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Township OKs its own rec survey

Board members hear call for unity with city, but approve \$50,000 to gauge residents' wants

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

While supporters of a plan to transform Central Middle School into a recreation and cultural center for Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents called for unity, the township Board of Trustees struck out on its own Tuesday, approving a budget that includes money for a survey of

township residents' recreation wants.

The \$50,000 survey line item, out of a \$13 million general fund budget for 2014, drew a large crowd to the township hall meeting room, where supporters of what's been dubbed the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, or PARC, told board members they see the city and township as one Plymouth and that officials should

embrace the chance to repurpose Central, the former Plymouth High School, as a joint recreation and cultural center.

"I would like to see the two communities come together and give the kids an opportunity, give our community an opportunity," said Kathy Meyers, who teaches at Central.

Plymouth 'a community'

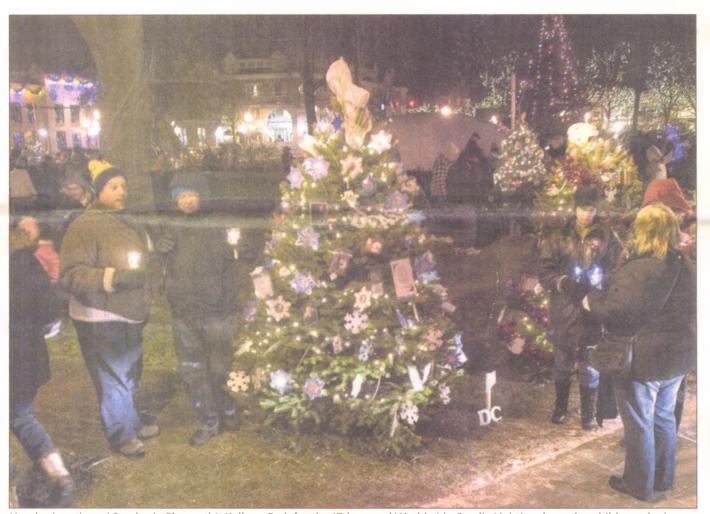
"I don't like the attitude of being divisive and separate and 'We have to have our own

See SURVEY, Page A2



Resident Paula Bowman speaks Tuesday to the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GONE TOO SOON



Hundreds gathered Sunday in Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the 17th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, honoring children who have died too soon. The event is sponsored annually by the Western Wayne County chapter of The Compassionate Friends. For the story and more photos, please turn to page A6. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Board vote clears way for PARC proposal

School officials give tacit approval to rec plan

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Though no one is officially endorsing the plan to turn. Central Middle School into a community arts/recreation complex, a vote Tuesday ly the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education certainly seemed to clear the path for such a project.

The board voted 6-0 (Secretary Adrienne Davis was absent) in favor of a resolution for the disposition of Central Middle School, which the district will close following the 2014-15 school year. The resolution as passed means the board will seek fair market value for the property in a deal that keeps the property as one entity, rather than splitting or dividing it "in any fashion."

Superintendent Michael Meissen said estimates of the fair market value for the property fall between \$3 million and \$4 million. The district will hire a real estate consultant and appraiser to determine the actual value.

"(The resolution) says, 'Let's keep the property together' and expresses an intent to look at fair market value," Meissen said. "The board would be

See BOARD, Page A2

Township board approves \$13 million budget for 2014

Two trustees cast dissenting votes over objections to increased costs for recreation department items

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Plymouth Township's Board of Trustees adopted a \$13 million spending plan for 2014 with a 5-2 vote Tuesday.

The general fund budget includes money for parks and recreation improvements, a point of contention for some board members, as well as

money to cover employee pay raises, new equipment for the Plymouth Community Fire Department and the hiring of an additional full-time public safety dispatcher, among other

expenses.
Supervisor Richard
Reaume, Clerk Nancy Conzelman, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustees Mike Kelly and Kay Arnold voted for the

budget, while Trustees Bob Doroshewitz and Chuck Curmi opposed it.

Priorities questioned

"We need to reallocate our priorities," Curmi said after the meeting, adding that he favors smaller government. Proposed recreation improvements, including a \$625,000 pavilion planned for Plymouth Township Park, were among Curmi's objections, though he said the improvements are "a done deal," since the township

already sold \$1.9 million in

bonds to help pay for them.

Doroshewitz had earlier
objected to \$50,000 budgeted
for a survey of residents' recreation wants, which officials
said will likely be much less
costly, and to the pavilion proposal, which he contended was
expanded without public input.

"The budget is our single most important duty and it would better serve the public if it were not brought, all or nothing, as the last item in the last meeting of the year with-

out opportunity to constructively debate line items that have significant policy impact – such as public safety and the separation of our youth soccer programs from the city," Doroshewitz wrote Wednesday in an email. Recreation changes some officials have discussed have included a separate township recreation department, rather than programs run by the city of Plymouth open to township residents.

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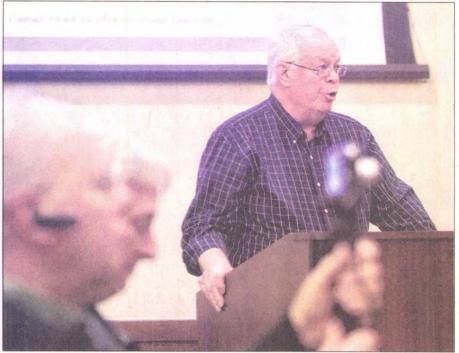


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Appearing at Tuesday's township board meeting, resident Roland Thomas questioned the sustainability of a township-only recreation center. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SURVEY

Continued from Page A1

monument." said Jan Sockolosky, a township resident. She continued: "We are a community. Plymouth is a communi-

Township officials said little about the public comments, which saw 11 people either speak in favor of the PARC plan or question the need for a separate township facility. Supervisor Richard Reaume said that although \$50,000 had been budgeted, the survey will likely cost much less. Reaume also scheduled a Tuesday, Jan. 7, board study session to discuss the township's possible participation in PARC planning.

Central is slated by the Plymouth-Canton Community School District to close after the 2014-15 school year and the PARC movement, which grew out of informal discussions that started last spring, proposes buying the 18-acre site and, using the oldest part of the school building, construct a center that would include an

auditorium, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, arts studios, meeting space, a fitness center, athletic fields and more. Central's facilities are already used by many athletic leagues and community groups, they point out.

Meanwhile, some township officials are rejecting the PARC proposal and coalescing around the idea of improving township recreation facilities, with anything from new walking paths or a dog park to a full-fledged recreation center. They are proposing a formal wants survey of residents and its results, they say, would guide their planning.

The board is divided, however; Trustee Bob Doroshewitz is a member of the PARC steering committee and was involved in early plan-

Doroshewitz and Trustee Chuck Curmi voted against the general-fund budget.

Trustee cut off

Doroshewitz was called out of order Tuesday by Reaume when Deb Madonna, another PARC committee mem-

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ber, began polling trustees on their view of the PARC plan and Doroshewitz responded enthusiastically. Madonna was cut off and no other board members offered her their views of PARC.

"I can't remember that ever happening before, but assume that's the new rule now." Doroshewitz said later, questioning whether board members are able to respond to the public during meetings.

Reaume said the Madonna-Doroshewitz exchange "looked like it was a little bit staged,' prompting Madonna to return to the microphone and object to being singled out. "I asked Mr. Doroshewitz first because he was there," Madonna said. indicating Doroshewitz was the first board member on the left of the dais

"I felt the board was very respectful," said Reaume, who also said he didn't mean to single anybody out.

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Plymouth YMCA gets foundation grant

Giving back and providing support to its neighbors is an area of focus for the Plymouth Family YMCA.

Now, with an additional \$2,500 in funding from the Plymouth Community Foundation, the YMCA will have even more opportunity to give back through its Youth Volunteer Corps, a program that provides service learning activities for teens.

The YMCA's Youth Volunteer Corps is a year-round service learning program for teens ages 13-18. Teens are offered at least two service opportunities each month during the school year and they have the opportunity to sign up for one-week projects each week during the summer.

The program is supported by various organizations, including funds from the Plymouth Community United Way, the Wilcox Foundation and now the Plymouth Community Foundation.

'The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living



Kathy Aznavorian and Abe Mumfakh from the Plymouth Community Foundation present a check to Pam Cox, YMCA board member.

and social responsibility," said Sage Hegdal, director at the Plymouth Family YMCA. "Funding from the Plymouth Community Foundation will allow us to extend our summer volunteer program offering teens even more opportunities to discover who they are and to take an active role in making meaningful, enduring change in our community. We are

thrilled to receive their support."

The YMCA Youth Volunteer Corps has several service-learning projects coming up in December and January, including work Monday, Dec. 16, with the Salvation Army. For information about the YMCA Youth Volunteer Corps or to register for programs, contact the YMCA at 734-453-2904.

BOARD

Continued from Page A1

interested in determining the viability of a plan for

a community purpose."
The board has considered nine options, none more prominent than the one presented by the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex committee. That PARC group, a coalition of individuals, cultural organizations and athletic groups, is working on purchasing Central Middle School once it closes after the 2014-15 school year and transforming it into a cultural and recreation

The PARC facility could include sports fields, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, a fitness center, an auditorium and art studio and meeting space.

While Tuesday's vote wasn't a direct endorsement of the PARC project, PARC steering committee member Don Soenen was pleased with the resolution.

'I want to thank ... all those who've worked with PARC," Soenen told board members at Tuesday's meeting. "The project is coming along extremely well. We've been rather tenacious and we'll be just as passionate about seeing this project through.'

The resolution's key

» The property will not be split or divided in any fashion, "but rather it shall be owned, operated and controlled by a single entity.

» The board "recognizes the desirability of having the CMS property utilized for community or other purposes subsequent to the cessation

of its public educational use as a middle school.'

The PARC plan already has the endorsement of the Plymouth City Commission, which voted to support it last week. Board of Education President John Barrett stressed Tuesday's vote doesn't go as far as endorsing the PARC plan and that the board would be willing to listen to other options. He does, however, like the PARC

plan.
"The resolution just means we're open to working with (PARC) and hearing their complete plan," Barrett said. "I think the PARC plan is an outstanding design. If they can get the resources for it, it would be a great addition to the community."

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BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

Big-ticket items

Public safety, at more than \$8 million, takes up more than half the general fund budget. That includes nearly \$3.84 million for the police department, \$3.06 million for the fire department and \$1.15 million for emergency dispatch, which services both departments.

The fire department has money budgeted for new firefighters' air tanks and for two heart defibrillators. The board will look further into the fire department's equipment needs at a study meeting scheduled for

Tuesday, Jan. 7. General administra-tion (\$3.1 million) and the parks and recreation (\$657,673) and building (\$410,784) departments also take up significant portions of the budget.

Edwards questioned the two budget no votes, suggesting Doroshewitz and Curmi should have compromised on the

"There's stuff in the budget I don't like, but you've got to run the community," he said.

Edwards added: "We've been fiscally responsible for years here."

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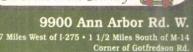
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PLYMOUTH NURSERY Christmas in the Country





Bill would spur sale of old DeHoCo site

Heise introduces legislation that would force state to clean up, sell former prison site

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, announced the introduction of House Bill 5179 that will transfer the state-owned Detroit House of Corrections prison site in Plymouth Township to the Michigan Land Bank Author-

"It's time for this eyesore to go. Our residents deserve to see it developed and the state has a duty to make it happen, Heise said. "The DeHoCo site is the heart of the Five Mile corridor between Plymouth and Northville townships and the Michigan Land Bank is the proper agency to see that it's cleaned up and marketed for jobs and economic development."

Heise has worked with

leadership from Plymouth and Northville townships and Wayne County since 2011 on the development of the Five Mile corridor from Napier to Sheldon roads.

Heise successfully led the legislative effort to sell the former Scott Prison site at Five Mile and Beck to Northville Township, which now plans to develop the vacant site.

The DeHoCo site, formerly owned by the city of Detroit as a jail

facility, was purchased by the state of Michigan in 1979 as part of a regional prison reform

effort. The state built additional prison buildings on the site, which was eventually closed by the state in 1986.

Studies done in 2004 confirmed that substantial environmental contamination is prevalent at the site, which will need to be cleaned up as part of a sale to a private developer or prior to a

sale taking place. "The Michigan Land Bank Authority are the experts at turning around old, contaminated sites like DeHoCo," Heise said.

"They know how to leverage grants, tax incentives and market these sites for development and jobs. While the property will not be turned around as quickly as Robert Scott Prison, it's critical that we get started and get the right people on board now.'

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said he strongly supports the bill.

"Plymouth Township has been asking the state for years to clean up and market this site as part of our Five Mile development efforts," Reaume

said.
"(Heise) has again
taken the lead to help make this happen and fight for real quality of life issues that matter to the people of Plymouth and Northville."

Vets commemorate Pearl Harbor attack



Members of the honor guard from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 - Frank Gilbo (from left), Dave Banks, Rick Popa, Rich Whipple and Jerry Thomason - get ready for the rifle salute during the Pearl Harbor Day commemoration.

Local VFW, American Legion posts host ceremony to remember Dec. 7, 1941

Seventy-two years after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, veterans in the Plymouth area have not forgotten.

About three dozen people, many of them military veterans, recognized Pearl Harbor Day with a brief wreath-laying ceremony Saturday at Plymouth Community

Veterans Memorial Park. The Dec. 7, 1941, attack on the U.S. Navy base in Hawaii killed more than 2,400 Americans, severely damaged the U.S. fleet and marked the country's entry into World War II.

"It was mainly the military veterans that were there," Frank Pawelak, the master of ceremonies, said of Saturday's event. Pawelak, an Army veteran who served in the 1960s, is commander of the American Legion Post 391, a sponsor of the commemoration.

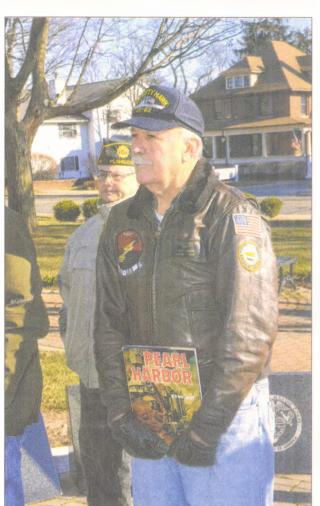
The event included a wreath laying at the park's World War II memorial and a rifle salute by the honor guard from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528.

Pawelak had official

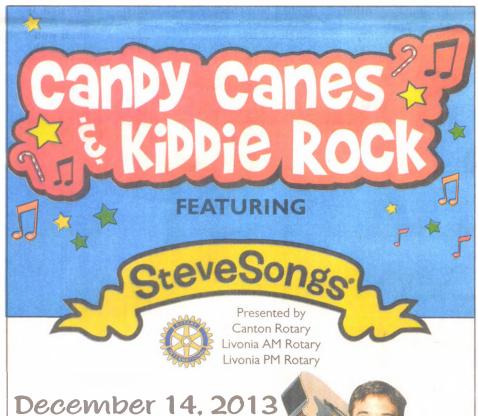
Blue Star Flags, displayed by families to indicate a relative is in U.S. military service, available Saturday; he said one ceremony attendee picked up a flag to honor his grandson.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, with American Legion Post 391 and the local VVA chapter, also helped organize the event.

– Bv Matt Jachman



Richard Zanetti of Farmington Hills at the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony Saturday in Plymouth. The wreath laying honored those who lost their lives in the attack on the naval base PHOTOS BY TOM REALIDOIN

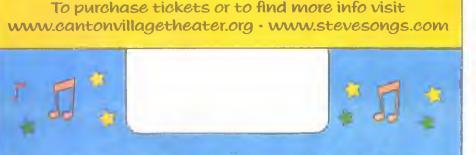


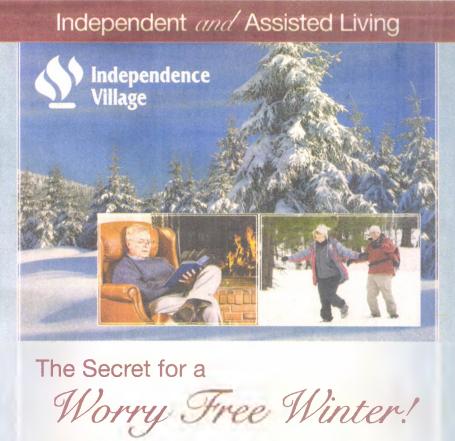
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Fire prevention poster contest winners announced

The Canton Fire Department honored local children Tuesday night during a ceremony honoring the winners of this year's Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

The ceremony at the Canton Administration Building honored local elementary school children who entered the contest sponsored in conjunction with Fire Prevention

The contest is intended to educate children on fire prevention awareness. This year's posters followed the National Fire Prevention Week theme "Stay Fire Smart – Don't Get Burned."

categories, first through third grade and fourth through This year's winners from the earlier grades are first place, Hiba Ghias, third

Posters were judged in two

grade, Achieve Charter Academy; second place, Angelina Horral, third grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; third place, Kayla Joy Powell, third grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; and honorable mention, Ryan McCaig, first



This year's winners (front row, from left) are Kayla Powell, Gloria Ravuri, Arulvel Rajeswaran, Dillion St. Ledger, Isabel Mossel and Angelina Horral. Standing behind them (from left) are Fire Inspector Nichole Hamilton, Fire Chief Josh Meier, Chamber President Thomas Paden and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein. CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

grade, All Saints Catholic

Winners from grades four through six are first place, Gloria Ravuri, sixth grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; second place, Dillon St. Ledger, sixth grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; third

place, Arulvel Rajeswaran, fifth grade, Dodson Elementary School; and honorable mention, Isabel Mossel, sixth grade, Plymouth Christian Academy.

This year's event was sponsored by the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Driver cited

An alert witness trailed a hit-and-run driver and then notified Canton police of his whereabouts, resulting in the suspect being cited for leaving the scene of a property damage accident, a police report said.
The incident started

around 6 p.m. Dec. 4 near Haggerty and Palmer, when the 40-year-old suspect was seen striking another car and then fleeing the scene, the report said.

The witness, exiting the Meadowoods Townhomes complex, trailed the suspect to another nearby neighborhood, confronted him and asked him why he didn't stop at the accident, the police report said.

The suspect reportedly said he was late for work. Police indicated the driver showed no signs of using alcohol or narcotics. He was issued a citation for leaving the scene.

Felon apprehended

Canton police arrested a 50-year-old man who was wanted for a felony parole violation out of Missouri, a police report said.

Police patrolling on Ford Road near Canton Center noticed the man walk across bustling Ford even though he wasn't in a crosswalk, the report said. The man proceeded to the Meijer parking lot, where police caught up with him.

It was learned he was wanted for a felony out of Missouri, though the police report didn't indicate what type of crime. Canton police notified Missouri authorities, who asked that he be held until they could seek extradi-

Hit-and-run

A 35-year-old woman from El Paso, Texas, notified Canton police after she said her 2010 Honda Odyssey was struck from behind by a man who fled the scene in a 2007 Chrysler Sebring, a police report said.

The incident happened about 8 p.m. Monday on westbound Ford at Haggerty - one of Michigan's highest-crash intersections.

The woman had stopped for the traffic light when the incident occurred.

Both drivers got out of their cars, she informed the other driver she was calling the police and the two made arrangements to pull into a gas station, the police report

The woman pulled over; the other driver fled.

- By Darrell Clem

Level lifted

A man described as a repeat shoplifter stole a laser leveling device, priced at \$199.99, Friday afternoon from the Home Depot on Five Mile at Beck, police said.

The thief eluded a store security worker who tried to confront him, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said, and drove north on Beck in a gray Ford F-150 pickup truck with a plow.

The security worker told police he had seen the man take the anti-theft sensor from the level and conceal the level

in his jacket. He told police the man was suspected of stealing from the store previously and that he had been trying to catch him for months.

Credit-card fraud

A township man reported Dec. 3 that \$3,000 in unauthorized charges had been made in November on two store credit cards belonging to him.

The victim told police he learned of the fraud Nov. 17 when he was contacted by the credit-card department at each store and asked to verify the charges. Both charges, one for \$777.75 and another for

\$2,223.11, had been made at stores in California, a police

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

report said. The credit accounts were

canceled.

Car looted

Cash, credit cards, a cellphone and a lunchbox were reported stolen Saturday from a car parked at Atlas Tube, on Eckles north of Plymouth Road.

The victim, an employee, told police he had left the lunchbox in his Pontiac Firebird about 9:30 p.m. Friday and went back to the factory to finish his shift. He returned to

the car about midnight, he said, to find the items missing from the car.

The victim was uncertain if he had locked the Firebird upon leaving it earlier; police found no signs of forced entry.

Vandalism

Garage doors and a house were spray-painted and a car was egged one night last week in an outbreak of vandalism in the area of Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon.

Police responded Friday morning to a report that a Ford Flex parked in the driveway of a house on Turtlehead Court

had been egged and the garage door spray-painted with the words "pun-day" in brown paint, a police report said. While there, officers noticed vandalism at a neighboring house, this one on Turtlehead Drive, the report said.

There, the main garage door and a living room window had been spray-painted with words and another garage door had also been painted: the door's windows had been painted over and the door handle was covered with brown paint, police said.

- By Matt Jachman



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House bills begin attack on trafficking

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

State Rep. Kurt Heise has said one of the biggest problems the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking faces is defining the depth and breadth of the problem and figuring out whether "we're inventing a crisis where none really ex-

Now that the commission has produced its 2013 report to the governor and Legislature, commission members have a better idea of the enormity of the problem facing them - and they're pretty sure it's a big one.

"It told us a lot about ourselves as a state," said ship. "The problem is real." Heise, R-Plymouth Town-

According to the report, an estimated 20.9 million men, women and children are trafficked for commercial sex or forced labor worldwide. Approximately 75 percent of the victims are women, while 27 percent are children.

A 76-city FBI raid in July led to the arrest of 18 pimps in the Detroit area, more than any other city, and recovered 10 children. Only San Francisco (12) had more.

Taking action

"The FBI raid in Detroit confirmed our beliefs," Heise said. "The report is the most comprehensive of the crisis and what to do about it."

Now the Legislature is doing something about it. The Michigan House passed legislation to strengthen protections for human trafficking victims. Taking its cue from the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking, the House included a Safe Harbor provision that will treat children as victims, not criminals.

HB 5012, introduced by Rep. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake, creates a presumption that a minor found engaging in prostitution is a victim of human trafficking and man-



Heise



dates law enforcement refer the minor victims for appropriate treatment within the Department of Human Services.

HB 5026, introduced by Heise, provides minor sex trafficking victims Safe Harbor by ensuring the Michigan Department of Human Services has the jurisdiction to treat minors as victims and not delinquents when they are in danger of substantial physical or psychological harm. HB 5026 and HB 5012 were tie-barred together.

The House also passed a resolution to amend the **Federal Communications** Decency Act to prohibit human traffickers from exploiting victims through online classified ad sites, another recommendation of the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking.

Good start

Kowall worked heavily with the Safe Harbor provisions and thinks the House came up with solid legislation.

"This Safe Harbor legislation is nothing short of a sea change as to how we view those caught up in human trafficking," Kowall said.
"These bills will provide victims with the tools to begin rebuilding their lives and hope for a brighter future.'

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette praised the House for the actions

"A child forced to have sex is a victim, not a criminal," Schuette said. "This victim-centered Safe Harbor legislation ensures young survivors are treated with care — a key recommendation from the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking.

Despite the arrests in the FBI raid, both Heise

and Kowall believe it's going to take a holistic approach to attack the problem. It can't just be a law-enforcement problem, Heise said. Other agencies - the governor's office, the Legislature and social service organizations — will have to work cooperatively.

Collecting data

According to the report, the FBI in 2011 opened 183 human trafficking investigations, made 187 arrests and got 79 convictions in the United States. In addition, 352 cases were opened by the FBI on matters related to the commercial sexual exploitation of minors cases that may have also been related to human trafficking. In those 352 cases, the FBI obtained 196 convictions. Those are national numbers; the FBI doesn't have Michigan-specific data.

Better numbers are what the Legislature is going to need going for-

ward.
"The problem is obviously very real," Heise said. "But I want to get even better data. I want more accurate numbers so we can get a better handle on it."

While the report was about what they expected, both Heise and Kowall were a little surprised at the breadth of the problem.

'I think during the whole process I was shocked and appalled at how far and wide this problem is, that it's going on right under our noses," Kowall said. "It's like the second-largest organized crime in the world right now.

"Sometimes I ask myself if human beings as a species have evolved one nano-second," she added. "You can get real depressed, but then you realize you have to get out and do something about it.'

