son, Dale Close; and her sisters, Helen Wallace, Catharine Sherrick, and Jeanne Mettetal. Visitation will be held Friday, December 6, 2013 from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 1 p.m. with visitation 12 noon until 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Rd., Northville 48167. Doris will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Appalachian Service Project or FUMC Scholarship Fund. Online condolences at: www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

www.heritagecremation.com.
Heritage Cremation Society
800-864-2295

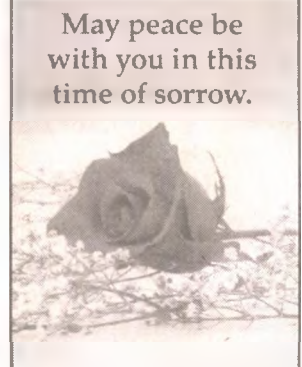


CRAIG, PATRICIA CHUBBUCK
passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 30, 2013 at Glenmont Nursing Home in Hilliard Ohio. Patricia was born October 26, 1927 in Detroit, Michigan and graduated from Bloomfield Hills High School and then attended Principia College, the University of Geneva, Switzerland and the University of Colorado. Muz, as she affectionately was called, married her high school sweetheart Richard Craig who preceded her in death. They have three children Karen Craig Appleby (Larry), Steven Jeffrey Craig (Lisa), and Andrew Roger Craig (Laura). Muz also has seven grandchildren Michelle Newton, Bryan Appleby, Kevin Appleby, James Craig, Christopher Craig, Nathan Craig and Matthew Craig as well as four great grandchildren. Patricia is also preceded in death by her parents Marie and Charles Chubbuck and her sister Alys Chubbuck Monod. Patricia was employed at the Cranbrook Educational Community and the Control Engineering Company. Patricia spent most of her adult life in Harbor Springs, Michigan where she was a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist in Potoskey, Michigan. Her great loves were her family, her church and the beauty of Northern Michigan. A family memorial celebration will be held at a later date back in Harbor Springs. Condolences and special memories may be shared online at
www.heritagecremation.com.
Heritage Cremation Society
800-864-2295



ENGELBRECHT, SUZANNE HOWARD
Suddenly November 27, 2013. Age 79. Longtime resident of Birmingham and Sand Lake, MI. Devoted wife of the late Martin Engelbrecht and the late Robert Howard, Jr. Loving mother of Julie Johnson (Stuart), Robert Howard, III and John Howard (Beth). Fabulous grandmother of Audrey (Aaron Ohlrogge), Helen, Ted, Jane and Jack. Great grandmother of Jesus, George and Nicholas. Sister of Matthew Seward (Suzanne) and the late Dennis King (JoAnn). Private family service has been held. A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at:
DesmondFuneralHome.com
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FREEMAN MARGARET ANN (NEE: McCARTEN)

passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on December 6, 2013. Age 83 of Birmingham. Beloved wife of the late Carl for 49 years. Devoted mother of Cecily Roney (William), Carol Freeman and Robert Freeman (Renee). Proud and loving grandmother of Alex, Amy, Andrew and Ian. Sister of Jean Anderson and Cecily Jones. Also survived by nieces, nephews and many friends. Margaret's family would like to thank the American House facility for all the care and friendship extended to their mother. They would also like to thank The Chester Street Residence, and their staff for making their mother's final days filled with peace and caring thoughts. Memorial Service Saturday 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. Visitation at church begins Saturday at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorials to Salvation Army, Detroit Zoo, PEO of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, or any nature/birding organization in Michigan. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obit and share memories at **DesmondFuneralHome.com**

DesmondFuneralHome.com
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LUVISCH, SEYMOUR LEONARD

Age 92, passed away on November 15, 2013. He was born March 10, 1921 in Detroit, Michigan. Seymour served in the United States Coast Guard. Seymour attended MIT and Harvard. He worked many years in construction, building new homes. Seymour was preceded in death by his wife, Ella and son Donald Luvisch. He is survived by daughter, Nancy Richards; son Jim Luvisch; grandchildren: Scott, Marne, Erin and Don; great-grandchildren: Chelsea, Zach, Ally and Katie Jewell, Haley and Ava Farquar, Mallory and Mitchell Luvisch.



MAHON, CATHERINE
A very loved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother. Survived by husband Ralph, son's Michael, Pat, Ted, grandchildren Kim, Pat, Rachel, Pat, great grandchildren Sydney, Gillian, Zachary, Palmer, Megan, Ethan, Emily, and Rebecca. Step mother to Claudia, Chip Brian, Helen. A service will be held Tuesday December 10, 2-4 p.m. R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia.

McDOWELL, JAMES E., JR.

December 3, 2013, age 85. Beloved husband of Kathy. Dear father of Wayne (Nancy), Lorie (Larry), Bill, Sherry, Dorie, Kathy (Gary), Merri Lou and Dawn. Step-father of Mar (Sandy), Paul and Shawn. Survived by 26 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Brother of Wanda, Lloyd, June, Pete, Walter and Judy. James served in the Air Force from 1944-49 as a photographer. Memorial Service on Sunday Dec. 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Garden City, Michigan.



MOORES, ELAINE M.
Age 93, passed peacefully on December 3, 2013 at her daughter's home surrounded by her loving family. Beloved wife of the late Jack F. Sr. for 62 years. Dearest mother of Jack Frank Jr. (Kathy), Richard L. (Clare), Cheryl (James) Patrick, Thomas J. (Karen), Ann (J. Keith) Clark, the late Susan Elaine and Mary (Mike) Spitzley. Proud grandmother of 18, great-grandmother of 18 and great-great-grandmother of one. Dear sister of the late John W. Jr., (the late Helen) Schmidt and James (Beverly) Schmidt. Elaine was a homemaker with a generous spirit and a willingness to help others always. She enjoyed time with family and will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. Visitation Sunday 1-6 p.m. McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. Scripture Service 3 p.m. In State Monday 9:30 a.m. until time of Mass 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton. Entombment Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum, Saginaw, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul at St. Thomas a'Becket or the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation.
www.mccabefuneralhome.com

McCabe Funeral Home



RAYMOND, MARGERY (SEITZ)
Age 92, Went to be with the Lord December 5, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Walter Seitz and Paul Raymond. Loving mother of Fred (Mary) Seitz and Lee Anne Kientzy. Dear grandmother of Walter, Laura, Molly and Kari. Great grandmother of Gabe, Nathanael, Emma, Matthew, Madison and the late David. Margery was a former Dearborn P.T.A. Council President and employee of Co-op Services Credit Union in Dearborn. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Monday from 1-9 p.m. and at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile Rd., Northville, Tuesday from 10 a.m. until Funeral Service at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to The Salvation Army. Please share a memory at www.rgrharris.com.

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FAY, CYNTHIA SUE
of Clarkston formerly of Sylvan Lake; unexpectedly December 1, 2013; age 63. Preceded in death by her parents Lloyd and Barbara Fay. Sister of Lloyd "Chip" (Norma) Fay. Aunt of Adrianna Fay. Also survived by many other family members and friends. Cindy retired from Cranbrook Schools as an Administrative Assistant. Private burial has taken place at Perry Mt. Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Michigan Humane Society. Arrangements entrusted to the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Online guestbook: www.wintfuneralhome.com



Coin-size batteries pose threat to toddlers

Nearly 3,000 children were seen in U.S. emergency rooms in 2012 after swallowing coin-sized button batteries that resulted in serious injuries and in some cases death.