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P-CEP National Honor Society seeks annual SJ5K nominations

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park National Honor Society host its fourth annual 5K at the beginning of May on the

high school campus. The event was created in 2011 in honor of 16year-old P-CEP student Jesse Lindlbauer, when a sinus infection turned into an abscess which ruptured, causing a traumatic brain injury. The SJ5K run was created in order to bring the community support to the family and raise money to help defray medical expenses

After the success of the SJ5K the first year, **National Honor Society** decided to make the

SJ5K an annual event. Over the last two years, it has continued to provide support for local families. Last year, the event brought the community together to support Salem High School's Max Merget, Plymouth High School's Erinne Williams and Jayden

Jayden was born with hydrocephalus, a rare medical condition in which fluid builds up in the brain. He wasn't expected to live past six months, but he beat the odds and is now 4 years old. Jayden has been through seven brain surgeries and countless doctor appointments.

Javden needs to be watched around the clock and his mother Lauren faces challenges providing for Jayden since she cannot have a full-time

Williams is a 15-yearold student who has lived with spinal muscular atrophy, a motor neuron disease similar to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) since before her first birthday. Since her diagnosis, Williams has been through 19 pneumonias, 11 surgeries and 21 hospitalizations. She is confined to a wheelchair and forced to use a breathing machine.

Merget is a senior at Salem who has battled

brain cancer since he was 3. In January 2013, Merget was diagnosed with cancer for the fourth time. The previous three times Merget beat the cancer and he is optimistic about beating the cancer for a fourth

Merget has created a nonprofit foundation called maxyourbrain in conjunction with the University of Michigan to help raise money for

cancer research.

The group's goal is to select a local family or individual (defined as living within the boundaries of the Plymouth-**Canton Community** School district) who, as a result of unforeseen life-altering circumstances, finds themselves with a specific need (outside of normal living expenses) which could not be attained without the proceeds of the SJ5K.

Nominations will be considered by the SJ5K Committee. The nomination form and other information regarding the race can be found at SJ5K.org.

The nominations form must be returned by Jan. 21 either to beth.savalox@pccsmail.net or mailed to SJ5K Review Committee, c/o Beth Savalox, Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Rd., Canton, MI 48187.



Grand Opening









Jamie Fidler signs the song "Calling All Angels" by Train during Sunday's ceremony. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candle ceremony honors those gone too soon

Compassionate Friends organizes annual local event to remember children who've died

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

They came to mourn, to shed tears and to share laughs over those gone too soon.

The Compassionate
Friends' candle-lighting
service Sunday evening
in Plymouth drew dozens
of people to Kellogg
Park, where, with poetry,
song and a "circle of
light" echoed around the
world, they remembered
relatives and friends who
died before their time.

"There are several times a year I try to make it his day," said Kevin Moss, who lost son Wiley Moss, 22, in 2010. Wiley was happy, generous and "the best kid ever," said his father, who attended with a family friend.

"I miss him every day," Kathy Rambo said of her son Jason, who died in 2001 at age 19.

Moss, of Novi, and Rambo, a Canton Township resident who read a poem, Candles in the Dark, during the ceremony, were two of those who raised candles and braved bitter cold to honor their loved ones Sunday.

It was The Compassionate Friends' 17th annual worldwide candle lighting and also the 17th event in Plymouth.

'This helps me'

The event included the reading of three poems, recorded music – Calling All Angels by the pop group Train, I Light This Candle by Alan Pederson and To Where You Are by Josh Groban – and the reading of nearly 400 names of the deceased, who were also remembered on ornaments that decorated TCF-sponsored Christmas trees in the park.

mas trees in the park.
"You never get over
the loss of a child. This
helps me through the
grieving process, to help
others," said Rambo, a
co-leader of the western
Wayne County TCF chapter.

There were similar events Sunday, orga-

nizers said, at 7 p.m. local time in every time zone across the globe, adding up to a rotating 24-hour

Kevin Moss, attending his fourth Kellogg Park TCF ceremony, said it was an opportunity to remember his son and be sad and happy at the same time. His ex-wife, Lisa Moss, had gotten him involved with The Compassionate Friends, he said, and is still involved herself.

Wiley was "crazy in a good way," "awesome" and "looked after every-

body," he said.

Moss recalled that
when Wiley was on his
high school's homecoming court as a sophomore,
an overweight girl had
also been elected to the
court as a prank, but that
his son went out of his
way to dance with her,
make her feel comfortable and help her get the
most out of the event. "I
got this," Wiley told his
father at the time.

Wiley was the life of the party, Moss and his friend agreed. "He's got them laughing up there," Moss said.

Paying forward

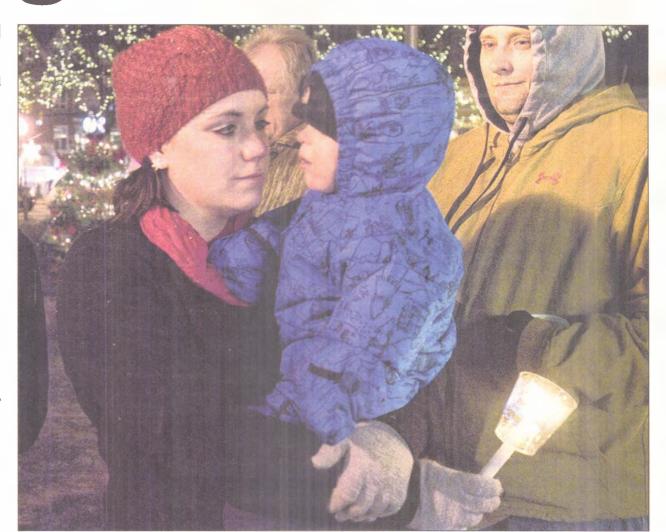
Jason Rambo was "energetic" and "full of life," his mother said.

"In those 19 years, he just loved life," she said. Gail Lafferty, an event organizer, agreed with Rambo that reaching out to others who are griev-

ing helps them with their own mourning. Lafferty lost son Max, 18, the day after Christmas in 1995. "The holidays are hard for us," Lafferty said. "People were there for me. ... This is kind of paying it forward."

The western Wayne County chapter of The Compassionate Friends meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia. The group's phone number is 734-778-0800 and its website is www.tcflivonia.org.

mjachman@hometownlife.com 313-222-2405 Twitter: @mattjachman



Sarah Biniarzi, holding son Bradley, and Aaron Biniarzi at Sunday's vigil in memory of Bradley's twin, Anthony. The family is from Woodhaven. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

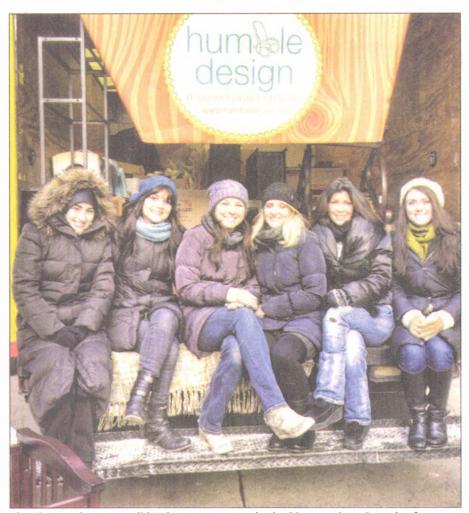


An ornament on a tree in Kellogg Park was dedicated to Andrew Myska. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Antoinette Biniarzi attended the ceremony to honor grandson Anthony Biniarzi. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



The Rima Designs team didn't let temperatures in the 20s stop them Saturday from helping Humble Design. Rima volunteers manned their Penniman Avenue station to collect pieces of furniture, bed linens, TVs, DVD players and the like for Humble Design, a metro Detroit charity that partners with local homeless and abuse shelters. Pictured are Rima volunteers Batoul Ayoub of Dearborn, Andrea Skupski of Plymouth, Rima Belau of Plymouth, Jurate Barry of Toronto, Ontario, Dawn Gallagher of Northville and Alicia Jonik of Grand Rapids.

Spotlight on youth

Dates/Times: Dec. 12-13, 7 p.m.; Dec. 14-15, 2 p.m. and 7

Location: Biltmore Studio in the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Can-

Details: Spotlight on Youth presents A Wonderful Worldful of Christmas. The show is approximately an hour in length, plus an intermission, perfect for little ones who can't sit still long. The story involves Billy, who believes in Santa Claus but her sister doesn't. When a mysterious, magical postman shows up to personally deliver Billy's letter to the North Pole, he invites the siblings to go with him - although he has a few stops along the way in other countries. Tickets are \$10 each and are available by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460 or online at www.canton-

mi.org/villagetheater or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door.

Contact: For more information 248-719-3637

Living nativity

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 21,

Location: Lake Pointe Bible Church, 42150 Schoolcraft Road in Plymouth.

Details: Lake Pointe Bible Church hosts a living nativity scene. All are welcome. Contact: 734-420-0515

Holiday in

the Islands Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 15, 2

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,

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: Jan. 8, 2014, 1-3

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 neces-

Contact: United Home Health Services at 734-981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/pages/

about.html.

Colbeck breakfast

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 13, 7-9:30 a.m.

Location: George's Senate Coney Island, 39430 Dun Rovin 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.

Kiwanis Club set for annual bell ringing

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth is once again lending its efforts to the Plymouth Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign, which kicked off last month and runs through Dec. 24.

All monies collected are put to use in the Plymouth community.

"The Salvation Army is a fundamental part of our Kiwanis Club because every penny collected goes to meeting the needs of those families requiring assistance in the Plymouth Community," said Frank Sinagra, Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth president.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign is the most visible and most important fundraiser of the year. "It sets the tone for our program efforts for the following year and what we are able to do until October 2014," said Maj. Keith Bailey, the corps officer at the Plymouth Salvation Army. "Our needs are still drastically up. Many in the community have returned to work, but still are in need of assistance, while giving has gone down in recent years."

The Plymouth Salvation Army projects the need will be just as high as last year within the community. Some folks that have helped raise money in the past are now seeking assistance. Bailey hopes those in the Plymouth community who are able to assist will "step up" and give generously when they walk by one of the area kettles.

Coins, paper money and checks are welcomed. Bailey urges that people put their donation in the kettles in Plymouth area so the money will be directed to the needs in the local community.

Monies collected during the campaign are used to help families in need with assistance for



The Plymouth Kiwanis clubs are set to ring bells for the Salvation Army at five locations Friday and Saturday.

utility bills, food and clothing. Even in a community as affluent as Plymouth, there are families that been struck with unfortunate circumstances.

The Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth will be out ringing bells Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14, for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign on at five Plymouth locations: Hiller's at Five Mile and Haggerty; Busch's at Sheldon and Five Mile; Kmart at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty; Greek Islands at Penniman and Main; and Kroger at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon.

Bailey said that without the help of the two Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth and the Plymouth Rotary Club the collection efforts would not be as successful. People respond better to giving when they see their local merchants, business people, bankers, attorneys and civil servants out helping with the collection efforts, he said.

Also the students from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Key Club (more than 200 students

job done

industry.

equipment is

This is where

the entire truck

is the vacuum

and the truck

motor powers

the equipment

You'll know it's

a Power Vac

truck because

it's the size of an

the

this year) help attract other students and their families to the giving

"Instead of looking away when passing the Red Kettle, people tend to come over to visit with the bell ringer they know and contribute what financial donation they can," Bailey said.

The Plymouth Salvation Army serv s the Belleville, Canton, Northville and Plymouth communities. Each community has Red Kettle bell ringers throughout their community until Christmas Eve.

The Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth include the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth and Plymouth Kiwanis Club (Evening). The P-CEP Key Club (the high school equivalent to a Kiwanis Club) will also be participating in this year's bell ringing efforts. In 2012, the friendly contest between the Kiwanis and the Rotary resulted in the Kiwanis raising the most money in the bell ringing effort during their respective two days they each assist with the Red Kettle Cam-

"Why All the Household Dust?"

Keith Mendow of American Power Vac, Inc. For years, I've been improving our community's health one family at a time. By now we've all heard the statistics: 50% of all illness is a direct relation to dirty indoor air and our indoor air is up to 90 times more polluted than outdoor air. Yet, 90% of the calls I receive everyday are from desperate people complaining about dust. They tell me they dust the T.V. on Friday. but by Sun-day they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch Dancing with the Stars, and none of them know exactly where it's coming from. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not because you're a bad housekeeper, I tell people that by simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold

Cold air returns suck in dirty air, and over time it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag.

website OUL www.americanpowervac.com for an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a

Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners are experiencing dust. While your drywall was being sanded, your cold air returns sucked all of the dust through the system and it settled on the bottom of the duct lines where a little at a time gets blown back into your home. To prove it, take a walk

ceiling for thin she

return lines. Give them a good pounding. You'll see puffs of dust seeping out of the edges. That my friends, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problems!

This debris cannot be removed without a professional. Which brings me to my next point choosing an air company. Mos companies portable units,

which are like shop vac that you would vacuum your car with, obviously absolutely Then useless.

there are companies who claim they have a truck-mounted system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van, again, absolutely useless. Visit our website for photos of our equipment

vs nortable or truck mou www.americanpowervac.com.



April and Keith Meadows help keep indoor air clean with their local business, American Power Vac.

"One of the best companies I have ever

had working in my home. They were very professional and I was very satisfied with their workmanship and clean up. I would hire your company again in a heartbeat, and would gladly spread the word to family, friends and neighbors. Great company you have going."

C Miller Bloomfeld Hills C. Miller, Bloomfield Hills

"American Power Vac is amazing. You are outstanding in professional manner and in how courteous you are." L. Bermudez, Sterling Heights

for more testimonials visit us @ www.americanpowervac.com

ambulance and when engaged twelve large air bags will come What makes the difference in equipment?

Power! To put things into perspective, your

furnace moves 2,000 CFM's (cubic feet of

air per minute), basically what you feel

coming out of your register. Truck-mounted

Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, more than quadruple the power of American any truck-mounted equipment. Power Vac has the equipment

Beware of companies using cheap equipment and advertising cheap prices. most are unlicensed or advertise that they are licensed and are not!

Avoid Scams by not falling for cheap get you in the door prices.

When asked what sets you apart from your competitors Keith says "Honest service is number one, equipment is number two. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile, and respecting people's homes and their belongings." There are a lot of duct cleaners around but rest assured you'll receive the same Quality and Service we expect. American Power Vac is family owned

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ADVERTORIAL





PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Holiday help

Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth will be donating \$3 of every watch battery sold during the month of December to the Plymouth Salvation Army "doing the most good" for those in need, according to Plymouth Downtown Development Authority offi-

Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth has also extended holiday hours for shopping convenience. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m.

The store will also be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Red Ryder

Visitors can celebrate the holidays at the Plymouth Historical Museum with the new exhibit "A Red Ryder Christmas Story." The exhibit is based on the Christmas movie, A Christmas Story, as well as the original story by Jean Shepherd from which the movie is based.

The museum will be filled with vignettes of scenes from the movie, including the infamous leg lamp and Flick's tongue getting stuck to the lamp pole. The movie and stories are nostalgic of the late depression era and early years of World War II, which the exhibit seeks to capture by incorporating items from the time period.

Since Red Ryder BB guns were originally sold by Daisy Manufacturing Co. of Plymouth, the story of Ralphie's quest for this particular BB gun is significant to Ply-mouth's history. "A Red



The Z Spot Fitness Studio held a ribbon cutting in November at its location at 1472 Sheldon in the CVS plaza. The Z Spot is a fitness center for women of all activity levels and ages that offers more than 14 types of fitness classes and personal training. Cutting the ribbon are business manager Gail Grieger and fitness manager Marsha Kreza. They are joined by a multitude of women who have experienced their classes and other supportive community members.

Ryder Christmas Story" runs through Jan. 19.

Also, Santa Claus will be present at the museum for visiting children every Saturday before Christmas. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students 6-17. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street. Visit its website or call 734-455-8940 for more information.

Toys for Tots

» Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel announce its annual Toys for Tots collection drive has begun. Each of the 16 Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel offices, including the Plymouth-Canton branch, will be a local toy drop-off loca-

The Plymouth/Canton branch is located at 177 N. Main in Plymouth. Call 888-819-0691.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program collects new, unwrapped toys during November and December each year and distributes these toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children within the commu-

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel has a long history of being involved with this program and as the company grows through the years, it is able to provide more physical locations as official drop-off

» Victory Lane Quick Oil Change of Plymouth is supporting the local Toys for Tots chapter this holiday season. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 18, when all will be collected. Victory Lane has consistently been a supporter of local organizations that help strengthen the community.

As a part of the program, Toys for Tots collects new, unwrapped toys during the months of November and December in collection bins throughout the community.

Anyone wishing to support Victory Lane can stop in and drop off an unwrapped toy in the collection bin. Those who would rather support Toys for Tots financially can do so by visiting www.toysfortots.org. For more information on store locations and hours, please visit www.victorylane.net or call 734-667-4304.

Victory Lane Quick Oil Change is located at 903 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.



Rick and Pat Ruhland are opening their second All American Pet Resort in Canton next

New 'resort' suite retreat for pooches

Owners open location in Canton as place where pet owners can have peace of mind

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

As Rick Ruhland sees it, if it's good for the east side, it's good for the west side. That's why he and his wife Pat are opening their second All American Pet Resort in Canton next week.

It makes sense for the Garden City couple who also own the All American Pet Resort on Cornillie Drive in Roseville.

'We live on this side of town," Ruhland said. "Our son runs the one in Roseville, but we said let's put one in closer to home. We decided that if it's good for that side of town, let's do it on this side of town.'

The Ruhlands will be holding an open house 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at the new facility, located at 7320 Haggerty, north of Warren Road, in Canton. It will be the only time pet owners will get a chance to see the entire facility. Once it's open, the only view of the accommodations will be through a window on the observation deck.

The 6,000-square-foot facility has suites for 78 dogs, ranging in size from small to extra large. It has a rubber-coated indoor play yard and four artificial turf-covered outdoor exercise areas one for a group and three for those dogs that "don't play well with others.

Climate-controlled

It is completely cagefree, 100-percent climatecontrolled with a complete air exchange every 20 minutes and interiors covered with the same antimicrobial coating used in hospital operating rooms. It also offers 24/7 staffing, checkins and checkouts, doggie day care, overnight boarding and grooming. While it's closed to the public on the six national holidays, there is staff on

There also will be TVs and classical music, as well as 24-hour webcams with audio and video capability, so clients who can check in with their pooches from any smart device using any brows-

"It's also fully fire protected," Ruhland said. "It wasn't required, but it's just as important for our clients and employees to put in fire protection. The fire marshal was impressed we did that.'

The Ruhlands got into the dog boarding business after Rick retired from General Motors in 2009. With a sister involved in the franchise business and dog lovers themselves, they decided to open their first resort in Roseville four years ago. When they decided to add a second resort on the west side, they looked around the area and settled on the Canton location, which has easy access to I-275 and good visibility.

"We didn't want to be a destination, we wanted to be a location," Ruhland said. "We didn't want to have people driving around to find us, we wanted to be a location where you drive by and see us.

The Ruhlands "tore the whole place apart" to transform the industrial building into the resort. The only thing left of the original building is the outside shell. Even the concrete floor was removed to install 78 floor drains.

ALL AMERICAN PET RESORT

Business address: 7320 N. Haggerty, Canton Your name: Rick and Pat Ruhland, owners Your hometown: Garden City **Business opening:** Dec.

Number of employees: 12 Your business specialty: Luxury pet boarding, grooming and daycare **Business contact:**

734-455-DOGS (734-455-3647), info@aaprCanton.com, www.aaprCanton.com and www.allamerican petresorts Canton.com

'Marvelous'

"I know every inch of this place. The contractor, Kemp, did a wonder-ful job," Ruhland said, adding that Canton Township officials also were "marvelous to work

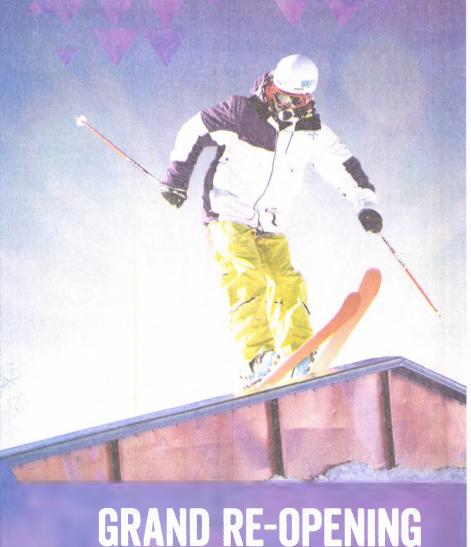
"Chris Thomas in **Economic Development** has been fantastic in helping us get organized and in bringing a new business to Canton," he

Ruhland plans to develop connections with veterinary facilities in the Plymouth-Canton area, but if a dog requires emergency care and the family vet is in the area and available, they will take the animal to there for treatment.

While the resort officially opens Monday, Dec. 16, the Ruhlands have already started taking reservations for the Christmas holidays.

"We've had dogs all our lives, we're dog lovers," Ruhland said. "It made sense to do this."

smason@hometownlife.com 313-222-6751



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Livonia woman, 108, chalked longevity up to 'clean living'

By Karen Smith Staff Writer

Mary Motsinger of Livonia celebrated her 108th birthday earlier this month, surrounded by family members and friends.

Wednesday, those family members and friends remembered her sparkling blue eyes, beautiful smile and loving heart as they attended her funeral at Plymouth Church of Christ. Motsinger died Saturday, three weeks after turn-

ing 108. 'We're grateful we had her for so long," said daughter Nancy Banks, 78, of Ashville, Ala.

Motsinger The family held the birthday party for her two weeks ago at Marywood Nursing Care Center in Livonia, where Motsinger lived for 2½ years.

"She thought it was wonderful; she got to see her old church friends," Banks said.

Her mother will be remembered most for the example she set, Banks said, adding she made an impression on everyone she met: "She was an extraordinary mother and woman.'

Banks said the staff at Marywood all knew and adored her mother, who participated in activities at the care center up until the very end.

Banks said her mother attributed her long life to "clean living" – literally.

"She always told us to wash our pretty little hands," Banks said, commenting that frequent hand washing is what health professionals advocate today to keep illness at bay. "She was way ahead of her time."

She also brushed her teeth after every meal

and was very proud of the fact that she still had all her teeth, her daughter said.

Motsinger was born Nov. 16, 1905, in Dickson, Tenn., the oldest of three children of Thomas Dallas Sugg, a farmer, and his wife Jessie. She married Harold Motsinger in about 1925. He had lived across the pasture from her childhood home in Lewisburg, Ky., where she moved when she was

> The Motsingers were married in Detroit, where Harold had moved to find work. They returned to Kentucky during the Depression, but then moved back

again in 1935 to Detroit, where Harold was able to find work as a postman and a salesman selling everything from insurance and cars to real estate.

They raised three daughters. Motsinger worked twice outside the home, in a plant making parts for the military during World War II and later on as a seasonal employee for a department store in Northville.

Harold died in 1964 and Motsinger went to live with her daughter Polly Bradley, 85, of Plymouth and then, later, Martha Bouman, 75, of

She is survived by seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren. She outlived both her younger sister and her younger brother, who lived to be 96 and about 78, respectively.

Memorial contributions may be made to Church of Christ-Care Center, 23575 15 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035 or to a charity of the giver's choice.

What to do with a maturing annuity

t a recent library talk, I was asked about annuities. One attendee has a fixed annuity that was maturing and asked my advice.

I have not written about annuities in a while, so I thought it would be a good idea to discuss the topic.

Like all situations regarding one's money and investments, I always start with the basics - goals and objectives. In addition, I also want to know what sort of risk someone is willing to accept.

I do not assume just because someone purchased an annuity in the past that they should automatically buy another annuity. To me, every time you invest money, you should ask the important questions that deal with goals, objectives and risk tolerance.

Typically when an annuity matures, you have a variety of different options. The first is to cash it in. The only issue for those over age 591/2 with regard to cashing out would be tax



Bloom MONEY

Rick

consequences. If this was not in a qualified account like an IRA, your tax consequence is the difference between what you invested in the annuity and what you receive when you cash it out. The difference is taxable income. Although no one likes to pay taxes, this is not a bad option, particularly for longterm growth investors.

Another option with a maturing annuity is a 1035 exchange, where you transfer money from one annuity to another. There are no tax consequences and the money can continue to grow on a tax-deferred basis.

The downside of this transaction is that since we are in a low interest rate environment, your returns will be low. Also, if you use an annuity that has back-end penalties, you are locking

Like all situations regarding one's money and investments, I always start with the basics - goals and objectives.

your money up for another period of time. One way to avoid this is to use an annuity without any back-end penalties. Companies like Fidelity, Vanguard and Charles Schwab all offer annuities at very low cost with no back-end penalties.

Another option is to convert into an immediate annuity, one that would begin to pay you income on a regular basis throughout your lifetime. The downside of this strategy is that, once you're in an immediate annuity, you cannot reverse the transaction. If four years from now you decide that the immediate annuity is not for you, you have no

options as you cannot cancel the annuity.