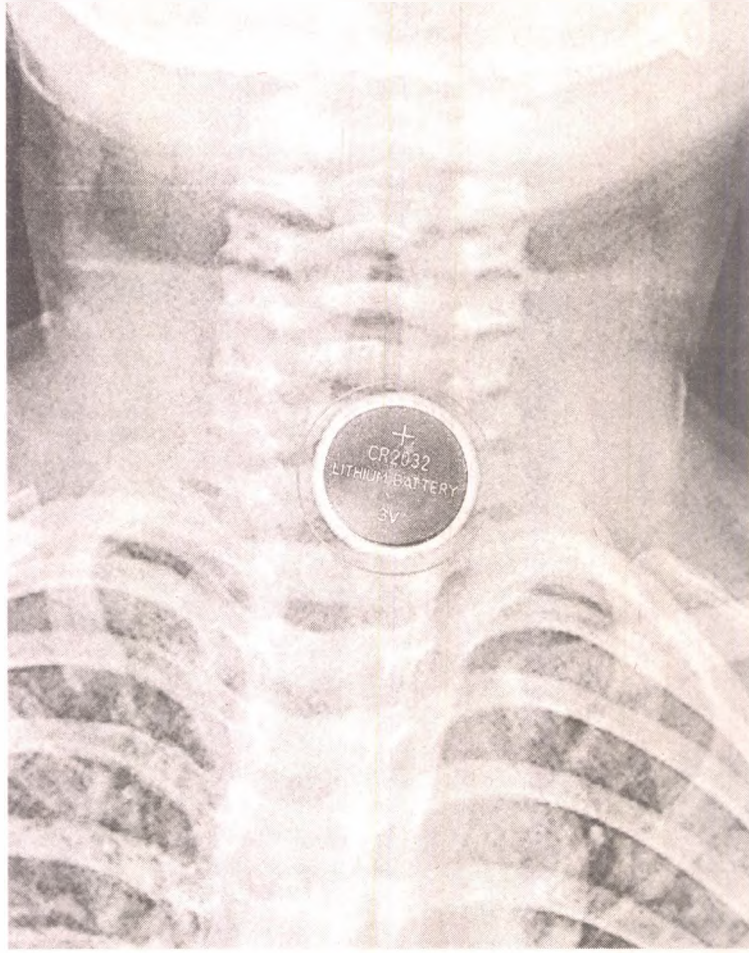
According to the National Capital Poison Center, the trend is growing, with an average of eight children seen in emergency rooms every day.

When a child swallows a coin lithium button battery, the battery often sticks in the child's throat. The child's saliva will trigger an electrical current, which causes a chemical reaction that can severely burn their esophagus in as little as two hours. And once burning begins, damage can continue even after the battery is removed.

The number of coin-sized button battery swallowing cases resulting in serious injury or death, more than quadrupled from 2006-10 compared to the previous five years. Children, 4 and under, are at the greatest risk.

"Parents and caregivers often don't realize that coin-sized button batteries are included in talking and singing children's books and many other common items that are mistakenly left within reach of their children around the home," said Amber Kroeker, Safe Kids Huron Valley coordinator and injury prevention health educator for Mott Children's Hospital.

As demand grows for smaller, slimmer and sleeker electronic devices, the number of coin-sized lithium button batteries in homes grows as well. These batteries power common products around the home, including mini remote control devices for DVD players and MP3 speakers, flameless candles, keyless entry devices,



calculators, bathroom scales, reading lights, children's talking and singing books, singing greeting cards, and watches.

Preventing injury

Keeping coin-sized lithium batteries out of sight and reach of children is one of the easiest ways to avert a trip to the emergency room. Make a television remote control safer by placing duct tape over its battery compartment.

If you suspect that your child has swallowed a battery, head to the emergency room immediately. It may not be obvious at first that something

is wrong. Children can breathe with the coin lithium battery in their throat.

Keep the National Battery Ingestion Hotline's number handy; 202-625-3333. Make caregivers, friends, family members and sitters aware of lithium battery dangers.

Safe Kids works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability to children through age 14 in the United States. Safe Kids Huron Valley is led by University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Visit Safe Kids Huron Valley on Facebook.

NEW FACES

Three doctors recently joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills:

» Nancy K. Juopperi, D.O., is board-certified in neurology with additional qualifications in neurophysiology and headache management. She practices at Seniors Wellness Group of MI, Suite #201, 221 S. Main, Royal Oak, and at the Senior Assessment Center at Botsford Commons, 21440 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills.

Juopperi attended Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing where she currently serves as an assistant clinical professor in its Department of Internal Medicine. Following a yearlong clinical internship at Detroit Osteopathic/Bi-County Community Hospitals in Highland Park, she served a three-year neurology residency at Botsford.