If you have an annuity that is maturing, don't automatically roll it into another annuity, no matter what the salesperson tells you. The key is to review your goals and objectives, as well as your risk tolerance level, and then make a decision.

The advice I gave the the gentlemen at my speech was to cash out the annuity, pay the taxes and use the proceeds to pay off his mortgage. He had a 5-percent non-tax deductible mortgage and the guaranteed interest on the annuity was only a little over 1 percent. Whenever the interest you pay on your debt is more than you're earning on your investments, it certainly looks good to pay off that debt.

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



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* Cardiovascular teaching hospitals with residency programs.

Ford Motor Co. volunteers treat area seniors to holiday lunch

Company employees devote community service hours to annual event

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

When Santa asked if she had been good this year, Mary Lamontagne made sure she answered "of course." Usually the guest of honor at the holidays, Santa was playing second fiddle to more than 120 seniors like Lamontagne, who were treated Friday to a holiday lunch at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Community Center.

Seniors from Wavne. Westland, Romulus and Inkster attended the luncheon, prepared and served by 15 Ford Motor Co. employees.

"We do it from start to finish," said team leader Linda Isakson of Canton, who works in the Ford Product Division. "We have one team that chops and preps the food and another sets up the tables. Then we serve

them.' As part of their job, salaried employees are required to do 16 hours of community service each year. Employees select where they want to do-nate their time from a website that maintains a constantly changing list of volunteer opportuni-

On Friday, a Ford Accelerated Action Day, more than 600 Ford employees were cooking and serving meals, sorting food and stocking

shelves and making deliveries to feed adults and children in need. Ford volunteers have teamed with nonprofit partners at food banks, shelters and care cen-

"Ford and its employees are committed to building stronger communities and one of the most important ways we do that is by helping meet some of the most basic needs of our neighbors," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Co. Fund and Community Services. "We are very thankful for all we have and it just comes naturally to share some of our good fortune with the less fortunate in our communities.'

"Ford has a culture of caring that spans generations," said Janet Lawson, director, Ford Volunteer Corps. "Go further is not just a slogan. It is how we work together with our partners to meet the challenges of creating a better world."

Holiday luncheon

The Salvation Army has been doing the holiday luncheons for seniors for years. Capt. Joanna Rose did the planning for 120 seniors, while the Ford employees "made it happen."

"Oh my God, this is just wonderful," she said. "They're a huge asset. I couldn't do it without



Linda Isakson of Canton, team leader for the Ford Volunteer Group, distributes drinks to Westland residents Alma Wideen (from left), Velda Fraley and Elma Newell, as well as Rocky Newell, who is visiting his mother from Dallas, Texas, for the holidays. KATHY HANSEN

The Ford employees prepared ham, mostaccioli, potatoes, salads, dessert and rolls for the dinner, although Isakson had to get help from an early arrival on setting up the coffee urn.

"Seniors have a wealth of information that we can use so much," she said. "There are life skills we can learn from older people that you don't learn in school.

They have wisdom." Lisa Adcock, a mobility engineer in Ford's IT operations, helped with the potatoes and cake. Her engineering background came into play with the cake.

"I tried to get them

even, but some are a few centimeters off," the Westland resident said. "There certainly is some assembly required. You have to get it done in the right order so it's all hot at the same time.'

Adcock thinks it's great that rather than being just a company, Ford cares about community and helping people. This is her second time volunteering for the senior luncheon.

"I think I'm going to make it a regular thing. I really enjoy my time here," she said. "It's local and I'm helping the community.

Shawn Daniele of Commerce Township worked at the luncheon last year and said it was "awesome." She was at Starfish Family Services in Inkster on Tuesday, helping the center get ready for Christmas. The youngsters were so excited about Christmas and

were "so cute." She's also volunteered with Forgotten Harvest and went to Vista Maria, where she helped paint rooms. Her department also sponsors a family.

"It's a joy to see their faces last year. They had a great time," she said. "I get so much from them."

In addition to the meal, seniors were entertained by the Salvation Army Band out of the headquarters in Southfield. Santa Claus also stopped by and pulled names for seniors to get a present. They also received coffee cups and candles.

"We love it, especially the seniors," Rose said. "Often they're forgotten about, especially when they're alone and their family has moved away."

'Wonderful here'

Elma Newell of Westland was at the luncheon with her son Rocky, who was in from Texas to visit. She lives alone and eniovs going to the center for senior activities. She helped get the monthly seniors meeting started there several years ago.

"It's wonderful here," she said.

For Lamontagne, the luncheon helped brighten the day and bring up her spirits. She contributes to the Salvation Army "quite a bit" and patronizes its stores.

"They're so kind and helped me when my daughter was a little girl," she said. "They did so much for me that I give back for what they

For Rose, the luncheon and other services that the Salvation Army provide at Christmas fit in with what she believes.

"I don't know any other way of celebrating the birth of Christ than serving others," she said.







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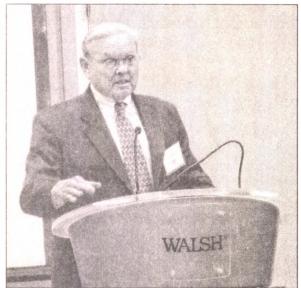


Bring the family for a visit with Santa Claus at the Performance Bike store. **Saturdays and Sundays** Novi Town Center 11am til 3pm.

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Non, Michigan





Louis Schimmel was financial manager for Pontiac.

Accountability takes center stage at Walsh conference

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Walsh College's conference on Fiscal Accountability for Public Sector Leaders on Dec. 5 gave attendees a look into what makes a municipality successful financially and what doesn't.

In the past decade, financial hardship has hit many municipalities around the state, and some have even had to straighten things out with the help of an emergency manager.

The worst-case scenario for public officials has been to have their local government and services go bankrupt. The best-case has been to ride out the economic recession and, in some cases, make things better. Put in place by the voters and using tax dollars, these leaders are held accountable to get it done or changes will

This was one of the main points of the halfday session at Walsh's and government finance experts discussed their experiences and insights under state law, as emergency managers, under municipal bankruptcy, debt financing, as well as those red-flag issues often ignored in munici-

pal budgets. The goal was to provide attendees - appointed and elected officials, and employees of public entities including state and local governments, school districts, authorities and commissions resources available to municipalities and critical strategies to help them maintain fiscal strength.

Success story

The city of Novi is a shining example with its multi-year fiscal planning. Novi City Manager Clay Pearson gave basis for what he and other public officials have done to maintain and improve services during challenging times.

"There are many policymakers and staff such as Novi that made adjustments to cut costs during the Great Recession, that reduced employee headcount and

employee benefits," said Pearson, who helped welcome the attendees to the confer-

"Novi also made adjustments to how we delivered services and focused on getting the most long-term benefit from public dollars entrusted to us," he added.

In Novi, a lot of well thought out techniques have been used to maintain accountability, but it's also owed to what Pearson calls the "hard work and focus every day from our great talented staff" that helps make a public organization successful.

Troubled areas

Conference speaker Louis Schimmel said many times labor and legacy costs are the biggest challenges in getting a public budget shaped up. By not addressing the problems immediately, some public officials "kick the can down the road,"

leading to bigger issues. "Cleaning up your wn mess first, where it starts, Schimmel said. Each situation for him has been different, but there were common problems and solutions, which include making sacrifices.

He said the plan they used in Pontiac was a good one. Consolidating services, privatizing others with Michiganbased contractors, selling property, introducing new economic development, and financial restructuring were some of the tools he employed.

In places like Detroit, emergencies were declared and mangers sent in to fix dire financial situations. Schimmel, who managed financial emergencies in Ecorse, Hamtramck and Pontiac, said much of the blame goes to self-serving politicians who turn a part-time public role into a full-time job with the perks that can come with that.

"What they are doing is serving themselves instead of the community," he said of his experiences over the last decade.

Ihuhman@hometownlife.com 248-437-2011, ext. 255 Twitter:@lhuhman

Special kids enjoy holiday party and visit from Santa

The Livonia and Redford Township Lions Clubs co-sponsored a Christmas party Friday for 242 students with special needs at Cooke School in Northville.

"It was just awesome to see our kids so happy and excited," Dean Mal-

lory Carmack said. "They just got a kick out of it.

The students' favorite parts were visiting with Santa and eating lunch, Carmack said. Each of the students, who ranged in age from 3-26, received a gift from Santa, picked out especially for him or her.

Other activities included face painting, caroling and musical entertainment.

This was the first year for the party at Cooke School. Previously, the Lions Clubs held a Christmas party for students of Old Village School at St. Edith Church in Livonia. Also, Cooke School had its own Christmas program, Carmack said.

But the two schools



Joshua Sexton of Livonia is all smiles as "L-Moe T. Clown" (Mark Rodemeyer of Livonia) does face and arm painting. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

merged two years ago, so it was decided to start a new tradition and have one large Christmas celebration.

Collins said they served 580 meals to the students, staff, parents and siblings. "It was twice as large as last year's," he said.

The party was cosponsored by the Daniel C. Lord Council of Knights of Columbus, Alhambra and the Mitsubishi Corp.

"Together we teamed up and threw a great party," Collins said.

Collins said the goal of the party, a Lions tradition for several decades now, is to give the students a special day. And that goal was achieved once again.

"Anybody that was there witnessed the fact the kids had a great day," he said.

- By Karen Smith

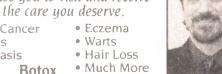




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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Think about giving during holiday season

Keep the Christmas spirit alive by donating to help others in need

For many families in Plymouth and Canton, the holidays are a time of celebration — a time of gift-giving, house decorating, parties and fun.

For decades, these nonprofits have been helping those in need. They rely on our support both financially and in donations to help the less fortunate. Instead of dropping \$10 to \$20 on a quick dinner out, use it to help someone

Helping out can be as easy as drop-ping money into Salvation Army Red Kettles, putting unwrapped toys in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots boxes or answering the call of the Red Kettle bell.

Use a good deal on food at the grocery store to buy a few extra cans and donate them to the local food pantries at the Plymouth Salvation Army, Open Door Ministry in Canton or any of the various churches that collect food

around the holidays.

There are many people who work to help the needy. In Canton, Natalie Mosher and her husband Bob sponsored a Toys for Tots drive over the weekend. Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is also collecting Toys for Tots at its Plymouth-Canton office (177 N. Main in Plymouth), as is Victory Lane Quick Oil Change of Plymouth (903 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth).

The Kiwanis and Rotary clubs always have a friendly rivalry ringing the Red Kettle bells. The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, in fact, will be ringing Friday and Saturday at five Plymouth locations: Hiller's (Five Mile and Haggerty), Busch's (Sheldon and Five Mile), Kmart (Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty), Greek Islands (Penniman and Main) and Kroger (Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon).

And it's always a labor of love for the Goodfellows in these communities, who work year-round to ensure that there is No Child without a Christmas. From bowling and dinner benefits to newspaper sales, these volunteers work tirelessly to help make the holidays brighter for the less fortunate.

The Plymouth Goodfellows had their annual newspaper drive over the weekend. The Canton Goodfellows are wrapping up their annual giving program this week, ready to distribute toys and gifts to the children and families they've adopted.

And that doesn't count the various church groups and other civic organizations too numerous to mention who are helping others over the holidays.

That's why, when making your Christmas list this year, be sure to include a line for giving. Whether it's food, clothing, toys, money or time, every donation you give will help brighten the holidays for someone else.

Remember, not everybody in the community can afford Christmas this year. If you're lucky enough to know you have a bountiful holiday coming, find a way to spread that cheer to those less fortunate. After all, that's what Christmas is all about.



Plymouth Goodfellow Cam Miller hit the streets Saturday for the annual Goodfellows newspaper sale.

OUR VIEWS

Protect yourself during holidays with these tips

Don't become a victim to auto-related crimes

The Plymouth-Canton community isn't plagued by a rash of auto thefts. But that doesn't mean it can't happen.

Help Eliminate Auto Thefts, Michigan's statewide auto theft prevention program, warns that auto theft-related crimes spike during the holiday

"December marks the busiest time of year for most consumers as they shop and cross items off their to-do lists, but don't let that distract you from keeping your vehicle and possessions safe," said Terri Miller, executive director of H.E.A.T. "The holiday season is always a special time of year, but many consumers become careless and vulnerable to theft and holiday crime. It's important to remain diligent and be aware of your surround-

H.E.A.T. offers the following tips to help residents to be more prepared and aware this holiday

Be alert. As you approach your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings. Remember where your car is parked and walk directly to it. Avoid talking or texting on cellphones, digging for keys or juggling multiple packages as it can be a distraction and can make you an easy target to criminals.

Park in well-lit, high-traffic areas. Try to avoid shopping alone after dark, but if you must, park in a well-lit area with pedestrian traffic or in a lot with an attendant. If possible, avoid parking near objects that block your view of the surrounding area such as Dumpsters, bushes, large vans or trucks and avoid parking next to cars with dark tinted windows that you cannot see through.

Ask for help. If you are alone and don't feel comfortable walking to your car, don't hesitate to ask retail security personnel for an escort to your vehicle.

Place valuables and purchases in the trunk or out of sight. Do not leave packages on the seat of your car, as it creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in your vehicle, lock it in the trunk or place items out of sight.

Move your car. Move to another area of the parking lot if you return to your car in the middle of a shopping trip, even if it means giving up a prime spot. This will deter a thief who may have been watching you unload your purchases.

Use common sense. Never leave your car unlocked or your vehicle running unattended, even if you are just going into a store for a quick errand.

Unload passengers first when arriving home. Criminals are getting bolder about approaching people in their driveways. Take children and elderly relatives into the house first, then immediately unload all purchases from your car. Never leave vulnerable loved ones alone in a vehicle, even if you will only be gone "for a minute."

If threatened by a carjacker, give up the car. Most carjackings involve a weapon, so don't resist or argue. You are more important than your vehicle, purse, wallet or other valuable. Give them up and get out of harm's way.

If you witness an auto theft, carjacking in progress or anything suspicious, call the police immediately. If you have any information regarding auto theft, insurance fraud or carjackings, call H.E.A.T.'s 24/7 confidential tip reward line at 800-242-H.E.A.T. to register your tip after you have informed local law enforcement.



Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, **Executive Editor**

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

Have the problems with the rollout of the Affordable Care Act affected you or anyone you know and, if so, what kinds of problems?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



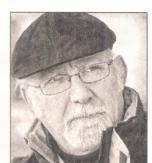
"No. Because I'm retired."

Donna Yost Plymouth Township



"I guess, yes. Other insurance they have is no longer available or too expensive. ... If they can't afford it, they get a big fine, they get penalized. I don't think it's fair."

Amber Porter Plymouth



"I've heard other people say, 'What's going on?' ... They've been cut off. They don't like it."

Henry Smith



"Yes. Just access to the system. Problems understanding" the law. **Chris Varlamos**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changing the world

On Sunday, a wonderful thing happened. Families and children gathered at Genitti's restauarant for a very special event.

It started out as a fundraiser for a program called Sprouts Autism K-5, but it turned into so much more. It was the perfect example of what a community can do when we all come together. Genitti's donated its entire restaurant and theater (plus delicious cocoa and treats); another volunteer, an eighth-grader, Nate Mansfield, played Christmas carols in the vestibule. Other volunteers served as "Elfs" and helped children get their photo with Santa and

served cocoa and cookies. A dynamic youth theater Spotlight on Youth contributed its time and talent to perform a holiday show and Santa Claus himself took photos with chil-

dren before and after the show. Another Sprouts parent echoed my feelings (but said it a lot

Thank you to the children of Plymouth and Canton in Spotlight on Youth for supporting Sprouts Autism K-5 recently. Please support these great kids they gave back, so please, community at-large, give back to them, by supporting them by attending their heart-warming show that opens this Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton called "A Wonderful Worldful of Christmas." There are shows at 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and matinees at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Sprouts' extraordinarily gifted teacher, Kate Colaluca, sent me a text message. It said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." I think that sums it up perfectly. Laurie Kondek

Don't pay for study

I have recently become aware of the plan to study the recreational needs of the citizens of Plymouth Township. This proposed study would cost the taxpayers of Plymouth Township

proud Sprouts parent

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Submit letters by the following formats: Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Plymouth/Canton Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318 Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

\$50,000.

If the township board wants to know what recreation facilities the citizens are interested in, why not do a survey - at no cost to the taxpayers. They could request emails to be sent to the township office or run a survey in the local paper or organize an open town meeting to get input from the citizenry – or try all three approaches.

I think such a survey would show that the people in the township want the same things that the people in the city of Plymouth want. And do we really need the cost of a separate facility to accomplish that? Most of us go into town all of the time; it is part of our daily lives.

Why can't we share a recreation facility with the people in the city? That would be the logical and more frugal approach.

Everyone I have spoken to in the township is vehemently opposed to the idea of a \$50,000 study. We want our tax dollars spent more wisely than that. If property values have declined in the township during this recent recession, it is not for lack of a recreational facility.

Perhaps it is because we are not adequately covered for fire protection. That \$50,000 would be better spent toward the salary of an additional firefighter.

If the township board conducts a free survey, I am sure that the priorities of township residents will become obvious.

Plymouth

A lot of coincidences

It was only a little over a year ago that a proposal was on the ballot that Rick Snyder and right-wingers were fighting against. They said the Michigan Constitution should not be altered, as it was "sacrosanct"

(untouchable).

And it was – until it wasn't. After Snyder stood next to his protege Kevin Orr and told the world that everything was on the table during Detroit's bankruptcy, he threw the retirees into the hopper. Every dollar he could take from them was one less dollar his bond-holding, New York bankers would have to eat.

Rick Snyder not only failed to uphold our Constitution, he argued against it. At the federal level, this would be nothing short of treason.

Now that the judge has ruled in the bankruptcy, I hope the

aggrieved parties will petition for a grand jury to investigate Snyder for malfeasance, misfeasance and misconduct in office.

But whom do they petition? A month ago it probably would have been in Ingham County. But our lawmakers have recently stripped that court of hearing cases because they didn't like the rulings being handed down. Coincidence? Maybe our conspiracy theorist friends have a point there.

Sure have been a lot of coincidences since the Tea Party took over our state government.

James Huddleston

Problem solved

In response to Phil Power's recent "Dark money" article, I agree. Have no campaign contribution limits whatsoever. Put all the campaign contributions in a single pot, evenly distributed amongst all the Legislature. You do not even need public disclosure. This way donors' free speech rights are not violated and the "retaliation" argument is moot. Problem solved.

Gerald Harbowy Livonia

The Holidays are coming... Time to plan the perfect Holiday Meal...

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SECTION B (CP)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-469-4128

BOYS BASKETBALL OPENERS



Randall Aikins of Plymouth drives past Redford Union's Tyler Hathaway during Tuesday's contest. Also shown is Chris Walls

Wildcats crank it up after sluggish start

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Some might argue whether Plymouth and Redford Union started the 2013-14 varsity boys basketball season on time, what with the host Wildcats leading 5-0 after the first quarter.

The Panthers did rally a bit during the second frame, cutting Plymouth's lead to 8-7 at one point. But Plymouth took a 17-12 halftime edge and went on to post a 43-22 nonleague victory.

We were not very good to start and the second half was really key for us," said Plymouth head coach

Mike Soukup, who once was a JV coach at RU. "We came out with a little more energy in the second half, we got a couple of steals to start the second half, deflect a few balls, our defensive energy was certainly better than it was in the

"The first half was kind of a leepwalk, and I guess that can be expected by two younger teams trying to get acclimated to actually playing at this level."

According to Panthers head coach Randall Taylor, first-game nerves hurt his team — especially in the first quarter, when RU players missed a number of layups and

"A little sloppiness, some turnovers, a lot of missed shots, nerves, things of that sort," said Taylor, asked what he saw from his group in the contest. "We had a lot of nerves, we couldn't make shots. A lot of things we went over in the scouting report this week we just couldn't execute in the game

Sputtering early

Not that the Wildcats did either, at least in the first quarter or so. It was only a 5-0 lead after one, with junior forward Deji Adebiyi

See WILDCATS, Page B3

Pesky Rocks top Skyline

Staff Writer

Ann Arbor Skyline had the tallest players on the basketball court Tuesday night, but Salem's grit and energy brought them down as the Rocks earned a 66-52 victory.

For Salem, sparking the win on opening night was senior forward Alec Winfrey, with 18 points.

Contributing 14 points was junior forward Allante Wheeler while senior guards Connor Cole (11 points, six rebounds, six assists) and Brady Cole (10 points) also had strong showings.
Leading the Rocks in rebounds with seven
was 6-3 junior forward Tyler Brooks.

For Skyline, Jonathon Muir-Cotton tallied 17 points while 6-8 senior forward Tristan Wilson

and 6-5 senior forward Chris Spaly scored 11 and eight points, respectively.

"Skyline, that's a good basketball team," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "They're going to win a lot of games this year. You can see the

weapons they have, they're quick and fast.
"They have a 6-foot-8 guy. They're a tough
team and I'm happy to come out of there with a

Brodie's squad led 16-15 after one quarter and ratcheted things up in the second with a 19-10 edge to lead 35-25 at halftime.

But Brodie didn't see the second quarter as the turning point. He thought his team played a solid game from start to finish.

"We just played well pretty much the whole

game, we didn't falter too much," Brodie said. We weathered the storm, so to speak. They fired at us and we answered the call.

"We shot the ball extremely well tonight and that was good to see."

See BOYS HOOPS, Page B3



Going up for a rebound Tuesday is Salem junior forward Tyler Brooks (No. 44). CHRIS GUDDECK

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wilson, Cheston spark Rocks, 'Cats

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Led by Jamyra Wilson's 23 points, visiting Salem defeated Dearborn Divine Child 40-29 Monday night in a nonleague varsity girls basketball game.

"She really did a great job of getting to the free throw line," said Rocks head coach Fred Thomann, about Wilson. "She was able to split their defense and get to the basket."

Wilson, a junior guard, sank seven of 11 free throws, augmenting that with eight field goals as Salem improved to 2-1.

The Rocks also received solid performances from senior forward Kelly Whalen (five points, seven rebounds) and junior forward Shara Long (three points, seven boards) as Salem built a 19-15 halftime lead and coasted from there.

"We had some really, really good opportunities to score even more but we couldn't finish," Thomann said. "But we're getting there. The girls played really, really hard tonight.'

Divine Child's record dipped to 2-1. Meanwhile, Salem was slated to host Brighton on Wednesday night.



Kelly Whalen (No. 25), shown from a recent game, helped Salem win Monday. JOHN KEMSKI J EXPRESS PHOTO

Wildcats prevail

Plymouth senior center Shelby Cheston had the best game of her high school career Monday night, scoring 22 points (a career high) and 11 rebounds as the Wildcats earned a 56-47 victory

See GIRLS HOOPS, Page B3

PREP BOWLING PREVIEW

LET'S ROLL!

P-CEP bowling teams gear up

By Tim Smith

Staff Writer

Spearheaded by Salem's state champion varsity boys bowling team, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park bowlers hit the pocket more often than not in 2012-13.

And hopes are running high that 2013-14 will bring another successful season.

Can the Rocks do it again? Veteran coaches Kathie Hahn and Glenn Clark at least expect another very competitive squad to say the least.

"We have four of our varsity boys returning and some great prospects to replace the two varsity spots (lost to graduation," noted Hahn, whose team went 13-2 overall and 10-2 in the KLAA Central Division last season.

Leading the way will be seniors Brandon Allison, Steven Cadwell and juniors Nolan Rudis and Tyler Sny-

But a handful of bowlers are making the case to join the varsity and contribute.

Junior Tyler Ridgeway, of Idaho, is "a two-handed bowler and has grown up in a bowling alley. Salem is lucky he pulled the blue chip," noted Hahn.

Another junior, Tony Przytulski, has been working hard to improve and Hahn describes him as a "great prospect."

Sophomore Zach Gonyea, freshmen Mitchell Rusinek and Shane Rusinek round out the roster.

See BOWLING, Page B4



Toledo-bound Woody shows her D-I stuff

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Jada Woody knew last year where she wanted to play college basketball.

The Plymouth High School senior wing recently made it official, signing her national letter of intent to play for the University of Toledo.

"I had a really good recruiting experience and I'm really excited about Toledo," said the 17-year-old Woody, about her full-ride scholarship at the Division I univer-

She'll either play on the wing or at shooting guard with Toledo, said Woody, noting that she also received offers from Western Michigan University and Bradley University (located in Wisconsin).

Ultimately, the fact Toledo could offer her with the major she wanted proved to be the tip-

ping point.
"They have academically the specific major I'm most interested in, which is neurology,' Woody noted. "And none of the other schools (she was recruited by) has that specific major."

There is another plus for Woody, who carries a lofty 3.8 grade point average.

"Toledo is only an hour away from home, so that was really nice," said Woody, who lives in Canton with mom Julie Tankard and stepdad Ray Tankard. "I wouldn't have to be too far away from home."

Her biological father is Cornelius Woody.