» Jennifer L. Beal, D.O. is a board-certified geriatrician and internal medicine physician who practices at Millennium Medical Group West located at 6149 North Wayne Road in Westland.

Before attending Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing, Beal worked for nearly four years as a nursing assistant. She served a clinical

internship and internal medicine residency at Botsford where she distinguished herself as internal medicine chief resident. Beal completed a yearlong geriatric medicine fellowship at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor.

» Lindsey J. Feldman, D.O., a board-certified internal medicine physician, also practices at Millennium Medical Group West in Westland. She attended T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri. As a

medical student, she served as founder and president of the Jewish Medical Student Association and was inducted into Sigma Sigma Phi, the national honor society in osteopathic medicine. During that time, Feldman also served as a volunteer court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children, as well as a mentor to first-year medical students. She completed her post-graduate clinical training at Botsford.

For more about the Millennium Medical Group visit westland-clinic.com. For more about the Senior Assessment Center at Botsford Commons, see botsfordcommons.org/senior-assessment/.



Juopperi



Beal



Feldman

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"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," a free, ongoing, two-part workshop series, is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 and 14, 2014 in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Exhibition Room on the first floor, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsi-

lanti. "What To Know," on Jan. 7, will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. "What To Do," on Jan. 14, will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified. Call 734-485-8725, or e-mail info@dawnfarm.org.

HO, HO, HOLD on to Your Sanity! Stay Calm This Holiday, and Don't Let Stress Get the Better of You.

From A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. O'Dwyer
Psychology

The reality of the holidays can be very different from the happy family scenes we see in the movies. For many, the season is filled with stress, anxiety and sadness. Psychologist and Clinical Director of GCH's Center for Counseling, Dr. Phil O'Dwyer, provides a unique angle for coping with the pressures of the season.

While preparing to write this article, I did a computer search, and found over 250 million hits for "Dealing with the Holidays". Clearly, there are many people struggling with the added burden that often comes this time of year, and there is no shortage of advice on how to cope. One of the primary stressors for many is the feeling of isolation. We are inundated with images and messages of family, joy and the holiday spirit, which often conflicts with the occurrences of everyday life. But, the truth is you're not alone in feeling depressed, angry or stressed. And, because the embarrassment or shame attached to having these feelings is still so widespread, no one wants to admit to having these feelings. By not admitting our true feelings, it can isolate us even further.

This is not a list of "10 Tips for Managing Holiday Stress" (that can be found in the latest issue of our *Healthy Generations Magazine*, online at GCH.org), but rather a simple suggestion that will help keep you from becoming overwhelmed with negative emotions. *Talking to someone helps*. It just does. The "chemistry" of our emotions must finish itself once started, and somehow find release. We are literally "chemical" beings and there are specific chemical reactions which occur, causing our thoughts and emotions. Once we begin a chain of thoughts that lead to negative emotions, the chain reaction must run its course. How we cope along the way will determine the amount of pain we endure. If you find yourself with no one you feel comfortable confiding in, choose a professional, like a psychotherapist or counselor. Check if your health insurance plan offers assistance programs where some of your counseling sessions would be free-of-charge. If money is an issue in seeking professional support, perhaps you can find a church and talk to a clergyman. Pastors, rabbis, priests, chaplains, they'll listen and many are quite gifted in caring for the human spirit.

Most importantly, if you are convinced you're not worth the moments it might take someone to care for you, stop right now, and believe me - *it's just not true*. Get up and interact with others, do something, I mean anything. I have discovered purpose can be found in doing even the smallest act. Volunteer at a soup kitchen for an hour, call to check on a friend...anything to lift you out of the moment. Interacting with others often leads to conversation and connecting with others ...and feeling better.

PRACTICE SELF-COMPASSION AND BE HAPPY THIS SEASON!