Signing for college seems to have helped Woody get off to a good start in her high school swan song, too.

On Monday against North Farmington, she scored 16 points (10 in the second half) and pulled

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down nine rebounds as the Wildcats earned their second win in two games.

"Jada really shined tonight, I thought she was so focused and so ready to play right from the opening tip," said Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon.

"It's probably the best game I have ever seen her play because of the aggressiveness and confidence that she played

"I told her all week that she would have a matchup that allowed her to make plays and be outstanding and she did just that. I think this was a super important night for her to show that she is capable of playing at an elite level.

Of course, that's something Toledo coaches already were pretty certain of.

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Plymouth senior Jada Woody recently signed her national letter of intent to play women's basketball at the University of Toledo. JOHN KEMSKI J EXPRESS PHOTO

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 12 Dbn. Tech at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m. Lansing Christian at PCA, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13
Salem at Canton, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at D.H. Annapolis, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 Canton vs. Henry Ford

GIRLS BASKETBALL GINLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 12
G.P. North at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Cranbrook at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Kettering at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
Canton at Divine Child, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY Friday, Dec. 13 Salem at South Lyon, 7 p.m at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Canton vs. Farmington<QC> at F.H. Ice Arena, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 14 Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m Stevenson vs. Plymouth at Edgar Arena, 7 p.m. on at Birmingham, 8:30 p.m PREP WRESTLING

Thursday, Dec. 12 Westland at Memphis, 6 p.m Saturday, Dec. 14 Redford Union Tourney, 9 a.m. Harrison Hawk Havoc, 9 a.m. Wayne County Championship at Wyandotte Roosevelt, 9 a.m. BOYS SWIMMING Friday, Dec. 13

N.D. Prep at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14
John Glenn Rocket Relays, noon.
EMU Relays, TBA. GIRLS GYMNASTICS Thursday, Dec. 12 Walled Lake vs. Canton at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOWLING Saturday, Dec. 14 Bay City Tournament GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Dec. 14
CCCAM Trenton Invite, TBA. **MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS** Saturday, Dec. 14
Davenport at Madonna, 3 p.m. Edison CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS Saturday, Dec. 14 Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Friday, Dec. 13
Ply. Whalers at Samia, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14 Peterborough vs. Ply. Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m. TBA – time to be announced.

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



Grand Opening



Where 42126 Ford Rd Canton, MI (just west of IKEA)

NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN **WINTER TAXES - 2013**

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2013 and payable through February 28, 2014 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. Payments can be mailed, MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Tuesday, December 24, 2013 and Wednesday, December 25, 2013 also Tuesday, December 31, 2013 and Wednesday, January 1, 2014.
During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be OPEN on Monday, December 23, Thursday, December 26, Friday, December 27 and Monday, December 30, 2013 for our taxpavers' convenience.

Publish: December 1, 2013 and December 12, 2013

Teresa Cischke, MiCPT CPFA City Treasurer

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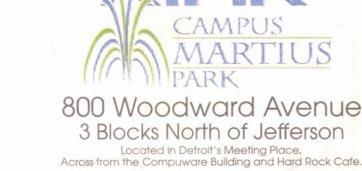
Open enrollment for the 2014-2015 academic school year ends on 2/28/2014 at 5:00 pm. Applications are available for the grades indicated and can be obtained at the school, at www. NHAschools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held at the respective school on the following date:

- Achieve 3/18/2014 at 4:30 PM
- Canton 3/18/2014 at 4:30 PM
- Plymouth 3/18/2014 at 12:00 PM
- South Canton 3/19/2014 at 4:30 PM
- South Pointe 3/11/2014 at 4:30 PM

Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

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National Heritage Academies admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other schooladministered programs.



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ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Hard-shooting Storm pummel Whalers, 5-2

On a night when fans pelted the Compuware Arena ice with teddy bears, the Guelph Storm pelted Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedelj-kovic with pucks — 57 of them. The netminder hung in there as

long as he could, but ultimately four of those shots eluded him and the Whalers fell 5-2 in an Ontario Hockey League contest before just over 2,000

Nedeljkovic stopped all 17 shots in the first period and faced 26 Guelph attempts in the middle stanza. He stopped all but two of them, with Scott Kosmachuk (at 6:44) and Tyler Bertuzzi (at 11:07) finding the back of the Plymouth cage.

It was 3-0 early in the third when Robby Fabbri scored on the power

The Whalers' Josh Wesley finally solved Guelph goalie Matthew Mancina (33 saves) at 1:18, just 15 seconds after Fabbri's marker.

Tallying his 14th of the season at 16:28 was Plymouth's Zach Lorentz to briefly give Compuware fans hope. Setting up the goal were Connor Chatham and Yannick Rathgeb.

But Guelph answered at 17:05 when Zack Mitchell scored. Mitchell then added an empty netter at 18:42.

Plymouth dropped to 11-17-0-3 with the loss while Guelph improved to 22-6-2-1.

Saturday was the Whalers' 14th annual Teddy Bear Toss. Fans threw their stuffed animals onto the ice immediately following Plymouth's first goal. The toys were collected and will be distributed to homes by Plymouth Community United Way.

Hounds nip Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers fell behind 3-0 Friday night against Sault Ste. Marie at Compuware Arena and could



Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (No. 39), shown from earlier this season, turned aside 53 of 57 Guelph shots Saturday. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

not complete a comeback attempt. dropping a 4-3 Ontario Hockey League

Scoring twice for the Whalers was Zach Lorentz, who netted his 12th and 13th goals of the season in the second period to cut the gap to 3-2 against the West Division leaders.

But Jared McCann tallied a goal on the power play at 4:49 of the third period and that proved to be the eventual winning goal.

Getting the Whalers (11-16-0-3) a bit closer, but to no avail, was Mathieu

Henderson. He scored at 15:16 of the third, from Ryan Hartman (two assists) and Danny Vanderwiel.

Other Plymouth players to pick up assists included Connor Chatham, Mitch Jones (Rochester Hills) and Yannick Rathgeb.

Stopping 33 of 37 shots was Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic. For the Greyhounds (20-6-0-3), net-

minder Brandon Halverson turned aside 36 Plymouth shots.

The game was played in front of

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Rocks pound Pats in KLAA South tilt

Noah Willer and Nick Danis each tallied a pair of goals Saturday, leading Salem to a 6-1 KLAA South Division win over Livonia Franklin at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Willer scored on a power play from with 4:44 left in the first period from Jack Driscoll and Jake Sealy, but Franklin's Josh Dudek tied it up with an unassisted goal just 12 seconds into the period.

Salem (2-1, 2-1) then scored five unanswered goals including three in the second period — Richie Corso (from Noah Saad at 5:43); Jason Newell on a power play (from Willer and Sealy at 8:57); followed by Danis on a power play (from Corso 9:58).

The Rocks put it away with two more in the final period — Danis from Nick Smith at 1:19) and Willer on a power play (from Sealy at (8:17). Salem goaltender Parker Godfrey

stopped 24-of-25 shots, while Franklin's Matt Monendo had 24 saves for the

Patriots (2-3, 1-2).

CRANBROOK 7, LADYWOOD 1: On Monday, Katie Hayward had the lone goal from Jackie Kristofik as host Livonia Ladywood (0-5, 0-5) fell to Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (3-0, 3-0) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 game played at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Cranbrook led 2-1 after one period and 5-1 after two periods before scoring twice in the final period.

Sophomore Michaela Warner made 32 saves in goal for the Blazers.

P.H. NORTHERN 8, CHURCHILL 2: Clay Wilson and Justin

Van Busurk each tallied three goals and four assists leading host Port Huron Northern (3-3) to a non-conference victory over Livonia Churchill (1-4-1) in a game played Saturday night at McMorran Brendan Shagena added two goals for the Huskies, who led 2-0

after one period and 6-1 after two.
Nolan Cioch had both goals for the Chargers with Andrew Sparks
and Dylan Smith assisting on the first, while his second was a
short-handed effort from Jack Behen.

short-handed effort from Jack Behen.
Churchill's David Turel and Chris Adams split time in goal each allowing four while facing a total of 34 shots, while Trevor Mamps made 20 saves for Northern.
"We pride ourselves on a tough schedule and we're going through growing pains and it's going to take time with the new guys," Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said. "We gave them too many odd-man rushes and they're a skilled team that is going to take advantage when you make mistakes."

BOYS HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

Winfrey was on target most of the night and also did the job in other facets of the game.

"He (Winfrey) did a nice job," Brodie said. "I like the way he took care of the basket-

"A couple times he made some mistakes but that's going to happen, especially when you're going as fast as you're

Salem will visit Canton 7 p.m. Friday.

CANTON 61, PIONEER 58: visiting Canton's Dalanced attack enabled the Chiefs to defeat Ann Arbor Pioneer in Tuesday's season opener.

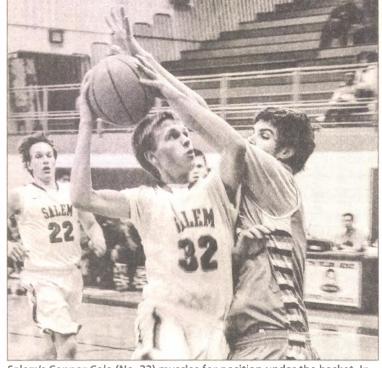
Leading Canton with 19 points was Davon Taylor, while Jordan Nobles and Logan Ryan chipped in with 16 and 10 points, respectively.

The Chiefs trailed by 10 points with five minutes remaining before staging a gutsy comeback to close out the vic-

"We didn't do a great job of executing tonight," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "But we played hard and did a great job on the boards.

game, especially since they could have folded being down double digits late in the game." **OUR LADY OF LAKES 59.** PCA 50: Plymouth Christian

Academy lost Tuesday's opening game to Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes despite 23 points and 12 rebounds from Daniel Jipping.



Salem's Connor Cole (No. 32) muscles for position under the basket. In the background for the Rocks is Evan Klenk (No. 22). CHRIS GUDDECK

GIRLS HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

over visiting North Farming-

Also coming up big for the 2-0 Wildcats were senior wing Jada Woody (16 points, nine boards) and senior point guard Kylie Robb (10 points).

The top scorer for North (2-1) was junior guard Megan Carter, with 16 points.

"Our girls deserve a tremendous amount of credit for an excellent week of preparation," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "We gameplanned for this game very hard and worked a lot in practice on the various ways that North Farmington puts pressure on their opponents defen-

"North Farmington is a very

"I am proud of the guys for the way they finished the

Chipping in with 11 points and 10 boards was Michael

well-coached team and they

give you all sorts of problems

with their pressing and half-

court trapping, but we were

Plymouth will next host

Grosse Pointe North at 7 p.m.

Behind a 20-point effort by

Rachel Smith, Plymouth Chris-

tian Academy defeated Lena-

wee Christian 45-32 Saturday

Smith connected on three

3-balls to help the Eagles (2-0)

quarter and 27-14 at halftime.

She also helped the cause with

Also stellar for PCA were

Rachael Fuller (18 points, sev-

en rebounds, five steals) and

Jen Malcolm (six points, nine

rebounds, four assists).

build leads of 11-7 after one

absolutely ready for it.'

Eagles win again

Thursday.

at PCA.

seven rebounds.

Continued from Page B1 and Khalil Newell combining for all five points.

WILDCATS

Nailing a trey from beyond the top of the arc to open the second quarter was Plymouth's Caden Farrugia as the Wildcats made it an 8-0

advantage. But the Panthers came to life, with a banker by junior forward Jerrime Koger (six points) finally putting RU on the board with about 6:30 to go in the first half.

RU's 6-5 senior forward Jacob McKiddle followed that up with a three-point play and Koger scored on a putback of his own miss midway through the quarter to slice the Plymouth lead to 8-7.

The Panthers then could have taken the lead for the first time, but could not connect and Plymouth junior guard Josh Reynolds (a gamehigh 13 points and eight rebounds) gave the home team a bit of breathing room when he nailed a triple from the left corner with 3:30 remaining.

Shortly thereafter, Koger scored on a nifty finger roll to slice the Plymouth lead to 11-9, but the Wildcats answered with back-to-back buckets by Randall Aikins (10 points) and Deji Adebiyi (11 points, four rebounds)

A high-glasser at the buzzer by Aikins padded Plymouth's halftime lead to 17-12 and the Wildcats took control of matters with a 10-0 run to open the second half.

Plymouth's lead was down to 29-20 early in the fourth following a basket by McKiddle (seven points, three boards).

Then came Reynolds, draining successive treys from the left wing to open up a 35-20 edge with 5:30 remain-

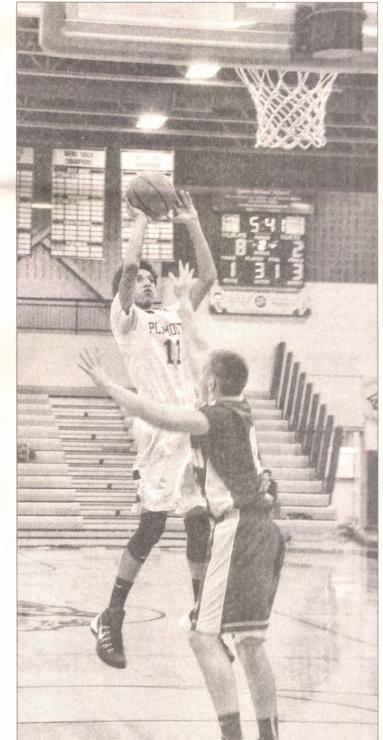
Aikins then came strong to the rack for a layup and the Wildcats were in cruise con-

Soukup pointed to Reynolds, Adebiyi and Aikins for making the shots when they were needed. They will have to keep doing that for the Wildcats to compete, he emphasized.

"We'll lean on those three guys heavily," Soukup said. Those are the three guys who know what it takes to play at this level and they were able to get it done tonight a little bit."

He did cite the hard-nosed defense of Jon Schumaker and Kevin Justice (four re-

"Jonny Shu did some good things, he was a star in his role," Soukup said. "He did a lot of things you probably wouldn't see on the stat sheet.



Sending a shot toward the rim is Plymouth's Josh Reynolds, who scored 13 points Tuesday. CHRIS GUDDECK

He ran the ball well, he defended extremely well and gave us a good lift off the bench."

Not that easy

Soukup blamed inexperience for nearly letting RU up off the mat. "We thought 'This is going to come easy to us' and then we relaxed in the second quarter. That wasn't the case and it's never the case at this level, everyone here is very equal and is going to compete and that's the expectation.
"I think for the most part it

was the nerves for the kids," he said. "First game on the road, a pretty inexperienced team for the most part, inexperienced at the guards. Hopefully, we can get some execution going.'



Taking the ball inside for Plymouth is Deji Adebiyi (No. 5), while Redford Union's Braxton Cannon (No. 31) tries to stop him. CHRIS GUDDECK

PREP WRESTLING

Big opening day for 'Cats, Rocks

The opening weekend of the boys high school wrestling season couldn't have gone much better for the Plymouth and Salem squads.

Plymouth won all five dual meets at Saturday's Todd Schoenhide Challenge at Northville to capture first place overall.

The highlight of the day for the Wildcats was senior Jon Conn's 100th career win, with a third period fall in his 145-pound bout in the opening dual against Madison Heights Lamphere (won 56-6 by the Wildcats).

The Wildcats were dominant throughout the lineup, losing just 11 matches all day with no weight class ending with a losing record. Undefeated for Plymouth were Conn, junior Brandon Harris (112), Spencer Schiftar (125), senior Daniel Ahearn (135), Joey Shaver, Hussein Youssef and Tarek Tamimi.

"We entered the tournament as the returning champs and expected a tough dual in our pool from Lamph-

ere and either Caro or Saline in the finals," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "With it being the first competition of the season it is always hard to determine where your team stands in comparison to (other teams).

"What was nice over the day was how we won matches. Getting bonus points in matches we win and not giving them up in matches we lose had been a point of emphasis for the team all week."

Plymouth's comfortable margins of victory against all of the opponents indicated that Guernsey's team followed that game plan. The Wildcats followed up the win over Lamphere with lopsided victories of 81-0 over Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 72-4 over Ann Arbor Huron, 56-21 over Lapeer East and (in the final) 47-16 over Caro (No. 3 in Division 3).

"It is a trend we'll need to keep up if we want to beat some of the upcoming teams in our season," he added.

» Salem went 4-1 at the

Waterford Mott Duals, also on Saturday. The Rocks dropped to the consolation pool after going 2-1 in the opening portion of the tourney, and wound up fifth over-

Salem head coach Pete Israel noted that "even though we took fifth, not many teams that go 4-1 place that low."

The Rocks defeated Bloomfield (41-33), Pontiac (40-37), Capec (65-12) and Lakeview (52-24) and only lost to L'Anse Cruse

Undefeated for the Rocks were Russell Gaubatz, Ahmad Abed and Mitchell Gross while Israel cited strong showings by varsity newcomers Akash Rai, Bruce Haslitt and Peter Bushaw.

Other notable performances for Salem, the coach added, were turned in by Connor Thornbury and Roy Foster.

Israel said Thornbury faced "probably the toughest opponents of the day, but kept scores close. Connor wrestled with grit and I was happy to see him take his wrestling to a higher level.'

Foster only dropped one bout during the tournament.

PREP BOWLING

John Glenn girls earn Early Bird Invitational title

Westland John Glenn is off to a fast start in girls bowling.

The Lady Rockets earned a first-place finish with a total pin count of 3,939 in Saturday's Early Bird Invitational held at Drakeshire Lanes in Farming-

Farmington Harrison and Walled Lake Central finished second and third with 3,737 and 3,620, respectively.

Glenn fired a 1,253 during the Baker set, while averaging a 208 for the six games. Harrison and Farmington Hills Mer-

cy placed second and third in the Bakers with totals of 994 and 990, respectively, as the Rockets opened up a 259-pin advantage heading into the regular games.

Leading Glenn was Julia Huren, who posted a 610 series en route to all-tournament honors. She was followed by teammates Olivia Cabildo (552) Jessica Pate (538), Emily Dietz (514) and Ashley Kolb (472).

GIRLS DUAL RESULTS
TAYLOR KENNEDY 22

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 8 Dec. 9 at Indian Lanes

Top Kennedy scorers: Andrea Claypool, 227-162-389; Morgan Alexis, 203 Baker games: 235-151-386.

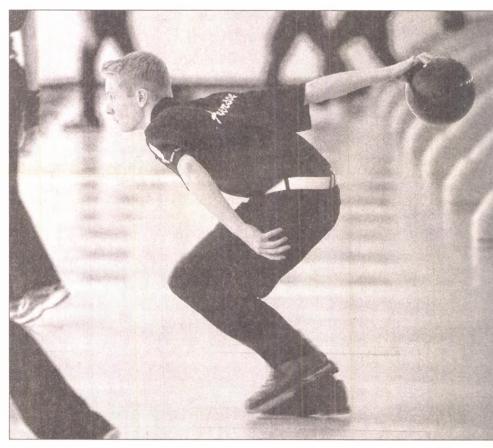
Clarenceville scorers: Erin Walters, 156-184-340; Anna Greenwald, 117-138-255; Sarah Estepp, 131-120-251 Elizabeth Kerr, 113-125-238. **Bakers:**

Dual match records: Kennedy, 1-0 overall; Clarenceville, 0-1 overall. BOYS DUAL RESULTS

TAYLOR KENNEDY 28 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 2
Dec. 9 at Indian Lanes
Kennedy leader: Klayton Williams, 200-225-42

Top Clarenceville scorers: Samuel Moore, 177-203-380; Jerrin Kreger, 158-135-293; Kyle Coughlin, 123-152-275; Jerrmiah Wright, 95-98-193.

Dual match records: Kennedy, 1-0 overall,



Plymouth returnee Charlie Anderson, shown from a 2012-13 contest, looks to bolster the Wildcats⁴ lineup again this year. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BOWLING

Continued from Page B1

» Canton's boys team also had plenty of success in 2012-13 with a record of 8-4 in the KLAA Central (trailing cochampions Salem and Westland John Glenn) and 11-4 over-

More good things are predicted by Chiefs head coach Karl Brubaker.

'This year's team looks to be very competitive with four of the six bowlers that bowled varsity last year coming back," Brubaker noted. "The Canton boys are the only Division 1 team to make the Elite 8 at the state finals two straight years and will be looking to head back to the finale that will be at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights.

'I know this is a great group of kids that will be in the running for the division and regional titles."

Key returnees include seniors Josh Pozan, Michael Richards, junior Aaron Madsen and sophomore Mitchell Zelenak.

The Canton lineup will feature newcomers such as sophomores Kyle Ceci, Andrew Pascualpleny, freshmen Andrew Nosay, Dominic Dimaya, Mat Mondro, Andrew Rizk, David Hess and Brendan Kacic.

Brubaker added that a strong junior varsity team will include bowlers pushing for the varsity lineup.

Those include senior Nick Blain, juniors Jacob Peltz, Trent Montgomery, Josh Criscenti, Teddy Lang and sophomore Tyler Pozan.

» After a season in which

Plymouth finished fifth in the division (4-8) and seventh in the regionals, head coach Tammy Thompson is enthusiastic that a solid nucleus can help the boys move up the standings this season.

Key returnees include fourth-year senior Charlie Anderson, junior Jordan Orzech (entering his third season) and sophomores Donald Blevins and Nicholas Ray.

New to the squad are sophomores Steven Hill, Lucas Meiers, Nathan Stoeckle and freshmen Matthew Armstrong, Bryce Smith, Tyler Schlee and Justin Kapke.

"As you can see with a lot of new players on the roster we are in the process of rebuilding the team," Thompson ex-plained. "We have lost a lot of varsity players in the last two years.

"I am excited about the players that we have picked up. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us.

Girls preview

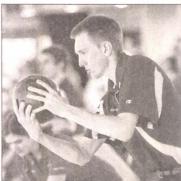
Salem's varsity girls bowling team is shaping up nicely as far as Hahn is concerned with four returnees.

'Salem girls are going to do amazing things this year," Hahn noted.

Back from 2012-13 — when Salem went 13-2 overall and 10-2 in the KLAA Central to win a share of the title — are senior Rachel Boucha and sophomores Katherine Kehoe, Rachel Lopez and Brynna Sam-

Boucha's sister, freshman Leah Boucha, also is showing plenty of promise.

"We only have five girls (on varsity) so the pressure is on



Salem's boys bowling team lost several top performers to graduation, including Kevin Williams (above). BILL BRESLER | STAFF **PHOTOGRAPHER**

for all of them," Hahn said. "But (assistant coach) Crystal Webb and myself know they can do it. They are all strong bowlers.

» At Plymouth, coach Thompson will be looking to fill the void left by the departure of Caitlyn Webb (first at regionals last season and in the top 16 at states).

Veterans who will be called upon include junior Lauryn Vincent and sophomore Jessica Joppich.

New to the squad are sophomores Marissa Holmes, Imani Marable, Zharae Spratt and freshman Elizabeth Nicholson.

"I am expecting a very fun season this year and I think the players will improve tremendously this season," Thompson said.

Last winter, the Wildcats went 6-9 overall and 4-8 in the

(Information about Canton's girls team was not available as of press time but will be included in a future edition of the Observer.)



Grand Valley State University center back Kayla Kimble helped the Lakers win the NCAA Division II National women's soccer championship. GVSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Kimble goes out in style

Anchors stingy Grand Valley defense to NCAA Division II title

> **By Brad Emons** Staff Writer

The script couldn't have been written any better for Kayla Kimble.

The 5-foot-3 defensive dynamo for the Grand Valley State University women's soccer team started her career on an NCAA Division II National championship team and ended her career Saturday in the same fashion as the Lakers blanked West Florida, 2-0, for the coveted title in Evans Park, Ga.

As a center back, the 2010 Livonia Stevenson High grad anchored the nation's stingiest defense which recorded 21 shutouts en route to a 24-0-1 record.

Kimble, the 2013 Daktronics Midwest Region Player of the Year, also learned Monday that she had been a first-team All-America along with Lakers senior goalkeeper Abbey Miller.

All told, Kimble was a part of two national titles and four straight trips to the NCAA Division II Final Four while playing for Grand Valley.

"It's been an amazing career," Kimble said. "Honestly, I couldn't ask for a better senior year going undefeat throughout the season and winning the national championship. Overall, I've had a great experience with the program. I met and made a lot of new friends that I now call family. I've learned a lot of new things and overall it's been a really, really great experience to be here at Grand Valley."

All-America

Kimble anchored a defense that allowed just four goals all season.

"This year there was no doubt she was leader our back line," said Grand Valley coach Dave Dilanni, who has guided the Lakers to three national titles in five years. "She's the leader on the field as a player as well as a coach on the field. She's an All-American, no doubt about it."

Dilanni didn't hesitate to put Kimble at the center of the Lakers' defense during her senior season.