GCH Health Expert, Dr. Phil O'Dwyer will kick off our 2014 Lunch & Lecture series at Westland Mall. Join us for "New Year, New YOU: Positive Psychology" on Saturday, January 18 at 1 p.m. To make an appointment to speak with Dr. O'Dwyer, or any of the GCH Health Experts, visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

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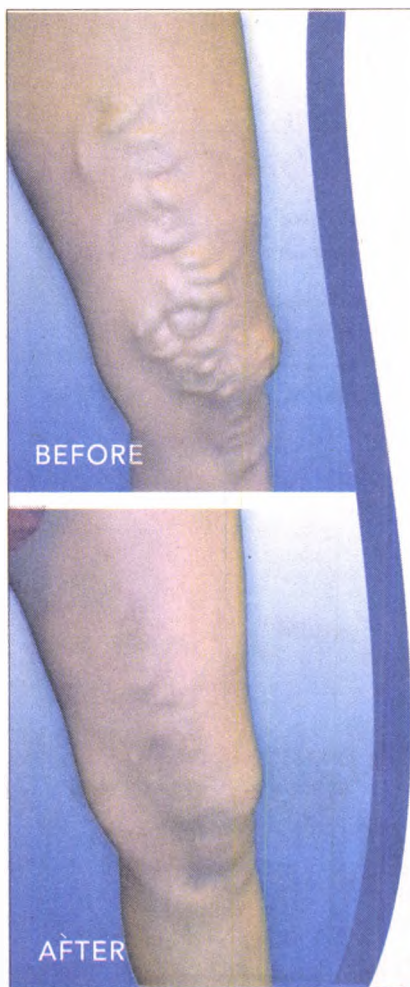
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By Beth Braccio Hering
Special to CareerBuilder

With hiring picking up, is it reasonable for a job seeker to believe that she can resume her career where she left off before becoming unemployed? While most experts agree that it may be possible, they also concur that such a rebound is difficult and takes a great deal of commitment. For those willing to put in the effort, here are five strategies for getting back on the career path.

1. Be certain of your career goals

Before trying to get back on track, be sure you're heading in the direction you really want to go. Having a clear sense of what you want will make it easier to target your efforts towards specific positions and companies.

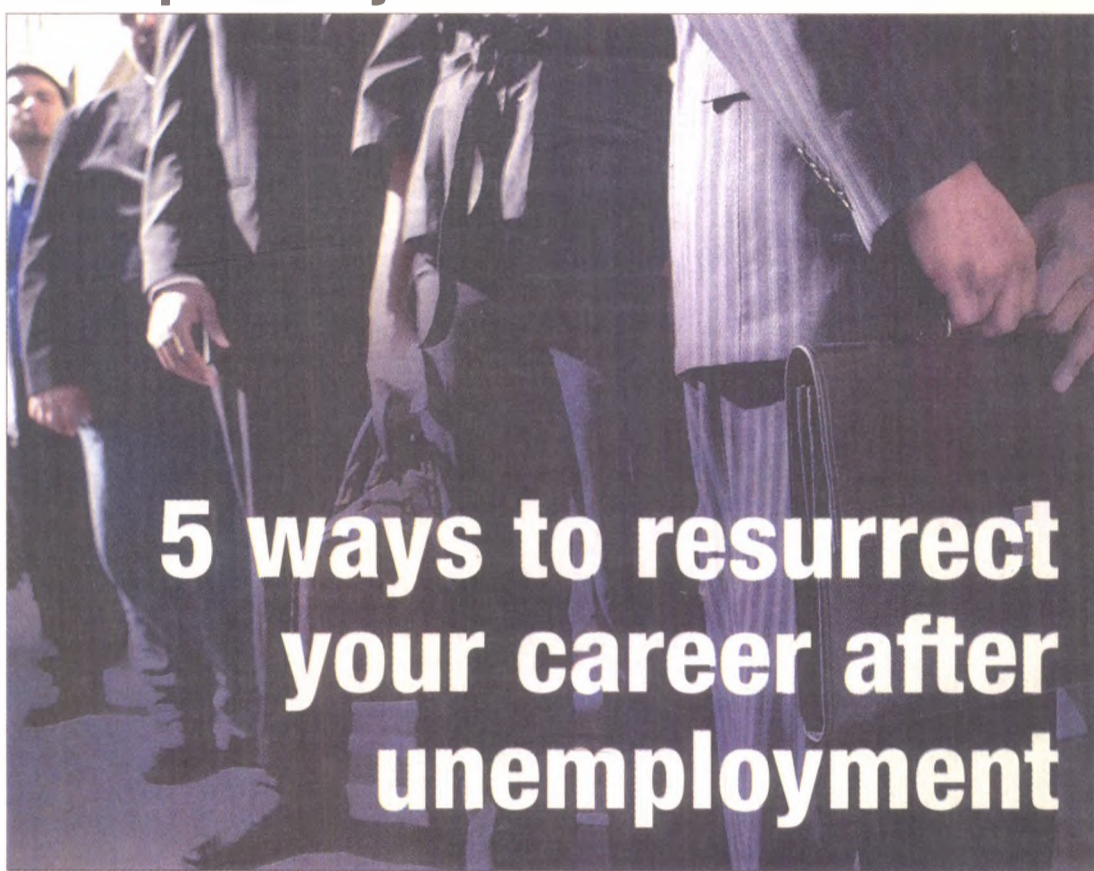
"I would recommend clients reflect if they want to re-enter the same career field or if this is a time to transfer into a new career," says Mike Blount, a career coach at Messiah College Internship Center in Grantham, Penn. Adds Wil Lemire, director of career services at Western New England College in Springfield, Mass., "This may be a good time to do some career assessment to confirm that you are on the right path. Your college career office may be helpful here."

2. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses

What skills and qualities do you bring to the table? Being able to clearly convey your best assets will make you a stronger applicant. But to be an even better candidate, you also need to cast a critical eye and look for things employers might perceive as negatives and fix them.

Linda Matias, president of CareerStrides.com and author of "201 Knockout Answers to Tough Interview Questions: The Ultimate Guide to Handling the New Competency-Based Inter-

Pick up where you left off:



5 ways to resurrect your career after unemployment

view Style," suggests that job seekers write down all the reasons they shouldn't be hired and then formulate a plan on how to address each issue. "Too often, job seekers only pay mind to the reasons they should be hired. When that happens, they are not taking responsibility for their own career. No candidate is a perfect 10, but each job seeker should do whatever it takes to get as close to the number 10 as possible."

3. Stay active and informed

"Be prepared to explain how you've been filling the days since your last job," says Cynthia Favre, director of career services at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. "Employers know that it has been a rough job market, but they still expect that you have something to say about what you've been doing. For maybe

six months you can say you took time to reassess, regroup and refocus, but after that they'll wonder."

"Stagnation is a resume shredder," Blount adds. "Show what you have done for your career."

Ways to keep sharp and prove dedication to your field may include:

- Enrolling in continuing education and skill-building classes.
- Taking on temporary projects or consulting work.
- Keeping up with trade publications and pertinent websites.
- Volunteering in your area of expertise.
- Participating in professional associations and conferences.

4. Network

"When people get to know you, or get reacquainted with you, they are more likely to think to refer opportunities

to you," Favre states. "Use LinkedIn to join groups in your career field or to connect with past colleagues to find out where people are. It's important, too, to continue networking the old-fashioned way. Join professional associations and volunteer to be on committees,

plan events or work the registration table at conferences."

Lemire adds that career fairs provide great networking opportunities as well as a chance to hone your "elevator pitch." "Research the attending companies and participate actively by engaging the recruiters in conversations about the nuances of their company and typical job requirements."

5. Be confident

Finally, don't neglect the fact that unemployment can take a heavy toll on one's self image. You need to come to terms with that period of your life before trying to sell yourself to others.

"Where candidates go wrong is self-confidence. They get defensive, apologetic or uptight when an interviewer asks the perfectly reasonable question, 'Why have you been outside of your field for over a year?'" Matias says. "Surprisingly, many job seekers don't prepare a response to this question ahead of time. It is as though they are hoping the interviewer won't broach the topic. Candidates should prepare a brief response, and then practice saying the response until the answer rolls off the tongue."

Beth Braccio Hering researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder.com. Follow @CareerBuilder on Twitter.