"She became a player who was going to give everything she had for her senior year to win a national championship," he said. "Not only for herself - and to end her career on a high note - but also for the team. She became more of a vocal leader, which is not her forte. We needed her to do that.

"What separates her as a center-back ... she's a competitor. She has a competitive spirit. She shut down two All-Americans, neither which scored during the Final Four. She's an All-American as well and in my opinion makes her the (NCAA Division II) Player of the Year.'

Kimble always accepted the challenge of taking on the opponents' top goal scorers in a one-on-one matchup, but

always within the team concept.

Marking back

"Over the last two years, that's been my main role in games, especially when there's a strong forward up top," she said.

Kimble also provided the Lakers some offense of her own when she drilled home a penalty kick in Thursday's national semifinal win over American International. The PK gave Grand Valley a two-goal advantage and eventually a 4-1 victory.

It was her second PK goal of the season.

But the old adage "Defense wins championships" certainly applied to Kimble more than anything else.

'We're the oldest (back) line, but we had a lot of freshman playing a lot of minutes this year and people coming off the bench who were very adept," Kimble said. "We've been playing together so long and I think it played a lot into our success because we know each other inside-and-out. Being the oldest and strongest line back there helped us out a lot. I think overall we played a lot of defense, just not the back line. It was all over the field. I think that played a lot into our success as well."

As a freshman, Kimble played in 21 games (454 minutes) with one start on the Lakers' national championship team.

During her sophomore year, she started 21 games on a defense that allowed just 10 goals and posted 16 shutouts, while earning second-team All-Midwest Region honors.

More experience

After battling an earlyseason injury in 2012, Kimble returned to start in 16 matches while earning second-team All-Midwest Region and first-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference accolades as the Lakers' defense topped the nation in shutout percentage and a second-place goals-against average (0.429).

"As a player she was instrumental in a lot of things we've done," Dilanni said. "She book-ended her career with national championships. She played different roles during those years.

'She was injured quite a bit her freshman year, but played off the bench and played a key part to what we were trying to do as a central midfielder.

Kimble's father Jim, is also Stevenson grad who played soccer at Central Michigan University. He coached the Stevenson girls to back-to-back state titles (1997 and 1998) and was a member of Stevenson's boys state championship teams during the 1980s.

So needless to say, Kayla's fundamentals have been strong from the start.

Kimble is scheduled to graduate in April with a degree in business/marketing.

bemons@hometownlife.com 313-222-6851

SPORTS BRIEF

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, hur-

dles, 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.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 18 Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: The theme for meditations is "Waiting for the

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 enter-

tainment Contact: 734-425-4421

CANDLELIGHT NIGHT

Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 Location: Zhong Shu Temple,

23845 Middlebelt, Farmington **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 michigantemple@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: 7 p.m. Saturday,

Location: St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh,

Details: Christmas Cantata will include secular and religious music and will include handbells. Freewill offering

Contact: 734-464-8844; sttimothypcusa.org **FILM**

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

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills **Details**: The Muppet Christmas Carol; free and includes potluck dinner

Contact: 248-553-3380

NATIVITY

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21

Location: Lake Pointe Bible CHurch, 42150 Schoolcraft, Plymouth

Details: Living Nativity Contact: 734-420-0515

JANUARY 2014 YOUNG FIVES PROGRAM

Time/Date: Jan. 6, 2014 **Location:** St. Paul's Preschool and Day Care, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: New Young Fives program begins. Preschool/day care runs 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.Monday-Friday for ages 2 1/2-5. Contact: Karen or Robin at

248-474-2488 **ONGOING**

CLASSES/STUDY Men's Bible study Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville Contact: 734-846-4615

Our Lady of Loretto Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Monday Location: Six Mile and Beech

Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday. **Location:** School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth

Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads the study of Acts of the

Road, Livonia

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays Location: Room A101, 40000 W.

Six Mile, Northville Details: Learner's Bible study is

Contact: 248-374-5920 **FAMILY COMMUNITY** MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington

Details: Free meal Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

FOOD BANK

New Hope Church Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only Location: 44815 Cherry Hill,

Canton Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at 734-270-2528.

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergart-

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at

734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first

and third Tuesdays Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope. Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911

Five Mile, Livonia **Details:** All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service

Contact: 313-563-0162 **PRAYER**

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests. Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back Details: Music, singing, prayer Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Location: 7000 N. Sheldon,

Canton **Details:** Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333

SINGLES

Redford; Room 304

Detroit World Outreach Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday Location: 23800 W. Chicago,

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social. Thursdays. Location: 200 E. Main St.,

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

Passages

View Online www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BECKER, SUZAN

Age 86, passed away peacefully December 6, 2013. Loving wife to Walter for 52 beautiful years. Loving mother to Melissa Nowak, Matthew Becker and his wife, Amy. Adored grandmother to Max, Isabel, Simon, Mason and Emily. Suzan enjoyed teaching at the Livonia Senior Center and creating stained glass.



CZERKAS, ELISSA (NEE WITTRY)

of Birmingham. Age 62, passed away on November 20th after long battle with cancer. Survived by loving husband Jan, mother Joan Roberts, brothers David and Steven Wittry and nephews Weston, Addison, Spencer and Nathaniel. There is no more pain. May she rest in peace.



GREINER, VALERIE (MAZZA)

Died December 7, 2013 due to a several year battle with peritoneal cancer. She was 55. Valerie was the daughter of Louise and Baptiste Mazza of Washington, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Tony Greiner; her brothers Louie Mazza and Tony Mazza, both of Washington, PA; and seven nieces and five nephews and their families. Valerie was Director of Finance at Detroit Country Day School for 10 years until 2011 She was Manager of Accounting at St. Joseph Mercy for eight years prior. Valerie also worked at West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh and Anadarko Production Company, Houston, Texas. She was a Certified Public Accountant, a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania and an active member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. A Mass will be held Wednesday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady Of Good Counsel Church, Plymouth, MI 48170.



KING, IRENE

age 93, of Brighton formerly of Westland passed away December 9, 2013. She was born on September 17, 1920 the daughter Thomas and (Broadbent) Ford. Her first husband Les Mounsey preceded her in death. On September 26, 1959 she married Francis D. King in Ferndale, Michigan and he preceded her in death on February 9, 2007. Irene enjoyed playing the organ, sewing, painting, knitting, gardening and was also a great cook. She volunteered at several places throughout her life. She worked as a switch board operator for Hanley Dawson for years and then went on to be a secretary at Dodge Main. Irene is survived by her children: Heide (Jerry) Mounsey, grandchildren: Bret (Amy) Scott, Mathew (Sarah) Scott, Megan Scott, Steve (Glo-Mounsey, Bria Brian (Patty) Mounsey, Great grandchildren: Julia, Joshua and James Scott. She was preceded in death by one son Bruce Alan Mounsey, daughter-in-law Carol Mounsey, 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Memorial contributions in Irene's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association with available at the funeral home. Please visit Irene's book of memories at

www.keehnfuneralhome.com



MORTZ, BETTY J.

Age 90. December 7, 2013 mother of Reginald (Yvette), Craig (Doreen), and Bradford (Karel) Mortz. Loving grandma of Rick, Linda, Craig, and Brian Mortz. Also leaves 4 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements entrusted to Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Downtown Farmington www.thayer-rock.com

Age 76, Decemebr 10, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Onofrio 'Bebe." Loving mother of Gerald (Terese), Thomas Wiley and Vicky (Douglas) Dear grandmother of Shane. Tayla, Shaun, Ryan. Douglas, Valery, Natalie, Olivia and the late Vailey.

VANCE, CONNIE M.

great-grandmother of Keihana, Payton, Stephen, Shaun Jr., Adri-ana and Heath. Dear sister of Lenny Kaledas, Carol (Howard) Behr, Donna (Al) Spiteri, Bill (Diane) Kaledas, Ron (Colleen) Kaledas, and Rick (Donna) Kaledas. She will be dearly missed by many nieces, nephews, family members and friends. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. followed by the 3 p.m. Funeral Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd.,

Cherry Hill). www.santeiufuneralhome.com Santeiu Funeral Home

Garden City (between Ford and



ZYREN, NICHOLAS J.

31, of Farmington, died suddenly December 9, 2013. Nick is sur-vived by his loving parents, Jerry (Barbara) Zyren and Linda Szechowycz; brother, SFC Nathaniel Charles Zyren; dear grandmothers, Marie Zyren and Martha Szechowycz; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Sadly, Nick was preceded in death by grandparents, Anthony Zyren, and Charles and Elsie Kowalski. Visitation Thursday, Dec. 12, from 2-9 pm, with 7 pm prayers, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rd., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Funeral Mass Friday, Dec. 13, 10:00 am (in state 9:30 am) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington.

Memorial gifts suggested to the Epilepsy Foundation, epilepsyfoundation.org. heeney-sundquist.com



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

S'craft musicians jazz up season

Audience encouraged to join in during college performance

> **By Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer

The Winter Wonders concert at Schoolcraft College is no place for passive listeners.

Riccardo Selva gives audience members permission to snap their fingers, clap to the beat and even shout "go go" or "yeah," in response if the music moves them.

"The nature of a jazz concert is participatory," said Selva, director of the college's jazz studies program. "It comes from the black music tradition ... the preacher says something and the congrega-tion answers back. There's energy and interaction and creativity. You don't just sit and people shush you.

"There is an energy in the room that is fun and creative. It's positive for the performers – when you hear a good response it encourages you and the audience gets the feel that they are involved. When the audience just sits there unresponsive, it's a different

Jazzy arrangements

Selva hopes to leave the audience "wanting more" when he brings the Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble and Schoolcraft College Improvisation Combo together for a free holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, in the Diponio Room at the VisTaTech Center, on Schoolcraft College's main campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livo-

The groups will play a variety of traditional, contemporary and holiday jazz arrangements and will feature the music of Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Glenn Miller, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Dave Brubeck and Vince Guaraldi. The audience will hear Skating and Christmastime Is Here,



Musicians jazz up traditional Christmas tunes at a previous holiday concert.

from A Charlie Brown Christmas, Sleigh Ride, and Good King Wenceslaus, among others. The groups also will play a few nonholiday songs, such as Straighten Up & Fly Right, and Fly Me to The Moon.

"One of my trumpet players, Dave DeClark, has done an arrangement of Nuttin' For Christmas. It's a charming arrangement. There's a little narrative of dialogue back and forth. It's cute and funny," Selva said.

Unusual instruments

The Ensemble, the larger of the two groups, plays arranged and written music that "makes use of beautiful instrumentation," Selva explained. The

Combo is smaller and creates music "in the moment."

"I'd love to get a few more unique instruments. I have a couple accordionists, which is cool," Selva said. His groups also include piano, vibes, guitar and drums, in addition to brass instruments.

"We'll even have some chimes for the holiday sounds," he added. "We'll have tambourines, sleigh bells, finger symbols — a battallion of percussionists."

For more information about the concert, call the Schoolcraft College Music Department at 734-462-4403 or email Selva at rselva@schoolcraft.edu.



Ricardo Selva, Ph.D., director of the jazz studies program at Schoolcraft College, takes the stage during a concert.

Concert features band, singers, synthesizers

Music students at School-craft College will be busy celebrating the season next

In addition to the Winter Wonders Concert by the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo on Monday, Dec. 16, the Wind Ensemble, Synthesizer En-semble and Choral Union will present Sounds of the Season, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, in the VisTaTech Center, located on the main campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

The free concert will include a variety of spirited seasonal selections.

Jonathan Drake will direct the choir; Paul Mi-chalsen will lead the wind ensemble, which consists of brass and woodwind instruments, percussion and keyboard; and Barton Polot is in charge of the synthe-

sizer group.
Patricia Minnick, music activities coordinator at the college, described the synthesizer sound as "electronic" music.

"It's very unique. The electronic instruments can do pretty much anything horns, percussion parts, lead instruments. The programs are so amazing," she said. "The performances are projected on huge screens, so there's no way you can miss any of the

For more about Sounds of the Season, call the Schoolcraft College Music Department at 734-462-4403 or visit schoolcraft.edu/



GET OUT! CALENDAR

ART & CRAFTS GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during public performances, or by appointment, through Dec. 28

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton Details: Ohio artist Mary Gay-

nier exhibits her intricate paper

Contact: 734-394-5300 **NORTHVILLE**

ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Dec. 14 Location: 215 W. Cady, North-

Details: Visit two exhibits, Small Works, an all-media juried exhibit, and Through the Lens: A Northville Camera Club Exhibit. The Small Works show is "cash and carry," meaning buyers may take the art home with them immediately after purchase. The Through the Lens exhibit will feature photos of nature, animals, family, culture and architecture. Many will be for sale. Contact: 248-344-0497;

http://www.northvillearts.org:

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: View exhibit 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday,

through Dec. 29 **Location**: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: "The Gift of Art" exhibit will include two-dimensional styles from traditional to impressionistic to abstract as

well as photography. Most will Contact: Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939

UPPER HALL GALLERY

Time/Date: Through Jan. 31, 2014; pub hours are 3 p.m. to midnight Monday-Thursday, 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, and noon to midnight Sunday

Location: Liberty Street Brew Pub, 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth Details: The work of photographer Shawn Salvaggio Contact: 734-207-9600

AUDITIONS FARMINGTON HILLS YOUTH THEATRE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 25-26,

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Camp Rock - The Musical, will feature a wide variety of roles, at all performance levels. Auditions are on a drop in basis. Participants should bring a recent school photo. Preliminary materials will be available for review beginning Jan. 8, 2014, at fhgov.com/ YouthTheatre

Contact: 248-473-1859

COMEDY **JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB**

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 13-14 Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Eddie Iffit performs; \$12 show only or \$22 with dinner on Thursday and \$20 show only or \$32 with dinner Friday-Saturday Contact: 734-261-0555

'Old world' carols

Grand Opening

Celebrate a nostalgic Christmas season with the vocal group, Simply Dickens, 7 p.m.

mouth. The show will highlight Christmas carols from the 18th and 19th centuries. The

singers incorporate holiday skits into their performance. Tickets are \$10 in advance and

\$15 at the door, available at www.plymouthhistory.org. Call 734-455-8940 for more

Friday, Dec. 13, at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, in downtown Ply-







information.



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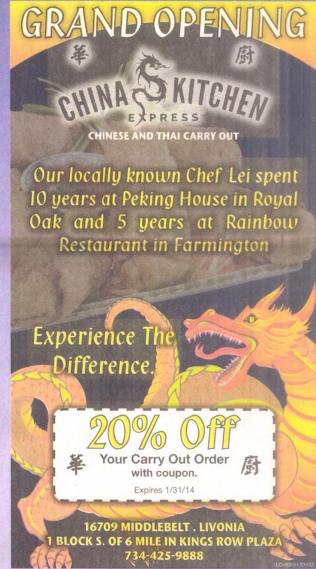


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CHICKEN BROCCOLI ALFREDO

- 8 ounces linguine (% of 1-pound package)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen broccoli florets
- 2 tablespoons butter 1 1/4 pounds skinless.
- boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 can (10 ¾ ounces) Campbell's Condensed **Cream of Mushroom Soup**
- ½ cup milk 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Prepare linguine according to the package directions in 3-quart saucepan. Add broccoli during last 4 minutes of cooking time. Drain linguine mixture well in

Heat butter in 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook until well browned and cooked through, stirring often.

Stir soup, milk, cheese, black pepper and linguine mixture in skillet and cook until mixture is hot and bubbling, stirring occasionally. Serve with additional Parmesan cheese.

ULTIMATE CHICKEN POT PIE

- 1 package (about 14 ounces) refrigerated pie crust (2 crusts), at room temperature
- 1 can (10 ¾ ounces) Campbell's Condensed **Cream of Chicken Soup** ½ cup milk
- 2 cups diced cooked chicken
- 1 package (12 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables.

thawed (about 2 %cups) 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (about 4 ounces)



Stir the soup, milk, chicken and vegetables in a medium bowl. Spoon the chicken mixture into the pie plate. Sprinkle with ¾cup cheese. Place the remaining pie crust over the filling. Trim any excess. Crimp the edges of the top and bottom crusts together. Using a sharp knife, cut several slits in the top crust. Bake for 35 minutes or until the crust is golden brown. Sprinkle the crust with the remaining cheese.

MINI TACO TAMALE PIES

- 12 jumbo-size (3 ½-inch) foil baking
- 1 pound ground beef 1 can (10 ¾ ounces)
- Campbell's Condensed **Cheddar Cheese Soup** 1 cup frozen whole
- kernel corn 1 can (about 4 ounces) chopped green chiles,
- undrained 1 envelope (about 1 ounce) taco seasoning mix
- 1 package (8.5 ounces) corn muffin mix
- 1 egg ⅓ cup milk
- ¾ cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Heat the oven to 350°F. Line 12 (2 1/2-inch) muffin-pan cups with the baking

Cook the beef in a 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat until well browned, stirring often to separate meat. Pour off any fat. Remove the skillet from the heat. Stir in the soup, corn, chiles and taco seasoning.

Mix the corn muffin mix, egg and milk according to the package directions. Spoon about 1/4 cup beef mixture into each baking cup. Spread about 1 tablespoon corn muffin batter on each.

Bake for 20 minutes or until the corn muffin topping is golden brown. Top each with 1 tablespoon cheese.

Bake for 5 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

MINI CHICKEN & STUFFING **CUPS**

- 2 cups diced cooked
- chicken or turkey 1 ½ cups uncooked Pepperidge Farm Herb
- **Seasoned Stuffing** 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped broccoli,



Heat the oven to 350°F. Place paper liners into 12 (2 ½-inch) muffin-pan cups. Stir the chicken, stuffing, broccoli, soup and cheese in a medium bowl. Spoon about ½ cup chicken mixture into each muffin-pan cup. Lightly press the chicken mixture down so it's level

Bake for 25 minutes or until the chicken mixture is lightly browned. Top each with 2 teaspoons cranberry sauce.

CITY BITES

Vegetarian cooking

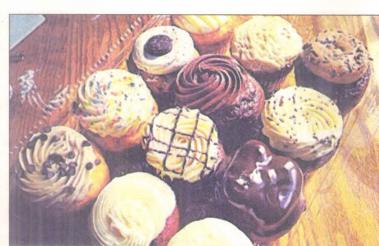
Farmington Hills - Learn how to make Iranian Lentil Bean Soup and apple pie at Zhong Shu Temple's vegetarian cooking class, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at the temple, 23845 Middlebelt. Dildora Damisch will lead the free cooking class, which gives participants a chance to help prepare the food in the temple's kitchen, and then share in eating it. They also may stay after dinner to learn more about Lao-Zi's words of wisdom. A study session will be held from 9-11 p.m. RSVP for the cooking class and dinner to the temple at 248-579-4791.

Bubbles and reds

Livonia — — John Sedestrom from Vintage Wine will lead a tasting of five wines, including reds and sparkling varieties, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at d.vine fine wines, 17386 Haggerty. The wines will be paired with gourmet cheese. Cost is \$25 for Wine Club members and \$30 for nonmembers. For reservations, call 734-432-

Cupcake Day

Southeastern Michigan — Livonia-based Just Baked will recognize National Cupcake Day on Sunday, Dec. 15, by donating more than 1,000 cupcakes to several local charities. Also, the first 50 guests to come into any of the 16 Just Baked locations throughout Metro Detroit that day will receive a free "pay it forward" twopack of cupcakes. Among the 16 locations are 41747 Ford Road, Canton; 39765 Grand River Ave., Novi; 33309 Seven Mile, Livonia; 25198 Evergreen, Southfield; and 32828 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak.



Get free cupcakes Sunday, Dec. 15, from Just Baked.

Realtors' gala has fun, fellowship, outreach to needy

Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors held its annual Holiday Party at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills. The GMAR Member Services Committee coordinated the event. Over 135 members and associates were in attendance, along with Santa Claus.

Over 30 prizes were raffled off, including gift baskets, wine, decorative holiday pieces and a large flat screen smart television. All proceeds from the 50/50 raffle, totaling \$524, went to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan and all toy donations, totaling \$606, went to the Farmington Area Goodfellows.

Celebrants enjoyed a large buffet dinner, speeches from GMAR leadership, music from a professional piano player and a DJ. Women were presented a red rose as they entered and attendees had a professional picture taken of them in front of the tree to commemorate the occasion. The night was filled with laughter, dancing and camaraderie as GMAR ends the year and looks forward to the next.



Santa Claus was a big hit with the revelers on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

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35814 Orangelawn St

34312 Pembroke Ave

35184 Pembroke Ave

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8846 Saville Row

19938 Sunbury St

31160 Westfield St

15816 Woodring Dr

44444 Broadmoor Blvd

17961 Crestbrook Dr

42064 Crestview Cir

39605 Dun Rovin Dr

49102 Freestone Dr

39570 Muirfield Ln

39697 Muirfield Ln

18169 Shoreline Ct

20599 Woodcreek Blvd

47072 Curtis Rd

15500 Surrey St

NORTHVILLE

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 26-30, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities,

addresses, and sales prices. **CANTON** 4015 Berkeley Ave \$122,000 556 Buchanan St \$307,000 7025 Chadwick Dr \$290,000 1048 Chelsea Rd \$239,000 410 Cherry Grove Rd \$208,000 475 Cherry Orchard Rd \$160,000 7335 Chichester Rd \$235,000 45061 Coachman Ct \$151,000 263 Concord Dr \$183,000 635 Constitution St \$206,000 842 Constitution St \$230,000 44765 Danbury Rd \$287,000 48211 Deer Trail Dr \$350,000 1556 Delancy Cir \$450,000 1353 Dundee Dr \$250,000 \$155,000 195 Edington Cir \$170,000 281 Edinaton Cir 1693 Fairfax Dr \$185,000 45483 Glengarry Bivd \$335,000 365 Greenleaf St \$190,000 50101 Jackson Ln \$245,000 42748 Lilley Pointe Dr \$72,000 39815 Lynn St \$143,000 6125 Marshall Rd \$298,000 41870 Metaline Dr \$235,000 4172 Monarch Ave 1977 Morrison Blvd \$175,000 132 N Village Way \$148,000 39567 Peters Dr \$125,000 48100 Picadilly Ct \$360,000 4761 Pond Run \$243,000 3933 Ravensfield Dr \$200,000 50821 Redding Ct \$600,000 440 Roosevelt St \$226,000 \$160,000 347 S Village Way 45759 Samantha Dr \$199,000 721 Scottsdale Ct \$175,000 3792 Shepherd Ct \$191,000

2545 Woodmont Dr E **GARDEN CITY** 32201 Alvin St 33603 Alvin St 29061 Barton St 28960 Elmwood St 30520 Florence St 201 Helen St 6520 Huntleigh St 30155 Maplewood St 33145 Pardo St LIVONIA 9076 Adams St 15862 Alexander St 19637 Antago St 13944 Ashurst St 14034 Ashurst St 10420 Bassett St 15875 Blue Skies Dr 32934 Bobrich Ct 32267 Bretton St 32965 Brookside Cir 29614 Buckingham St 10015 Camden St 36253 Club Dr 14233 Cranston St 9662 Deering St 30922 Dorais St 14323 Ellen Dr 17961 Floral St 14134 Foch St 9468 Gillman St 39220 Grennada St 33718 Grove St 16860 Hubbard St 29719 Jacquelyn Dr 9419 Lathers St 35259 Leon St 14182 Loveland St 34783 Middleboro St 29471 Morlock St 32463 Norfolk St 32511 Norfolk St

15186 Norman St

3237 Pebble Ln

46876 Torrey Hill Ct

44630 Whitman Ave

47837 Vistas Circle Dr S

1590 Tradition Dr

\$425,000 \$265,000 \$135,000 \$195,000 \$64,000 \$90,000 \$27,000 \$52,000 \$93,000 \$82,000 \$50,000 \$85,000 \$55,000 \$140,000 \$144,000 \$44,000 \$200,000 \$275,000 \$235,000 \$280,000 \$255,000 \$127,000 \$216,000 \$174,000 \$150,000 \$37,000 \$174,000 \$130,000 \$171,000 \$185,000 \$108,000 \$160,000 \$85,000 \$186,000 \$192,000 \$260,000 \$180,000 \$117,000 \$140,000

PLYMOUTH 15050 Bradner Ave 235 Burroughs St 1696 Cassady Place Dr 44710 Charnwood Dr 500 Ford St 444 Jener Pl 590 Jener Pl 10649 Jo Ann Ln 1410 Junction St 669 Karmada St 11636 Morgan Ave 47623 Norton Ct 49402 Pine Dr 49404 Pine Ridge Dr 9320 Pineview Dr 234 Pinewood Dr 49958 Plymouth Way 13381 Portsmouth Xing 9264 Rocker Ave 448 Roe St 101 S Union St \$169,000 9187 Tavistock Dr REDFORD \$256,000 \$75,000 26527 Clarita 9936 Farley \$215,000 13211 Hemingway \$254,000 \$172,000 17686 Indian

19368 Macarthur \$143,000 \$57,000 20569 Macarthur \$48,000 \$295,000 11396 Riverdale \$330,000 \$27,000 14158 Salem \$140,000 \$60,000 26714 W Chicago \$66,000 \$30,000 \$130,000 8919 Woodbine \$69,000 \$83,000 WAYNE \$130,000 4090 Second St \$30,000 \$220,000 4260 Eastlawn Ave \$64,000 4609 Elizabeth St \$55,000 \$490,000 5228 Fletcher St \$15,000 34920 Glover St \$645,000 \$27,000 \$375,000 34869 Winslow St \$31,000 34869 Winslow St \$59,000 \$281,000 \$296,000 **WESTLAND** \$81,000 \$512,000 1600 Ackley Ave \$280,000 29101 Brody Ave \$113,000 \$320,000 144 Darwin St \$95,000 \$533,000 32767 Fairchild St \$59,000 \$400,000 33726 Fernwood St \$88,000 35703 Florane St \$80,000 31703 Glen St \$220,000 \$75,000 \$200,000 7966 Hugh St \$122,000 8226 Huntington St \$205,000 \$30,000 \$353,000 2181 Martin St \$110,000 \$70,000 2618 Muirfield Dr \$110,000 7909 N Henry Ruff Rd \$256,000 \$125,000 \$210,000 37612 N Rhead Cir \$105,000 \$285,000 443 N Sybald St \$95,000 34448 Nancy St \$99,000 \$57,000 32237 Palmer Rd \$145,000 \$33,000 \$126,000 34000 Pawnee St \$57,000 8185 Randy Dr 8305 Roselawn St \$675,000 \$115,000 \$610,000 8349 Roselawn St \$122,000 \$365,000 724 5 Henry Ruff Rd \$40,000 \$84,000 443 S Marie St \$115,000 \$155,000 8599 Sanford Dr \$108,000 \$377,000 32663 Steinhauer St \$92,000 \$223,000 1819 Treadwell St \$128,000 \$105,000 35222 Wallace St \$30,000 \$156,000 38135 Warner Farms Dr \$83,000 39005 Willow Creek \$196,000 \$169,000 Pkwv 39019 Willow Creek \$70,000 \$25,000

26427 Lyndon

\$50,000

\$148,000 Pkwy \$74,000 7385 Woodview St \$27,000 6044 Yale St \$68,000 \$90,000

25100 Sullivan Ln

39875 Village Wood Ln

\$70,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

\$320,000

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 5-9, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices

\$185,000

\$220,000

\$80,000

41507 Simcoe Dr

44588 Tillotson Dr

2498 The Crossings Ln

BEVERLY HILLS 17124 Birwood Ave \$255,000 18120 Kinross Ave \$223,000 **BINGHAM FARMS** \$305,000 23700 Overlook Cir **BIRMINGHAM** 1000 Ann St \$375,000 211 Aspen Rd \$897,000 652 Bloomfield Ct \$320,000 1462 Emmons Ave \$223,000 1007 Floyd St \$609,000 959 Hazel St \$735,000 2009 Hazel St \$600,000 \$631,000 955 Humphrev Ave \$513,000 1044 Knox St 650 Lakeview Ave \$720,000 1045 N Old Woodward \$223,000 760 Pleasant St \$588,000 100 Rugby St \$203,000 538 Smith Ave \$223,000 600 W Brown St # 410 \$230,000 591 W Frank St \$1,118,000 **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** \$205,000 20 Barbour Ln 5980 Braemoor Rd \$280,000 481 Cambridge Way \$432,000 1054 Stratford Pl \$315,000 3806 Wedgewood Dr \$370,000 **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** \$256,000 2766 Aldgate Dr 750 Ardmoor Dr \$650,000 \$318,000 2820 Berkshire Dr 1861 Brookview Cir \$249,000 \$250,000 2717 Colonial Trl \$547,000 6251 Dakota Cir 3731 Darlington Rd N \$363,000 7342 E Greenwich Dr \$381,000

839 Edgemont Run

4663 Hedgewood Dr

6023 Hickory Tree Trl

1206 Northover Dr

239 Eileen Dr

\$290,000

\$266,000

\$335,000

\$330,000

\$450,000

26004 Power Rd

34143 Quaker Valley Ln

570 Provencal PI \$940,000 677 Rolling Rock Rd \$318,000 1743 S Hill Blvd \$157,000 6604 Spruce Dr \$240,000 \$350,000 1935 Tuckaway Dr 1820 W Bend Dr \$250,000 2595 W Hickory Grove \$182,000 3063 Woodcreek Way \$581,000 **COMMERCE TOWNSHIP** 8519 Buffalo Dr \$161,000 4454 Darlene Dr \$357,000 5624 Lancaster Ln \$345,000 8115 Locklin Ln \$363,000 5200 Paula Crest Dr \$150,000 2757 Pinto Dr \$185,000 2052 Warbler Ct \$318,000 2563 Watonga Dr \$365,000 8270 Woodspur Dr \$230,000 **FARMINGTON** 21539 Birchwood St \$201,000 23164 Cass Ave \$184,000 23189 Floral St \$110,000 23197 Floral St \$127,000 \$271,000

33712 Grand River Ave **FARMINGTON HILLS** 22182 Abington Dr 23232 Ashley St 22130 Averhill St 37744 Bradley Dr 31174 Bycroft St 38906 Country Cir 29486 Cove Creek Ln 35294 Edythe Dr 30247 Fink Ave 36957 Fox Run 28547 Green Willow St 28815 Hidden Trl 30249 High Valley Rd 26206 Kiltarton St 26297 La Muera St 29660 Mayfair Dr 29695 Mayfair Dr 28299 New Castle Rd 32079 Nottingwood St 28144 Peppermill Rd

30400 Ramblewood Club Dr 21530 Rensselaer St 28221 Ridgebrook Rd 38459 Saratoga Cir 29655 Sierra Point Cir 21652 Tulane Ave 31291 Verona St 29890 W 12 Mile Rd # 25452 Witherspoon St FRANKLIN 25870 Woodlore Rd LATHRUP VILLAGE 18150 Lincoln Dr **MILFORD** 925 Byron Dr 326 Dorchester Way 334 Hickory St 1575 Michael Ct 801 N Garner Rd **NORTHVILLE** 51824 Eight Mile Rd 1026 Andover Dr 48891 Barola Ct 770 Bradburn Ct 21341 Bridle Run

\$210,000

\$185,000

\$390,000

\$160,000

\$175,000

\$270,000

\$244,000

\$178,000

\$190,000

\$630,000

\$400,000

\$300,000 1182 Concord Ct \$126,000 20860 Maybury \$104,000 21910 Parkwood Ln 20752 Richmond Dr \$345,000 21254 Woodfarm Dr \$192,000 \$115,000 NOVI \$165,000 45291 Bartlett Dr \$84,000 24425 Christina Ln \$105,000 46270 Cordoba Dr \$370,000 41487 Cornell Dr \$125,000 28367 Declaration Rd \$344,000 43088 Emerson Way \$290,000 29723 English Way \$185,000 24321 Fairway Hills Dr \$172,000 47553 Greenwich Dr \$110,000 27891 Hopkins Dr \$230,000 27991 Hopkins Dr \$135,000 40678 Lenox Park Dr \$186,000 40767 Lenox Park Dr \$176,000 24250 N Le Bost \$75,000 24500 Park Ridge Ct \$363,000 24278 Saybrook Ct

41158 Scarborough Ln

\$6,000 23251 Willowbrook \$206,000 \$159,000 45151 Yorkshire Dr \$245,000 \$166,000 45151 Yorkshire Dr \$245,000 \$165,000 **SOUTH LYON** \$48,000 59667 Nine Mile Rd \$255,000 \$228,000 54125 Birchwood Dr \$343,000 \$45,000 54839 Brentwood Dr \$379,000 54873 Brentwood Dr \$332,000 \$315,000 24391 Brompton Way \$395,000 24518 Brompton Way \$392,000 \$820,000 1125 Chestnut Ln \$264,000 25745 Coach Ln \$375,000 \$135,000 1063 Colt Dr \$249,000 26201 Daria Cir E \$350,000 \$160,000 61440 Dean Dr \$275,000 1106 Fountain View Cir \$224,000 24405 Glenwood Dr \$400,000 61208 Greenwood Dr \$310,000 21043 Parkwoods Dr 58640 Swing Beam Ct \$275,000 62016 Tayberry Cir \$445,000 60635 Trebor Dr \$740,000 26710 York Ct \$333,000 **SOUTHFIELD** \$511,000 20910 Andover Rd \$168,000 22509 Avon Ln \$670,000 27485 Berkshire Dr \$300,000 28233 Berkshire Dr \$200,000 19560 Cherry Hill St \$255,000 21121 Dartmouth Dr 27355 Everett St \$84,000 17542 Gateway Cir \$210,000 18530 George \$470,000 Washington Dr \$175,000 20310 Lacrosse Ave \$87,000 25045 Lathrup St \$65,000 17599 Lincoln Dr \$270,000 17221 Madison St

\$180,000 \$110,000 \$401,000 \$62,000 \$331,000 \$80,000 \$325,000 \$279,000 \$353,000 \$142,000 \$100,000 \$138,000 \$89,000 \$160,000 \$145,000 \$70,000 \$88,000 \$37,000 \$63,000 \$44,000 \$141,000 \$164,000 24817 Maryland St \$135,000 29787 Spring River Dr \$70,000 WHITE LAKE 946 Cedar Oaks Trl \$215,000 2103 Hampton St \$177,000 8644 Hancock Dr \$250,000 9095 Huron Bluffs Dr \$293,000 9587 Portage Trl \$55,000 939 Sloane Ct \$165,000

Chicago a toddling town

Q: We are thinking about building a new apartment building in the Detroit area, but understand that Chicago has been avant garde with respect to high tech high-rises. Do you have any information about that?

A: Chicago is a hotbed for high tech high-rises, as was depicted in a Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013, Chicago Tribune Real Estate article, and my personal obser-

vations. Many of the apartments in Chicago, particularly along the Gold Coast, have been converted to condominiums. However, with the influx of young persons who cannot afford condominiums, developers have recognized the need for

apartment development. So called smart technology is giving some apartment communities a competitive edge by expediting the leasing process. Some of the high tech amenities which Chicago developers are utilizing are keyless entries, fobreading elevators, package tracking, a distributed antenna system, tracking workouts, tech gurus acting as concierges, Bluetooth audio systems and convenient charging power outlets with USB ports. You are best advised to consult with a rental agent in Chicago to compare these apartments with more traditional ones.

Meisner

Q: Could you give me some basic information about the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW Act)?

A: The BW Act requires that most properties insured through the National Flood Insurance Program be charged rates reflecting the full risk of flood loss. The premium increases apply immediately to flood insurance policies covering businesses and when residential properties are sold or a lapsed policy is renewed. Additionally, the BW Act requires that flood insurance rate maps be updated on an expedited schedule. Apparently, due to BW Act reforms, many homeowners are facing significant increases in their flood insurance premiums. It may be that these increases are so substantial that owners can no longer afford to maintain flood insurance coverage. Obviously, this is a substantial problem for homeowners in areas where flood insurance coverage is required by federal law for mortgaged properties. To help Congress better understand the impact of BW Act reforms, the law required that FEMA determined how flood insurance rate hikes would affect homeowners living in areas where flood insurance coverage is manda The BW Act additionally required that FEMA study how substantial increases in flood insurance premiums would affect overall participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. There is new legislation that has been submitted in an effort to set aside substantial flood insurance rate hikes, but you are best advised to consult with your local congressperson or senator as to how it may impact you.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of " Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of " Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

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If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved.

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\$99" moves you in! HOMES STARTING AS LOW AS \$999/MONTH DOM: T BAT

4 BEDROOM, 2 BATH for \$1149/mon HURRY these homes are going fast! CALL SUN HOMES TODAY

(888) 448-3061 OR APPLY ON LINE AT WWW.4NORTHVILLE.COM South Lyon Schools! Office hours M-F 8a-5p Sat 9a-1p Sun 12p-4p Offer expires 12/23/13 "Some restrictions apply

EHO



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So Much More Than You Bargained For!

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Free Rent until Feb. 1st, 2014

BRAND NEW

Beautiful 3 Bed/2 Baths Homes with All Appliances Starting at \$629

Call us today! (888) 272-3099

Academy/Westpoint 42021 Old Michigan Ave. . Canton *Offer valid on select homes only Expires 12/23/13 WAC www.academywestpoint.com Free rent (fill 2/1/2014

Hurry Homes Will Last! \$398 woves you in.

Home comes with all appliances Including Washer/Dryer and dishwasher! All Homes come with A/C! Select homes include Shed for additional storage space!

College Park Estates Canton, MI 48188

(HIGHT) PERS-STATE

every conting approximation

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A new home and all your gifts paid for the holidays! Enjoy a

Homes from \$11,900 to \$74,900

PLYMOUTH HLIS

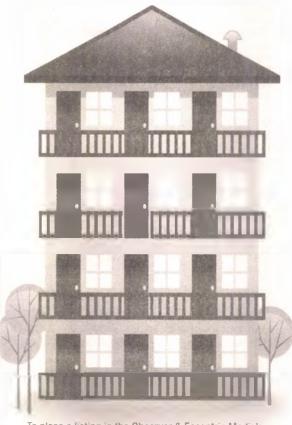
Call Ray in Plymouth at 734.414.9760

www.ajrhomesales.com



Find the perfect place to call home in the Observer & Eccentric Media classified advertising section. We have apartment and real estate listings every week in the following communities:

Berkley • Birmingham • Canton Clawson • Farmington • Garden City Huntington Woods • Livonia • Milford Northville • Novi • Pleasant Ridge Plymouth • Redford • Royal Oak Southfield • South Lyon • Westland



To place a listing in the Observer & Eccentric Media's Apartment & Real Estate Guide call

1-800-579-SELL

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careerbuildercom

Help Wanted - General

ATTORNEY

handle complex cases a busy, fast paced working environment. Good benefit: and salary commensurate

BOOKKEEPER

Full-charge duties for multi family property mgt. Co. in armington Hills. 2 year's a/r a/p, p/r & gl exp. a must. Full time with healthcare. Send resume/ wage request to JobOpen030@aol.com E0l

CERTIFIED AUTOMOTIVE

TECHNICIAN Full time. Plymouth/Car area at an established Tire &
Automotive Service Center.
Send resume to:
certifiedautomotivetech@

gmail.com

PART-TIME Northville First United Method-ist Church is looking for an individual to work as a Sunday custodian and also as a "fill-in to cover vacations and othe absences. If interested or for more info submit resur or call Debbie: 248-667-2263

DIRECT CARE STAFF Work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland (734) 722-4580 x9

DME Biller

Seeking applicant for Canton & West Bloomfield Locations to coordinate al Aspects of DME equipmen equests. Send resume

ESTABLISHED COMPANY IN

BRIGHTON
Is seeking quick learners for sorting and inspecting automotive parts, no exp. necessary Paid training provided. Must have own tra Please call 810-229-6053

LEGAL ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT - EXP REQ'D Busy law office seeking highly self motivated cand date to handle detailed A/F monthly client billing, data entry of client expenses into Billing Matters program, da travel arrange ents, facilitate daily, rou tine office operations & tasks Please send resume to: hampton@dawson-clark.com

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Neapco Drivelines Van Buren Township, M 3-5 yrs. supervi

Availability for any shift. College Degree Preferred Email resume to: pcaylor@neapco.com EEO

VET ASSISTANT 20-30hrs/week. Apply within: Sheldon Veterinary Hospital, 9460 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth or Call 734-454-5580.



Help Wanted - General

WAREHOUSE

s in Wixom is looking to fill full-time Warehouse positions. We are looking for RESPONSIBLE, DEPENDABLE PRESENTABLE individuals. You must be able to work You must be able to work weekends and evenings, have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license. Organizational skills are a plus. This is a physically demanding position which requires heavy life. ing. To be considered for this position, apply in person: Synergy Installation Solutions 29988 Anthony Dr. Wixom, MI 48393

NEW YEAR ? **NEW CAREER** ooking for outgoing, compet

Call/email to join our team today! 248-477-4880

- Thurs. 6-9pm & Sat

O&E Media Classifieds Work Hard!



Call today!

Office Clerical

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Hills law firm requires a skilled, intelligent and motivated person with substantia experience as a Legal Secre tary and Executive Assistan Knowledge of some financia software helpful. Exceller benefits. Salary commensurate with duties and experience. Inquiries treated confidentially.

Please send detailed resum and explanation of experience and interest to: Reference Box 6007

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT Fast paced Livonia family prac-tice. Must be reliable, patient friendly, flexible, able to work evenings & Saturdays. X-ray Fax resume: 734-425-1002

MEDICAL ASSISTANT ediatric office in Livonia. p req. approx 30 hrs/wk Exp req. 734-591-0220

RN, LPN or MA EXPERIENCED preferred excellent pay & benefits. Email or FAX resume: a2derm@aol.com fax 734-996-8767

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Help Wanted - Medical

SCRUB TECH

Experience required For plastic surgery surgical suite.
Fax resume: 248-305-5880

Help Wanted - Domestic

and around community \$11.50/ hr. Seeking persona 734-718-6928

ASSISTANT / HELPER

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED Days, Part-Time, \$8-\$12/hi Call between 9-5pm (734) 394-0864

Position Wanted

SANTA CLAUS FOR HIRE Book Early for Christmas, Co Parties & Weddings. Contact Santa Chuck: 586-879-8319

Looking to Buy A New Car? Need to sell the old one first?

Place an ad with bearver & Eccentric Media, and let the Classifieds Self It For You! 200 579-7355

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 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!

To apply; Email your resume to Frank Cibor at fcibor@hometownlife.com or apply on Careerbuilder.com and look for O&E Media Auto Executive position.

ADVERTISING AGGOUNT

Observer & Eccentric Media A Gannett Company

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 ioin 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.

Gannett is a media and marketing solutions company with a diverse portfolio of broadcast, digital, mobile and publishing companies.

Gannett provides consumers easy access to the things that matter most to them - any way

Gannett's portfolio of trusted brands helps business customers connect with these highly engaged audiences through its industry-leading marketing services, customized solutions and

national-to-local-to-personal reach. 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: Ivernon@gannett.com. Attn: Sales Please specify the territory you are interested in on the subject line of your email. **EEOC**

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC **MEDIA**

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Safecracker
- 5 Explosive
- letters Cut. as logs
- 12 Rajah's
- spouse
- 13 Whiskey grain 14 Director
- Kazan
- 15 Shorter and blunter
- Fail to catch
- 18 Nose job 19 Merest amount
- of clothing Dangerous
- shark Touche
- provokers 26 Shaman's
- auest Passe 29 Take a curtain
- call Not decaf. I thought -
- never leave! Not sm. or med.

54

57

- 40 Sumptuous
- emblem 37 — Kippur 38 Give way

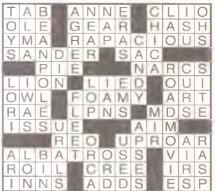
36 Superman's

- 42 Billiard sticks 43 Happened
- next 46 Numerical
- prefix Potato skin 48
- 49 Sly hint 54 Rétirement accts.
- 55 Mesh 56 Paris evening 57 Dove's shelter
- 58 Check-cashing needs 59 Ski lift (hyph.)

DOWN

- Time divs.
- 2 Wolf down3 Wildebeest 4 Historian
- or ape 5 Seneca or Mohawk

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2012 UFS, Dist, by Univ. Uclick for UFS

- 6 PBS "Science Guy"

rumblers

- 7 Without Antique auto "10" actress wasted words 8 Turnpike 20 Stuffed animal
 - 21 Extra 22 Convicted spy
 - Aldrich -

9 Found a perch

10 Milwaukee loc.

- 23 Nail containers 25 Sonnets and haiku
- 27 Fashion 29 Roquefort hue
- 30 Eye amorously Gets spliced 34 Famed escape
- artist 39 Slickest
- 40 Public sentiment
- Goes after game 43 Homer opus
- 44 Pianist Peter -45 Chair
- 47 Greek "N" 50 — Beatty
- of films 51 Head, slangily 52 Width of a cir.
- 53 Boston Bruin great

55



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

Want more puzzles?

Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books

at QuillDriverBooks.com

SAFE GIFTS WORD SEARCH

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WORDS

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE 76 / 0 0 0 0

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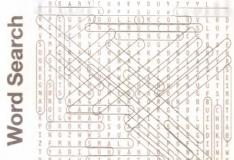
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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N



CHRISTMAS TREE GUIDE

Find your perfect tree by visiting one of these fine businesses!

Would you like to be a part of this guide, contact us at:

Observer & Eccentric Media

1-800-579-7355



Personals

Card of Thanks

PRAYER: Pray 9 Hail Marys for

Your wishes will be granted.-M

hometownlife.com

Absolutely Free

Advanced Placement Social HD printer - good condition. Studies Tutor. 15 years public classroom experience teaching

Arts & Crafts

Holiday Artisan Sale 35835 13 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, 48331. Dec 13-15th. Fri/Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4

Auction Sales

ESTATE AUCTION IT'S ALL Sat., December 14, 7pm Cultural Center ABOUT 525 Farmer

525 Farmer
Plymouth MI
Antiques & Collectibles
Furniture; Glassware
Household Items.
Cash/MC/Visa
Bank Debit Cards
No Checks.
Doors Open 6pm. RESULTS EVERY WEEK. we bring buyers & sellers, Auction Service 734.451.7444 employers & employees. and landlords & tenants

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TOGETHER.

800-579-7355

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er kits, jewelry, books, edu

MOVING prices neg. china cabinet table & 4 chairs, famchairs. 248.489.9119

RANGE, electric, smooth top only 9 mos. ol warranty. 48" os. old, extended 5 yr

Audio & Video

Sony, 5 disc player, receiver DVD, radio, record player speakers, woofer. Like new

Lawn & Garden Materials

CRAFTSMAN Compressor Blower Little Wonder 8hr \$400. Call: 313-820-9711

ocated at 35667 Eight Mile And, Livonia Mi. We will separate into groups of 2 if necessary, We are asking \$850 per plot and that's a savings of \$200 if you purchase these. These will go fast so call uickly to receive this savings (941)725-4200

Glen Eden Cemetery 3 plots - Sunrise Garder \$1,600.00 for all 3 (810)265-0102

If the whole world is going to the dogs, you may as well have one of your own.

Estates Sales

FARMINGTON HILLS:

actionestate.com 586-228-9090

Find a friend today in your Classifieds

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

Plymouth, ESTATE SALE. 45795 Purcell. Fri., Dec. 13, 10-5. Sat., Dec. 14, 10-2 Furniture, antiques, house old. Quality Christmas shoping! (517)256-0695

Household Goods

150PSI, 3.1 hp. 60 gallon. New, still on pallet, \$420. Leaf

Misc. For Sale

6 burial plots for sale in Glen



"It's all about results"

To place an ad, call: 800-579-7355

er kits, jewery, poors, cat-ational materials too much o list. Sat. Dec 7 to Dec. 14. Ja.m. to 5p.m. 7664 N. Can-con Center Rd. Canton In the

Electronics

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER 734-858-7806

hometownlife.com

Dogs

12 Week Old Pure Bred Bas-Mom & Dad on prem ses! No shots, great tem-perament! Perfect Early Gift!

SHIH TZU, AKC, P UPPIES Vet Checked, shots, cute, blk, gold/white, blk/white. Ready. highly socialized 734.699.9525

> WANT TO CLEAN **OUT YOUR** HOUSE?



Observer & Eccentric Media, DO YOUR WORK!

Now is the BEST time to buy a new car



Best of all, credit is available. Look to your local dealer to find a high quality, fuel efficient vehicle. Your dealer knows your market and can help you get financing to meet your needs. If you need a new car, now is the time.

Visit your local dealership or cars.com to find a car today.



Observer & Eccentric A GANNETT COMPANY www.mutchshiddenpines.com

303 W. Newark Rd.

Lapeer nile east of M-24)

Mutch's

Business Hours: Friday, November 29, 9-5pm Friday's, December 6, 13 & 20, 12-5pm Saturday's-Sunday's, November 30-December 22, 9-5pm.

Trucks for Sale

NORTH BROS.

855-667-9860

FORD RANGER 2007

NORTH BROS.

FRONTIER 2000

Pickup, 4x4, 4 door, sunroof, 3.3 V^, auto, air. Only \$6639. Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

Mini-Vans

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT 2007

DEALER

855-314-6440

FORD RANGER 2001

Sport, 4x4, Sport pkg., auto air, full power. Only \$7988.

DEALER

Vans

CHEVY TRAVERSE ILT 2010

Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce

Cut your own & pre-cuts
Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate and more!