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REQUIREMENTS: An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.
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	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1SPMortgage	138501	(313) 215-1766	4.25	0.25	3.125	1
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	4.375	0	3.25	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(734) 673-2008	4.375	0	3.25	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	4.375	0	3.25	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	4.25	0	3.25	0
Co-op Services Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.25	0.25	3.25	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.25	0	3.5	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.375	0	3.375	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.25	0	3.375	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.25	0.5	3.25	0
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Above Information available as of 11/27/13 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.
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Observer & Eccentric Media

The Observer and Eccentric is looking for an **Auto Account Executive** to cover the suburban Detroit area. This position will work out of the Sterling Heights, MI location.

This position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing auto businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new auto business. The Auto Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Auto sales preferred. Professional bachelors, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.

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ACROSS

1 PC key
4 Mrs. Shakespeare
8 Ad award
12 Yea, to a matador
13 Neutral or first
14 Leftovers dish
15 Peruvian-born Sumac
16 Greedy
18 Carpenter's tool
20 Pouch
21 Cobbler
22 DEA agents
26 Androcles' pal
28 More than misled
31 Yes, in Cherbourg
32 It gives a hoot
33 Frothy
34 Gallery display
35 — Dawn Chong
36 Med. staffers
37 Inventory wd.

DOWN

38 Campaign topic
40 Face the target
41 — Speedwagon
43 Furor
46 Gooney bird
50 Airline ticket word
51 Make cloudy
52 Subarctic tribe
53 Capone foe
54 Rustic lodgings
55 Tacks on
56 Mind reader's letters

Answer to Previous Puzzle

TANK MOAT KHA
OLIO ODIÉ KOS
MOLD VOLE ILK
TEACEREMONY
KID DEF
AYE AID DICEY
RUES NEE TADA
FLOOR NEO TSK
AOL ROW
PARTICIPANT
TAP ABEE GASP
LII TRES ETAL
C-NN EAST DORY

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11 Sighs of distress
17 Peppermint stick
19 Tumultuous noise

23 Crosby (2 wds.)
24 Mongrels
25 Place
26 Loughlin or Petty
27 "— a Teenage Werewolf"
28 Hack off
29 Flaming of 007 novels
30 911 responder
33 Swift-footed
37 Cosmonaut's lab
39 Where Asia begins
40 Altar areas
42 Whale like Shamu
43 Put into service
44 Opens the window
45 Say hoarsely
46 Onassis nickname
47 Cohort of Boris and Bela
48 Dumpster
49 California fort

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

WORDS

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BLITZEN PRANCER
CAROLS PRESENT
CHIMNEY REINDEER
CHRISTMAS RUDOLPH
COMET SACK
CUPID SANTA
DANCER SLED
DASHER SNOWMAN
DONNER STAR
ELVES STOCKING
FROSTY SUGARPLUMS
GIFTS TOY
GINGERBREAD TREE
HOLIDAY VIXEN
HOLLY WORKSHOP
NOEL WRAPPING
WREATH

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

Word Search

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Car Report

Advertising Feature

Highlander Hybrid Offers Winning SUV Formula for Toyota



By Dale Buss

Highlander was one of the sales leaders for Toyota in November, with a 22-percent gain over a year earlier, moving more than 11,500 units in the month across the U.S. market. The mid-sized SUV also is on pace in percentage-increase terms with Toyota's other strong-selling utility vehicles for the year, with Highlander sales rising nearly 6 percent over the first 11 months of 2012.

That's not surprising, given that the vehicle has long been Toyota's staple entry in the crucial mid-size SUV segment and outsells siblings 4Runner by about two-to-one and Venza by about four-to-one. Highlander's status is one reason Toyota offers it alone among its SUV nameplates in a hybrid format.

Starting at prices around \$40,000 and offering 28mpg in both the city and on the highway, the Highlander Hybrid stakes a claim to be perhaps the best of the growing number of hybrid SUVs to be offered across the industry. In fact, U.S. News & World Report rated it as its best hybrid SUV for families for 2013 "because it has the best combination of quality, size and family-friendly features in its class."

The best thing about driving the Highlander Hybrid is that you have to think hard about whether you're driving a hybrid. Sure, it's so quiet in stationary mode that you have to make sure the vehicle in fact is operating. And the vehicle's pickup off the line leaves much to be desired, like a lot of hybrids.

But for day-in, day-out use, Highlander Hybrid provides a great combination of advantages. It's flawless in high-way-cruise mode and provides plenty of juice for acceleration, just what you want in a vehicle that also has a great capacity to carry humans and cargo. There just isn't the sluggishness in response that characterizes some hybrids.

Interior room is ample for the most part, even allowing for the extra room that hybrid batteries sometimes take up. On a long jaunt for the Thanksgiving holiday, Highlander Hybrid provided plenty of room not only for two adults in the front but also for two more adults sprawled out in the second row and a big haul of cargo that ranged from luggage to bags of gifts.

Like the regular Highlander, the hybrid version offers a second-row innovation: The bench slides fore and aft to alter the ratio of legroom to cargo capacity and even reclines, a la a minivan, for greater comfort. Its unique 40/20/40 split design has a removable center section that stows neatly in a special compartment beneath the center console, making access easier to the way-back bench.

One definite problem with the vehicle, however, is that with the third seat row



upright, there's only room in that row for a couple of kids. And in that mode, cargo room behind it is very limited.

Another thing I appreciated in driving the Highlander Hybrid was that the controls and gauges didn't make it obvious at all that I was driving a hybrid. Far removed from the enthusiasm displayed by early hybrid models (including some Toyotas) that featured complicated gauges that showed the flow of electric energy in the car, the Highlander Hybrid plays it pretty straight. You've still got to fill the gas tank before the fuel gauge goes to "E."

And like the regular Highlander, Highlander Hybrid comes equipped standard with a six-speaker stereo with a USB port and Bluetooth, and options such as a helpful backup camera and Toyota's Entune infotainment system.

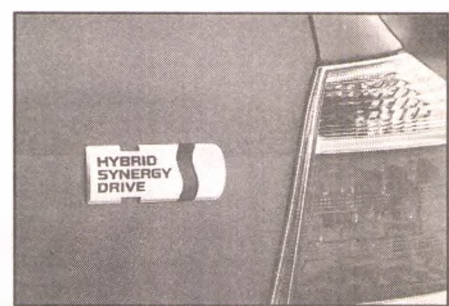
The vehicle comes in base and Limited trims. Power comes from a V6 engine and two electric motors paired to a continuously variable transmission. On-demand all-wheel drive is standard in all models.

All Highlander models were updated for the 2011 model year, with some tweaks since then.

Of course the biggest question with Highlander Hybrid, as with most hybrids, is whether the price premium you pay is really worth it compared with a conventional version of the same vehicle or a comparable nameplate.

I didn't do all the math, but that question with Highlander is very apropos because the premium is about \$10,000 over a regular Highlander, putting it near the top for any mainstream vehicle of the spread between a hybrid and a regular version. And yet with only an 8mpg advantage over the regular Highlander in city driving, the hybrid version takes a long time to complete the payback.

In the meantime, Highlander Hybrid owners will have to be satisfied with making just a slight contribution to the ecosphere – and with the fact that the vehicle they're driving is pretty much the performance equal of the regular Highlander.



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CRAFTSMAN Compressor 150PSI, 3.1 hp, 60 gallon. New, still on pallet, \$420. Shop Blower Little Wonder 8hp, \$400. Call: 313-820-9711

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6 burial plots for sale in Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park, located at 35667 Eight Mile Rd. Livonia MI. We will separate into groups of 2 if necessary. We are asking \$650 per plot and that's a savings of \$200 if you purchase these. These will go fast so call quickly to receive this savings. (941)725-4200 seagyp9@aol.com

YULETIDE MARKETPLACE - Craft & Vendor Show Saturday, Dec. 7 - 9-4 Calvary Baptist Church 43085 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187 (734)455-1132 d-traveleipsu@comcast.net

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SHIH TZU, AKC, P UPIES Vet Checked, shots, cute, blk, gold/white, blk/white. Ready highly socialized 734.699.9525

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FORD F-350 SUPER CAB 2009 4x4, full power, Boss Y-Blade plow. Only 43K 1 owner miles.

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FORD EXPLORER XLT 2008 4.0 V6, moon roof, 4x4, Clean Car Fax. Reduced \$11,594 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

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