Wagon rides
 Visit with Santa from 10am to 4pm Sat. & Sun. only

DDEN PINES LLC

810-667-2711

Misc. For Sale

YULETIDE MARKETPLACE -

43065 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187 (734)455-1132

Musical Instruments

KOHLER & CAMPBELL, 6'

d-dtravelplus@comcast.net

MKZ 2007 NORTH BROS.

JAGUAR 1982 XJS

Mercedes 1973 450 SL-81,000 miles, \$20,000. 248-854-9262

Buick

Cadillac

Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

FURD F-150 RX4 20094x4, super cab, full power, only 49K. Ford Certified, 1.9%. \$23,888. Wheel Controls, CD Audio Sys-tem, Navigation System, DVD Entertainment System, Rearview Camera, Auto Cli-mate Control, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Power Ex-terior Mirrors, Power Side Steps, Xenon Lights, 22" Whaels and note Auto, a/c, full power. Inspected priced to sell!

Chevrolet

CAPRICE 1995 - Gold Ithr. 40k.mi., 5k lb. trlr. pkg., posie

Special Edition, leather, full power. Inspected & warrantied.

CHEVY CRUZE LT 2011 NORTH BROS.

NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

Fwd, full power, alloys, super clean. Priced to Sell! \$20,988 Chrysler-Plymouth DEALER 855-314-6440

Sports Utility DEALER FORD EXPLORER XLT 2008 855-314-6440

4.0 V6, moon roof, 4x4, Clean Car Fax. Reduced \$11,594 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

Sports Utility

Sports & Imported

12,000 Miles, \$4000 248-854-9262

2001 Buick Century; 81,000 miles; fair condition; \$2,800. SOLD.

CADILLAC CTS 2005 Moon Roof, Clean Car Fa Ready to Roll! \$9,794.

Heated Steering Wheel, Cruise Control, Audio Steerin Wheel Controls, CD Audio Sys

Wheels and more text me at (601) 207-2061 (601)207-2061

\$14,000. 248-476-3178 Chev. Monte Carlo SS 2002

Owner! 3.8 V6! Moon Roof! Leather! Dale Earnhardt Edition! Only \$6,815 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

MONTE CARLO SS 2003

TOWN & COUNTRY 2011
Touring Pkg, full power, alloys
30K. Showroom new! \$21,488

Cash in with Classified: 800-579-SELL 應

Call 800-579-7355 to advertise.

Sign-on Bonus & \$.56 CPM!

Northeast, EOE Call 7 days/wk/

866-950-4382 GordonTrucking.

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Drivers, to relocate vehicles from

locations throughout U.S. 1-800-501-3783 or www.mamotrans

Need CDL A or B Contract

area body plants to various

NEW PAY PACKAGE

Tractor Owner Operators

Tupelo, MS to Detroit, MI

2,500-3,000 miles/week.

EARN \$500 A DAY:

888-888-7996

Reimbursement Tools, Scales

surance Agents Needed: Leads.

\$1.500 Sian-On Bonus

MICHIGAN

ENTERTAINMENT &

EVENTS

TOURS' BALLOON

ALLOON RIDES in TRAVERSE

CITY, Ml. Grand Traverse Tours

fers Buy 1 get the 2nd 1/2

once-2014 Season! Order by

Jan. 15th -Call 231-947-7433 or

HELP WANTED

uthem Michigan! \$1000 Sign

On Bonus, Regional Run, Weekly

Home Time, Excellent Pay and

888-409-6033 www DRIVE ITC

DRIVERS IN CENTRAL

WANTED, CDL A

Ford

2010 Fusion SEL, Loaded, wheels/stereo,garaged,48,000 mi, \$13,990 (248)478-1565

2012 Ford Focus SE, Like New, Black, Gray interior Great Condition, 5480 mileage (734)422-3166

FOCUS TITANIUM 2012

FORD FUSION SEL AWD 2010

NORTH BROS. **COBRA 1998**

NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860 FORD MUSTANG GT 2009

NORTH BROS.

FUSION SPORT 2010 ort Pkg., moon, leather. Certified, 1.9%, \$17.98 NORTH BROS.

GRAND CHEROKEE 2012 DEALER

Honda

HONDA CR-X LX 2012 AWD, Only 27k miles, one owner. Warranty. \$19,900 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

HONDA INSIGHT EX 2010 Hybrid, 40 city/43 hwy, only 23,000 miles. 4 dr hatchback, Clean Car Fax. \$13,524 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

HYUNDAI ENTOURAGE 2007

HYUNDAI Sonata GLS 2013

CASH IN with 0&E Media's CLASSIFIEDS 800-579-SELL

IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

Older owner no longer drives, \$17,999, will consider all of-fers. Christmas Gift????

Auto, a/c, full power, alloys ford Certified. Rates as low as

NORTH BROS.

5 speed, leather, full power 75K. Priced to sell! \$9988

Premium Pkg., leather, Bullett wheels, Ford Certified! 1.9% 855-667-9860

855-314-6440

GLS, 7 pasenger, only 66k miles, Clean Car Fax. Reduced \$8732 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

Kia

KIA SORENTO EX 2008 Auto, air, full power, only 69,000 miles. Warranted! \$11,988 V-6, 4x4, SUV, leather, moor roof, Clean Car Fax. \$8683 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

KIA SPORTAGE LX 2007

LINCOLN LS 2002

LSE Pkg., V8, moon, Show room New! Call for details

DEALER.

Mazda

MAZDA 2011 SPEED 3

5 Speed manual, 263 hp, 4 cyl turbo, heated seats. Certified Bose System. WOW!!! Reduced \$18,954

Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

MAZDA 2 SPORT 2012

Auto, a/c, Clean Car Fax. Certified Warranty

Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

MAZDA TRIBUTE LX 2003

SUV - 4X4, moon roof, one owner, 98k miles, extra clean.

Reduced \$6473

Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

Mercury

2003 Mercury Sable LS

Stereo

123.000 (248)756-3234

CD/Cassette, newer tires &

Mainyained by Varsity Lincoln

MERCURY Grand Marquis

Clean Car Fax. \$5494

Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

MERCURY MARINER 2009

Premier, V6, auto, moonroof leather. Black on Black.

EXTRA CLEAN! \$11,989 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

Nissan

NISSAN XTERRA XE 2002

Clean Car Fax. \$4976. Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

Pontiac

PONTIAC VIBE 2009 Auto, a/c, alloy wheels, new tires, Clean Car Fax. \$10,796 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

U-CUT-FIR, PINE and SPRUCE

Open 7 days, 10AM 'til DUSK

HOLIZ CHRISTMAS

TREE PLANTATION

66th Year

9381 Day Road, Monroe, MI 48162 near Maybee

734-587-3155

Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall)

Directions: South on US-23 to exit 25. Right on Plank, 7 miles

to Day Rd., turn left 3 miles to

farm P. Holtz Est. 1947

Auto, a/c, full power, spotless condition. Priced to sell \$9988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

34 City, 39 Hwy, auto, a/c, alloy wheel, power windows & locks. Only 43K miles. \$9717 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892 CHEROKEE 2000 LTD, 95K

aks. Very clea 248-880-8689 Volkswagen

> JETTA 2.5 2006 Only 77k, moon roof, auto, heated leather seats. Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

Saturn

AURA 2007

NORTH BROS.

YARIS 2007

VW JETTA TDI 2009 o, moonroof, leather, turt esel 2 yr/2400 warranty! \$15,899 Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

moonroof, \$7,763. Call Kevin at 248-982-4892

RECYCLE THIS **NEWSPAPER**

For Clean

(248) 355-7500

AVIS FORD

Tord

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

NEWSPAPER POLICY All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable

Media 615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226 866-887-2737.

this newspaper & only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. Advertisers are

errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION.
When more than one insertion of the same

advertisement is ordered, only the first insertion

Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination," This newspaper will not knowingly accept any

dental, 30 days vacation/yr, \$ for school HS grads ages 17-34. Call

MISCELLANEOUS THIS CLASSIFIED SPOT

PIONEER POLE

rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department Observer & Eccentric

We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind

responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time i appears & reporting any

will be credited.
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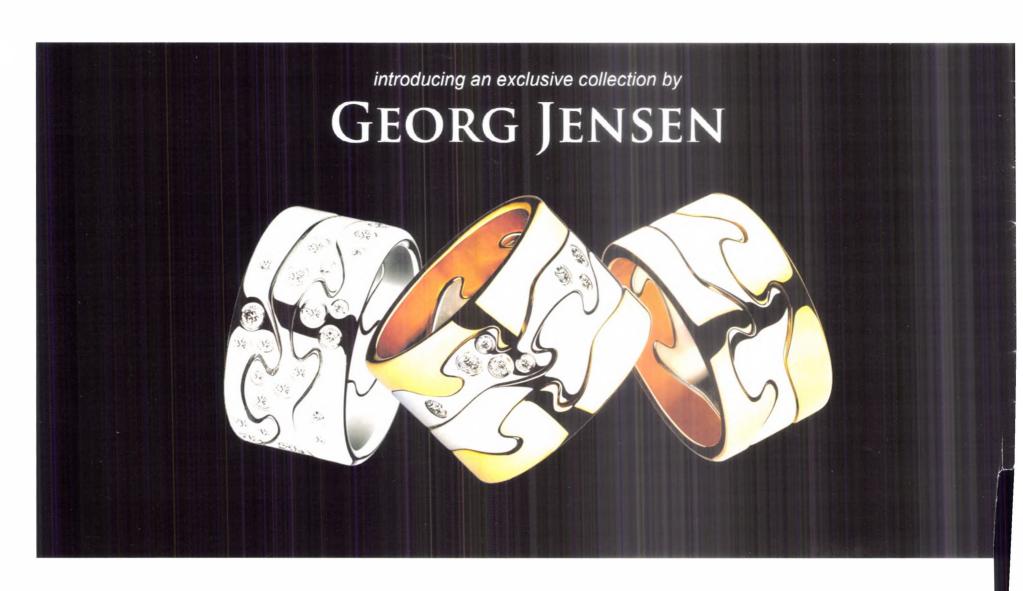
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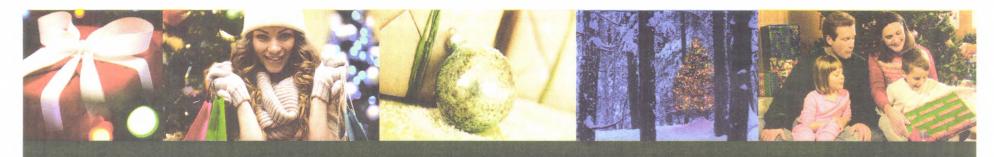
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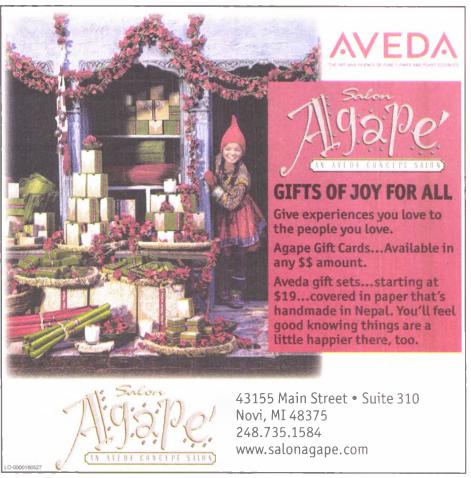


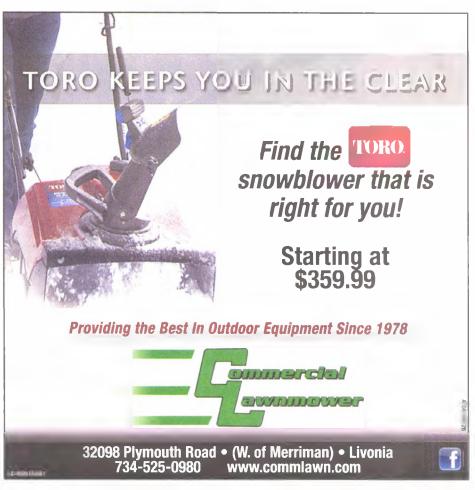
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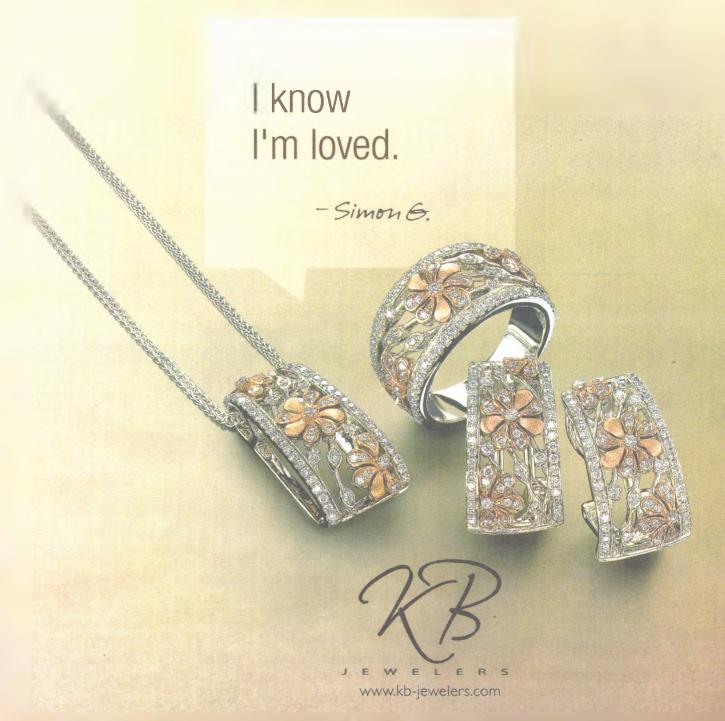
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Xbox One was released just before Thanksgiving with a price of \$499. MICROSOFT

Consoles and games hit shelves for holidays



Jon Gunnells

> TECH SAVVY

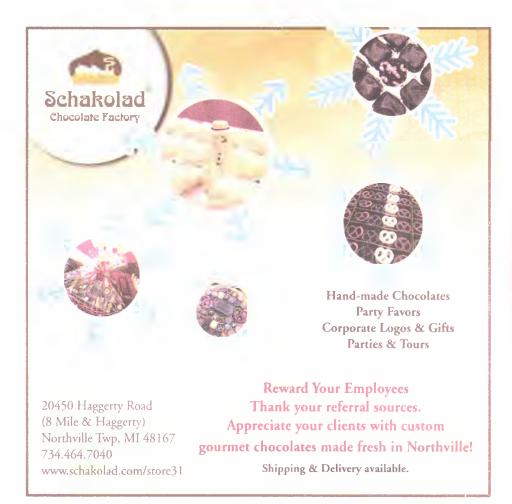
o video game series is more highly anticipated than the annual installment of *Call of Duty*. Extreme gamers line up at midnight to snag a copy and play through the night and ensuing days. The yearly ritual also signals the beginning of the holiday video game rush.

Call of Duty: Ghosts, the 10th installment of the franchise, hit the market in early November and with a bit more fanfare than usual thanks to the also new, Playstation 4. The PS4 made its way to retailers across the U.S. Nov. 15 and will surely be on many Christmas lists in 2013 and beyond.

Sony's PS4 however, is more than just a video game system and, at \$399 per unit, it better be. Like previous models, the PS4 also doubles as a media storage device and a DVD/Blu-Ray combo player. It connects wirelessly to your home Internet, supports wireless controllers and is synced up with many popular video services like Amazon Prime, Hulu, Redbox Instant and Netflix. In fact, those video apps are also supported on the PS3.

Similar to the PS3, the PS4 will work alongside many companion devices. Users can purchase a camera that can be used in conjunction with PS Move, which is a motion-censored add-on. With PS Move, players can use controllers to integrate themselves into a game. For example, in a tennis game you could swing a controller in

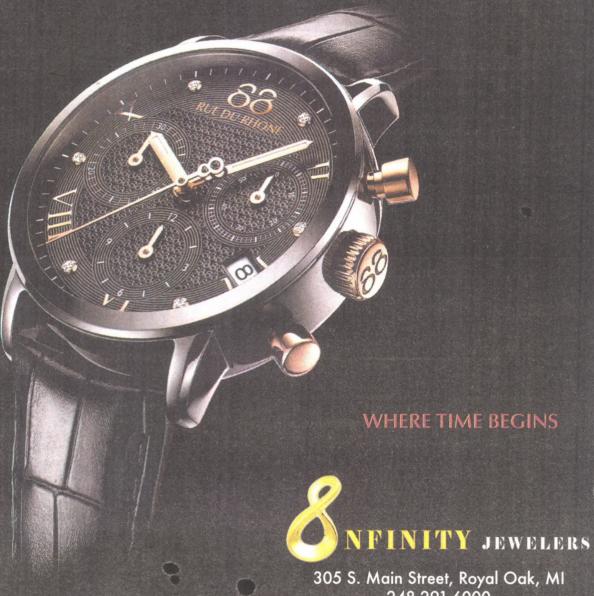
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Some people cannot live without a natural, freshly-cut Christmas tree. GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

Tips for buying natural Christmas trees

Many people harbor strong opinions with regard to which type of Christmas tree they want to purchase. Some cannot live without a natural, freshly-cut Christmas tree, while others prefer the convenience of artificial trees. Those who insist on a natural tree might want to consider the following tips when buying what's likely their biggest decorative item of the holiday season.

» Ask when the tree was cut down. Pre-cut trees may be cut down weeks before they're sold. So if you're buying a pre-cut tree, chances are the tree was

See NATURAL, Page 9





NATURAL

Continued from Page 8

cut down much earlier than you think. This doesn't mean the tree won't make it through the holiday season, but a tree that was cut several weeks ago should have some of its bottom trunk removed before it's placed in the stand. This will make it easier for the tree to consume water. This step likely isn't necessary if the tree was cut down the same day you bring it home.

» Have the tree shaken before taking it home. A tree should be shaken in a shaker before you put it in your car and bring it home. A shaker removes any debris or dead needles from the tree, which can save you the trouble of cleaning up all of those dead needles from your living room floor later on.

» Have the tree wrapped before taking it home. A tree should also be wrapped in twine before taking it home. The twine should be tight enough to keep the tree's branches from blowing in the wind when you attach the tree to the top of your vehicle. If possible, keep the tree wrapped in twine as you place it in the stand. This makes the tree easier to con-

» Choose the right location. When looking for the right place to set up your natural tree, it's best to choose a spot that's cool and free of drafts. The tree should not be placed near heat sources, including appliances, fireplaces or vents, because such heat sources create a safety hazard and can make it difficult for the tree to retain moisture. There should also be ample space between the top of the tree and the ceiling.

» Place some covering on the ground beneath the tree. Even a freshly cut natural tree will shed needles over the course of the holiday season. Before placing the stand in the location you've chosen, put some type of covering, such as a tree bag, beneath the stand so it's easier to gather all those needles once the holiday season has ended.

» Remember that natural trees are thirsty. Men and women who have never had a natural Christmas tree in the past might be surprised at just how thirsty natural trees get. The stand's reservoir should have lots of water, which should never dip below the stump. If the water dips below the stump, you might be forced to cut a little more off the bottom of the trunk to ensure the tree will make it through the holiday season. That can be a hassle once the tree has been decorated, so be sure to check the water in the reservoir at least once per day to maintain adequate water levels.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

organicped



Lighting a tree doesn't have to be a chore when you follow some tips. GETTY IMAGES LISTOCKPHOTO

44717 Five Mile Road

Tree lighting tips

Lighting a Christmas tree may seem like child's play, but time and again people struggle with the task. Untangling wires and wrapping them around boughs can be nerve wracking, but lighting a tree doesn't have to be a chore when you follow some tips from the professionals.

First, keep in mind that wrapping lights around the tree horizontally is more work and often doesn't produce a multi-dimensional effect. Rather, string the lights from the trunk up to the top, working vertically. This is actually how the tree decorators at Rockefeller Center in New York City do the famous tree year after year. This method helps eliminate tangled wires and empty spots.

Remember to plug in the strands of lights before you begin to check for burnedout bulbs and to adjust the spacing of lights to prevent dark spots.

Think about varying light bulb sizes to add more dimension. String an inner layer of small LED white lights to produce an inner glow on the tree before adding larger, colored lights on top to increase visual appeal. Just be sure to match the same wattage of the lights so that you do not have power surges and can prolong the life of the

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



GAMES

Continued from Page 6

real-time to hit a ball, much like the popular Nintendo Wii, which was introduced seven years ago.

The most modern addition is the Playstation Vita, which is used to stream video directly from the PS4 device to a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet. Playstation Vita makes it possible for gamers on the go to game anywhere they have an Internet connection.

Unlike the PS3, if you want to play the PS4 online, a subscription to Playstation Plus is needed. The cost for a one-year membership is offered for as low as \$49.99 on Amazon, but those prices may dip as part of holiday deals or video game bundles. Often times, manufacturers or retailers offer bundles such as a system, pair of controllers, membership and games for a bulk discount.

Not to be outdone, Microsoft is also launching its next big thing, the Xbox One, just before Thanksgiving. The Xbox One will likely cost \$499 when released and may also be offered for a lesser price as part of a bundle or holiday special.

As with previous models, Xbox

One also has a yearly subscription fee, which can be purchased from brick and mortar and online retailers. Discounts may be had around the holidays.

While online subscriptions aren't a necessity, they are certainly the preferred method of competition for teenagers and older players – especially those interested in sports games like the *EA Sports Madden Series* or *NCAA Football*, which is in its last year.

The biggest attraction for online gamers are the first-person shooter games. If you've already guessed *Call of Duty: Ghosts* is going to be the biggest attraction for both Xbox One and PS4 this year, you've earned a gold star.

Of course, that was the easy part. The hard part is figuring out how to pay for a \$400 or more video game system, plus an online subscription, plus a *Call of Duty* game that costs \$59.99. Folks buying into the Playstation or Microsoft family this holiday season are buying into a \$500 to \$600 cost for just one game. Happy holidays!

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Email jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com, Twitter at @GunnShOw.



Sony's PS4 is more than just a video game system – like previous models, the PS4 also doubles as a media storage device and a DVD/Blu-Ray combo player and comes in at \$399 per unit. SONY





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Travelers should arrive early to the airport and have their documents in order

Sensible travel practices make holiday season less stressful

By Julie Brown

Staff Writer

Kate Rosevear, owner of Travel Leaders in Plymouth, and colleagues at the travel agency don't necessarily see huge numbers of holiday travelers.

Rosevear, of Plymouth Township, has been in the business 28 years. She says January, February and March are busy, with school mid-winter and spring breaks both big travel times.

"Part of it's because of cost," she said of December travel. "That's probably the costliest time to travel."

Some people will be home Dec. 25 and then head out right after, but she sees more mid-winter and spring break trips.

Rosevear urges all travelers to arrive at the airport at least two hours before departure, three hours ahead for international flights. She noted you can sometimes get better travel deals if you can travel Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

You need to have your travel documents in order. "If necessary, they can be expedited," she said of passport applications, noting that can be done in three to five days, but you'll pay more.

"It opens up the whole world to you," she said of a valid passport. Information can be found online at www.travel.state.gov and you'll then need to make an

appointment at your post office, city or township clerk's office in person after filling out the online forms.

Even infants and children should have a passport, she said, and their fee will be lower. Most of Rosevear's customers use Detroit Metro Airport. Some travel by train to Chicago or Toronto, less often out West or to Washington, D.C.

"It can be done," she said. "It's not a huge savings." High-end motor coach travel may make more sense.

The biggest holiday mistake she sees is people waiting to think airfares will drop. Airlines know their load capacities now.

"Consequently, they don't have a lot of excess capacity," Rosevear said. "Those prices are getting very stiff." You may get a good deal for a cruise that leaves from Florida – but have to drive to get there, which takes a few days.

"It's a very long drive," she said.

As an alternative, Rosevear suggests visiting New York City for its museums, theater and holiday decorations. Washington, D.C., Chicago, Toronto, San Francisco and San Diego are other possible yule destinations.

"Think outside the box," she said, adding Boston

See TRAVEL, Page 17





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Special events ring in the holiday season

Wayne County Lightfest

When: Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Where: Hines Drive; visitors enter at Hines Drive and Merriman Road in Westland and exit onto Warren Avenue near Telegraph Road in Dearborn Heights. There is a \$5 fee per vehicle. Hines Drive closes to traffic at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday for the show.

Details: Dec. 17 is Toy Night, when the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee. Toys will be donated to the Wayne County Family Center. And families can stop by Santa's Workshop at Warrendale Park at the end of the Lightfest drive. Santa will be there through Tuesday, Dec.23, during Lightfest hours. There also is a giant mailbox where kids of all ages can drop off their letters

Farmington Hills Holiday Shopping Expo

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

Where: The Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Vendors, crafts and food and refreshments.
FERNDALES'S 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 gocomedy.net

Also playing: Frosty, 10 p.m. Dec. 12 and 19, is an original late night show about Frosty the Snowman who returns to the town of Armonk from the North

Contact 428-327-0575

Northville Nite Family New Year's Eve Party

When: 4-7 p.m. Dec. 31

Details: This family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration will be themed "Through the Years" and feature crafts, huge inflatable games, entertainment and much more. The Northville Rotary Club will be selling hot dogs, pizza and beverages. There will be a New Year's



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

Eve countdown at 7 p.m. Contact the Northville Parks and Recreation for tickets at 248-349-0203.

Where: Northville Recreation Center at Hillside Middle School, 700 W. Baseline

Northville Tinsel & Treasures Holiday Market

When: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Details: More than 75 hand-selected, iuried artists and fine craftspeople from the Midwest will showcase their unique pieces of work. From glass design, gourmet foods, jewelry, original fashions, home decor, authors and much more. For more information, visit www.hcshows.com.

Where: Northville Community Center. 303 W. Main Street.

Novi Skate with Santa

When: 3-4:50 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 Details: Skate with Santa, raffles and

Where: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive

Redford Blizzard Brunch With Santa

When: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Where: The Redford Community

Details: Tickets are \$6 for an adult, \$7 for a child. Cost includes "snowy" games, "cool" crafts and a light brunch. An adult must accompany each child and all attendees must have a ticket. Tickets are limited and available on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Purchase them from the Leisure Services Office, 12121 Hemingway (and Capitol), inside the Redford Community Center.

TRAVEL

Continued from Page 14

also appeals at the holidays. "Terrific places to visit over the holidays and festive."

For next year, you could even look into London, well-decorated at Christmas. "The great cities of the world are all decorated up for the holidays," she said.

Ski destinations are also a popular holiday option, including Canada. Early in the year, European airfares are lower and Italian ski areas appeal to many, she added.

Nancy Cain, spokeswoman for AAA of Michigan, agreed the holidays are a time to be prepared to travel.

"We do see a lot" of travel, said Cain of Grosse Pointe. "That's a time when families get together. People tell us they want to travel. The economy's a little better. We're seeing an increase."

Thanksgiving get-togethers are popular, Cain said. "The same thing too with the Christmas/New Year's holiday." she said.

With Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 falling Wednesday this year, some could "turn it into the year-end holiday," Cain said, with some taking as much as two weeks off work.

AAA of Michigan says the average holiday trip is 300-400 miles, including airplane travel. "If you can, travel as light as you can because the airport will be really busy," Cain said. You should also label everything with you, she said, adding some travelers even ship apparel to their destination.

Travelers on the road should have a first aid kit, Cain said, as well as a snow shovel and ice scraper. Your car should be well-maintained.

"The last thing you want to have is a vehicle break down when you're traveling to grandma's house," she said.

Unique gift ideas for the family globetrotter

A passion for traveling leads many people to go abroad and experience other cultures or explore the sites closer to home. Those with an avid traveler in their midst can tie into this love of exploring and give travel-themed gifts.

Gifting the family globetrotter is not always easy, however. Travelers tend to bring home mementos of their trips and make it seem as if they already have reverything they need. Gifts purchased at the local store may seem to pale in comparison to more exotic trinkets. But gifting travelers doesn't have to be difficult. The following gifts should make great gifts for your favorite adventurer this holiday season.

» Travel journal: Many people love to document their trips, describing journeys to exotic locales or simply a family trip to a nearby campground. Travel journals make great gifts for those travelers who want more than just visual memories of their trip. Be sure to buy a journal that's sturdy enough to handle all the bumps and bruises that accompany a nomadic lifestyle. Leatherbound or hardcover journals should suffice.

» Travel kit: Travelers know the value of a good travel kit, which can help them freshen up during long layovers at the airport or once they arrive at their destinations. In addition, a travel kit allows travelers to pack some of the comforts of home, such as moisturizer, shaving gel or a particular type of

toothpaste, that might not be readily available at their destinations. When gifting a travel kit, place some of those favorite products, such as travel-size mouthwash or some luxury moisturizing creams, inside the kit for a special gift-within-the-gift.

» Noise-canceling headphones: A set of noise-canceling headphones is a gift no globetrotter should go without. These headphones reduce ambient noise and can make it easier to doze off comfortably on a flight or to enjoy a music playlist while sightseeing in a busy city.

» Maps: Domestic travelers may be able to rely on their smartphones for directions, but overseas travelers may need to keep their phones off when traveling overseas to avoid heavy surcharges. In such instances, maps make great gifts, especially if you find out in advance where your special traveler will be visiting next and gift a map of that particular locale.

» Gas card: For some, the joy of travel stems from getting behind the wheel and hitting the open road. If that's true of your favorite travel aficionado, consider a gas card that can alleviate some of the cost of his or her next trip. Gift cards to filling stations can be purchased in just about any denomination, and your loved one will appreciate their free pass at the pump on their next road trip.

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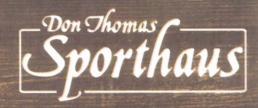
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Tackling the long list of holiday gifts

By Jill Halpin Contributing Writer

Thinking about starting to tackle that ever-growing list of holiday gifts?

You are in luck: Holiday shopping will be merrier than ever this year, thanks to local retailers who have stocked up on a wide array of great gifts guaranteed to bring a smile to the face of even the fussiest beneficiary of your good cheer.

Children

Take a step back in time with one of two crafts kits that are "flying off the shelf" right now at Plymouth's Genuine Toy Co., according to store owner Elle Dare. Spirograph, the iconic drawing kit that allows kids to create spiral art designs is back and bigger than ever, Dare said. Spirograph kits range from \$14.99 to \$24.99 and are popular with boys and girls alike.

You can provide hours of fun for the children in your life by presenting them with Rainbow Looms, a rubberband bracelet-making kit. Also available at the Genuine Toy Co. and starting at \$14.99, these craft kits are also popular with both genders, Dare said. "The kids are just crazy about them," she

If you are looking to put a smile on the faces of children ages 3 and up, pick up a set of Squigz, a "suction construction" set by Fat Brain Toys. High-quality silicone-rubber suction cup connectors make this creative construction set's pieces as much fun to pull apart as to put together, according to Jack Zagrodzki of Berkley's Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop. Starting at \$24.94, Squigz sets "lend themselves to creativity – they push together and pop apart, which kids love," Zagrodzki said.

Introduce kids ages 8 and up to the fun and excitement of engineering with Air-Stream Machines by Thames and Kosmos, available at the Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop for \$62.99. Watch or even get into the fun as they build a working hovercraft that glides across smooth floors or flat water on a cushion of air. They can even assemble a basketball launcher and practice shooting hoops with air power – "very intriguing and lots of fun," Zagrodzki said.

Put a smile of delight on the face of little ones with Lila Cherie, an interactive soft-bodied doll by Carolle, \$99.99 at Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop. Lila Cherie has five baby-like features: When you press her left hand, she coos and babbles or her cheeks blush; lay her on her stomach to hear



A Black Diamond Spot Headlamp makes a great gift for the adventure seeker on your list.

GETTY IMAGES | PURESTOCK

her cry. Try pressing her tummy to hear her laugh or give her a bottle. It is a great way to encourage nurturing skills in young children, Zagrodzki said.

Teens

No doubt you have seen them flying down the street and maybe even wanted to try them yourself: Long boards, a longer variation on the traditional skateboard. "Long boards are different, they are not designed for tricks and are more controll-based," said Andres Bihn of Plymouth's Sun and Snow. Starting at around \$150, long boards are functional as well as fun, Bihn said. "It's a great way to get around and hang out with your friends at the same time," he said, adding that quality helmets and wrist protection are a must with long boards.

Although a bit slower, but definitely growing in popularity, is the Slack line, a length of nylon webbing tensioned between two anchor points. The tension-based system is a "mix between a trampoline and a tightrope" and encourages core strength as walkers try to balance across it, Bihn said. Starting at \$75, Slack lines provide hours of fun and can be used "between two trees or just about anywhere," Bihn said.

Teens can catch their feats on video with the GoPro Hero 3 Black Edition, a high-definition action sports camera that can mount to "virtually anything," according to Bihn, and allows you capture great camera angles. Retailing for \$399, you can mount the GoPro "to your chest or leg when you are running or a bike. I've even mounted it underneath my long board," Bihn said.

Help your fashion-conscious teens and adults keep time with an Ice Watch, a stylish plastic and silicone watch that comes in a rainbow of colors and sizes. Starting at "around \$100," they make a great gift for anyone, said Jennifer Abdallah of Jewel Galley in Novi.

Men

If you have a gadget guy on your list, try the Bear Grylls Ultimate Multitool, available at REI in Northville for \$49.95. Components include a fine-edge knife, serrated knife, saw, Phillips screwdriver, small and medium flat screwdrivers, wire cutter and scissors – just about everything you could possibly need, said Nick Irish, a store manager with REI.

Looking for something for a runner, walker, camper or just someone who likes to putter around? The Black Diamond Spot Headlamp has maximum light output of 90 lumens and is a great choice for nighttime adventures. Updated for 2014, the headlamp allows you to simply tap the side of the light to change the light mode, "a very cool feature." Irish said.

If the man in your life is a born-and-bred proud Detroiter, a Shinola Watch is a must-have this holiday season. Based in Detroit, the Shinola watch company features locally made watches with Swiss movement. Hand-assembled, the high-quality crafts-manship combined with attractive styling make the watches a perfect gift for the discerning gentleman. Starting at around \$550, the enormously popular Runwell and the Breakman are available in a variety of styles at Nordstrom in Troy.

Women

Present your loved one with something as unique as she is, like a beautiful piece of jewelry by LeVian. Known for their signature chocolate diamond and strawberry gold, LeVian features many stunning designs, said David Attar of Golden Gifts in Livonia. "They are really distinctive and affordably priced pieces, something you won't see everywhere," Attar said.

Score big with the woman in your life by presenting her with the season's must-have bag: the Rebecca Minkoff Mini-M.A.C., available at Nordstrom in Novi for \$195.

This small shoulder bag made of high-quality leather comes in a variety of colors and offers an optional chain strap for versatility. "It's just an amazing bag," said Karen Bahoura of Nordstrom.

Made in America, Alex and Ani Bangle Bracelets are a sure-fire way to win the heart and gratitude a special woman this holiday season. Each bangle is expandable, ensuring the perfect fit for every wrist and is available in a variety of finishes from 14k gold to Russian silver.

More than 500 charms offer a completely original design and allows everyone to have a piece of jewelry, which is truly customized, starting at \$24.95. Alex and Ani bangles are available at Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Northville.

Your special someone can make a winning fashion statement this season with an embellished scarf. Available at a variety of area retailers, including Nana's Niche and Corner in Milford and starting at \$12 and up, these scarves feature everything from rhinestones to fur trim and come in a variety of colors and are a sure step in the right fashion direction.

Let the woman in your life "tell a story with jewelry," Abdallah advises. The Pandora Jewelry collection offers earrings, bracelets, rings and necklaces, as well as accompanying charms to help commemorate any occasion. "Pandora is excellent quality, affordable jewelry.

It's the number one brand in the world," Abdallah said. Pandora is available at the Jewel Gallery starting at \$25

Help your special someone look good, feel good and live better with a gift certificate from New Face, New Body in Canton.

Featuring a full menu of spa services ranging from facials and waxing to body treatments and laser hair removal, the staff at New Face, New Body can help you create a personalized gift for your loved one.



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Celebrate the joy of baking with holiday gifts inspired by TLC's 'The Boss'

The holidays are a perfect time to indulge in treats and spread the joy of baking with gifts that encourage friends and family to discover their inner baker. This season, there's more to choose from in the baking category with the launch of Cake Boss, an extensive line of more than 200 "Buddy approved" baking items designed in collaboration with Buddy Valastro, the star of TLC's hit reality show *Cake Boss*. Offered by Meyer Corp., U.S. in partnership with Discovery Communications, Cake Boss covers all the bases for baking, decorating, serving and storing cakes and other desserts like a pro.

Here's a "baker's dozen" list of gift ideas and creative ways to be sweet on anyone who's been extra good this year.

» **Gifts for the artistic baker:** For avid bakers who enjoy expressing their creativity through baking, a gift of a

Cake Boss Cake Kit (\$29.99) includes everything needed to bake like the pros. Ideal for the holiday season, the Cake Boss Winter Cake Kit includes five stainless steel cutters (two holiday bulbs, a small circle, one tree and one reindeer) and five plastic plunge cutters (two holly leaves and three snowflakes) to create fun shapes in rolled fondant. A ribbon cutter helps cut fluted or straight decorative strips in fondant or gum paste and stainless steel decorating tips in star and round shapes (combined with the kit's disposable plastic piping bags) make it easy as pie to pipe borders and create icing designs. An instructional booklet is included to guide bakers each step of the

» For serious cooks and bakers: Professional quality bake ware does double duty for baking up delicious,



Cake Boss Winter Cake Kit

savory recipes, as well as sweets. The Cake Boss Professional 13- by 18-inch Jelly Roll Pan (\$17.99) holds up to the rigors of frequent use with heavy-duty aluminized steel, commercial-style

folded construction and reinforced wire rims. Ideal for baking flaky pastry appetizers, as well as roasts of all kinds,

See BOSS, Page 23





BOSS

Continued from Page 22

the Cake Boss Professional Jelly Roll Pan distributes heat fast and evenly and won't warp or bend. A unique quilted, light-colored non-stick surface promotes even airflow for pro-style results.

» Family friendly gifts: Buying individual presents for each member of a family with children of different ages can end up being costly and time-consuming. A family group gift is a practical solution that also can encourage spending time together. One idea is to put together a "Cookie and a Movie Night" gift package with a few innovative tools for baking cookies, your own favorite cookie recipe, a decadent hot chocolate mix and a DVD for a classic family movie. For the cookie baking tools, the Cake Boss Linzer Cutters 6-Piece Set (\$16.99) in "Classic" and "Holiday" styles make it fun to customize these scrumptious sandwich cookies. The Cake Boss Beechwood Rolling Pin (\$29.99) has just the right weight and size to roll out cookie dough with ease and a wide assortment of Cake Boss Cookie & Fondant Cutters (\$16.99) in fun shapes like Stars, Hearts, Daisies, Round and Square provides multiple ways to make cookies in varying sizes.

» Cookies to-go: Cookie exchange parties are a great way to get in the holiday spirit and sample some new recipes. Surprise the host by pairing your cookies with a gift of the Cake Boss Deluxe 10- by 15-inch Covered Cookie Pan (\$16.99). Bake the cookies and transport them right in this innovatively designed pan. Helpful drop zones stamped on the surface ensure uniformly sized cookies. Long-lasting nonstick on both the interior and exterior surfaces prevent cookies from sticking and speeds up cleaning time. Finally, wide handles with red silicone grips in fun rolling pin shapes and a translucent, tight-locking cover make this cookie pan perfect for transporting baked treats to and from get togethers.

» Teacher treats: If you have school age children, don't forget a special treat for their teachers. Sculpted in glossy ceramic to resemble a bow-wrapped gift, the colorful pink and brown Cake Boss "Present" Cookie Jar and the seasonally themed red and green Cake Boss "Holiday" Cookie Jar (\$39.99 each) are sure to impress, especially when you include home-baked cookies inside. Print your recipe on a pretty card and add to the cookie jar to be sure it never goes empty!

» Two-for-one hostess gifts: Be extra sweet to your holiday party host with a dual gift of both a dessert and the

Cake Boss Cake Carrier (\$39.99) used to handily transport it. Offered in four retro-inspired styles, each durable and easy-to-clean Cake Boss Cake Carrier is spacious enough to hold a standard nine-inch two-layer round cake, cheese-cake, pie or other treat. The lid latches tightly on both sides of the base to protect delicious treats while they're in transit and keep tempted fingers away!

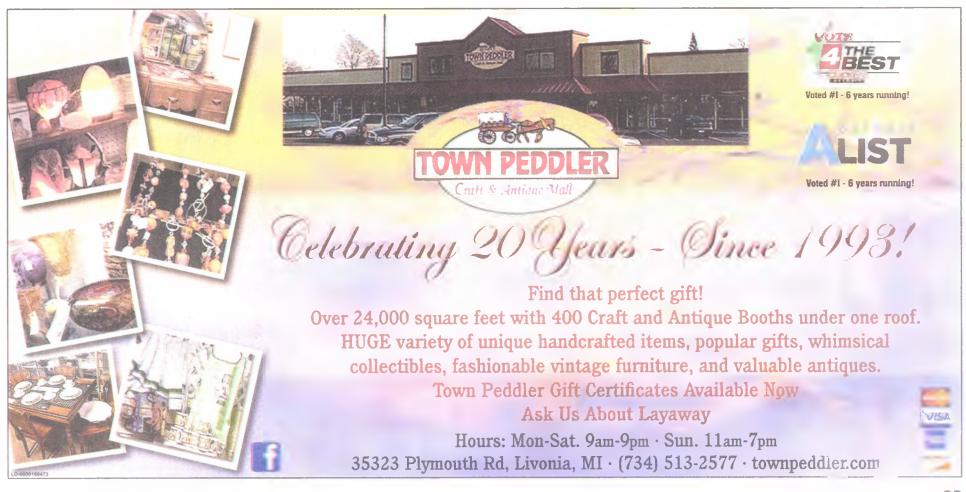
» For the "Cake Boss" wannabe: It's fast and easy to bake intricate looking cakes like "the Boss" with the Cake Boss 6-Cup Cakelette Pan (\$16.99). Available in five different molded designs – Star, Heart, Groovy Girl, Circle and Square – each Cake Boss Cakelette Pan makes six individual portion, tiered mini cakes that look like they came straight out of Carlo's Bakery. In addition to gifting, you can use the assorted pan designs to host a mini cake-decorating holiday party. Guests can decorate their own "cakelette" with icings, sprinkles, colored sugars and even fondant.

» Stocking stuffers and more under \$15: Affordable prep tools are great additions to a baking enthusiast's stocking stuffer. They also work well as grab bag gifts and extra special toppers to ribbon wrapped presents. The set of two Cake Boss Nylon Bowl Scrapers (\$8.99), crafted in durable nylon edged with flexible silicone, ensure that every last bit of batter, butter cream and sauce gets scraped out of bowls. The heatresistant Cake Boss Scraping Spatula with Measurement Marks (\$11.99) features a durable red silicone tool head with a convenient reference chart of measure equivalents for cups, ounces, tablespoons, teaspoons and milliliters. For more whimsy in the kitchen, the Cake Boss "My Kitchen My Rules" Spoonula (\$9.99) with flexible red silicone head for mixing, stirring, and spooning, includes one of Buddy's favorite catchphrases imprinted on it.

» Gifts for the unexpected: It's a smart idea to keep a few pre-wrapped gifts on hand when you need a last-minute token for a neighbor, friend or host. For example, pair the Cake Boss 4-Piece Measuring Spoons Set (\$6.99) with a boxed gourmet mix for scones and a small bottle of quality vanilla extract. Wrap everything in cellophane with a colorful bow for the perfect last-minute gift.

Learn more about Cake Boss baking products and watch instructional cake decorating videos starring Buddy Valastro at www.cakebossbaking.com; like Cake Boss baking products at www.facebook.com/CakeBossBaking or follow Cake Boss on Twitter@CakeBossBaking.

- Courtesy Metro Creative Connection



Dining out? You're not alone at the holidays

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Chris Baker and his family own Bakers of Milford, on Milford Road, including both a restaurant and banquet facilities.

"Some companies are doing some holiday parties," Baker said recently during a break at the South Lyon Hotel restaurant, also theirs. "They're definitely taking them out and doing parties."

He and others recommend early booking. "There are definitely some hotter dates," he said. "Those Friday nights are really popular." Discounts are available right after the holidays, when some businesses choose to celebrate with staff.

He agreed some employers wish to reward staff for the tough slog of the past few years. "I even see it on a daily basis in the restaurant," Baker said of such dining.

Bakers of Milford will have New Year's Eve entertaining, along with a private wedding in the banquet area. "It's still a very competitive world out there," he said, noting customers seek coupons and discounts.

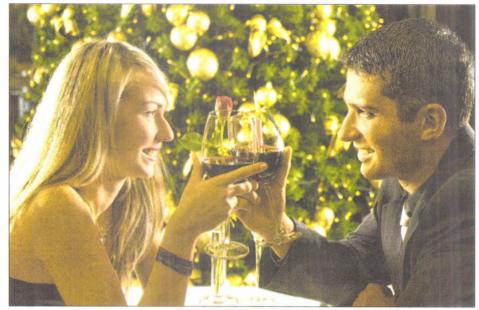
Greater South Lyon has homes under construction, helping their business, said Baker, owner of the family business since 1991 and a Milford resident. "A lot of people in the area here," he said.

Jonathan Woods, general manager of the Westland Charhouse on Warren Road, is also encouraged by holiday business, up some 30-40 percent for November. "We anticpate it'll be even more profitable for us," he said of the holiday season. They'd already booked parties for businesses, churches and others, said Woods of Westland.

The Westland Charhouse won't do a late New Year's Eve party, but did have a special menu for it last year that was well-received. They like to give staffers some family time, he said.

"Things are starting to look up," Woods said. They're traditionally slower in the late summer and early fall, with Westland Shopping Center traffic from across the street bringing in holiday shoppers/diners soon after.

He appreciates the city of Westland Shop and Dine promotion. The Charhouse also has a Belleville location.



Holidays in general are important to restaurants. GETTY IMAGES | HEMERA

being relocated within Belleville, which Woods anticipates should be ready near the end of the first quarter of 2014.

"We are open and ready for parties," Woods said of the Westland Charhouse,

adding the fireplace room is especially popular with yuletide revelers.

Adriane DeCeuninck, spokeswoman

See DINING, Page 26





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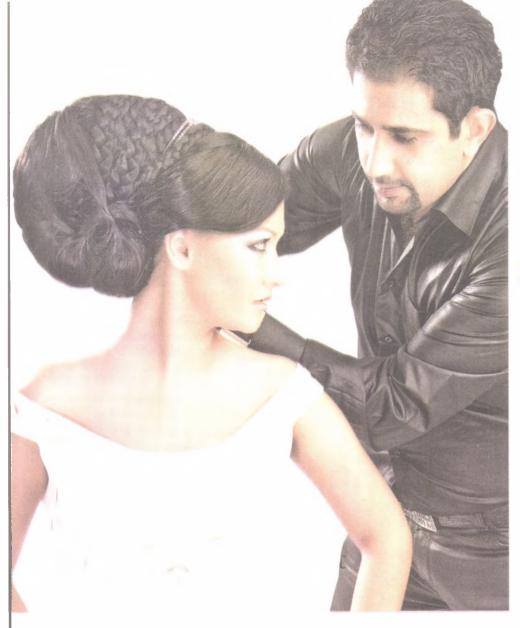
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DINING

Continued from Page 24

for the Lansing-based Michigan Restaurant Association, said restaurants do some take-out business at Thanksgiving. "Christmas tends to be more families at home," she said, adding New Year's Eve is important to restaurants.

"The holidays in general are important to restaurants," DeCeuninck said. "People want to eat out, they want to feel festive. Restaurants are a part of that."

Any and all eateries appeal, based on customers' tastes. "Things are continuing to look up," DeCeuninck said. "We're continuing to rebound from the economic downturn of a few years ago."

People now have more disposable income, she said: "So that's good for restaurants." She had checked in with the National Restaurant Association, which reported similar findings for the U.S.

Ryan Yaquinto of Plymouth is manager of Fiamma Grille, Compari's on the Park and The Sardine Room, all under the same ownership on Main Street in downtown Plymouth.

"Everything's been steady and we're mostly booked for the big dates in December," Yaquinto said, noting they've done a lot of corporate parties over the last couple holiday seasons.

Four or five years ago, fewer companies had big parties at the holidays, he said. "It's been pretty gradual every year. We've been keeping steady," Yaquinto said.

Price points are higher now, he said, maybe \$30 a person rather than \$20 and with a bigger budget for alcohol. "Now it's a little more of a celebration," he said of their customers, coming mostly from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Northville and Novi.

"New Year's Eve is pretty big," Yaquinto said. "We kind of embrace it. We don't go crazy, though."

He finds, unlike the MRA spokeswoman, some people do dine out Dec. 24. "Christmas Eve is one of our biggest nights of the year," he said. "Some families have moved out of the kitchen and into restaurants."

That could be having out of town visitors, Yaquinto said, or not wanting to cook and clean.

"I think overall as a trend I see a lot of good things happening in the restaurant industry," Yaquinto said. "We've grown." Compari's has been there 13 years, Fiamma Grille eight and The Sardine Room a year and a half. Yaquinto also sees good things happening in downtown Plymouth.

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Sage advice: Make it none for the road

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Workplace holiday parties are a lot less boozy than they used to be, but the message of "Don't drink and drive" bears repeating.

"If you're driving, you're best just to skip the alcohol," said AAA of Michigan spokeswoman Nancy Cain, a Grosse Pointe resident. "If you're going to be drinking, don't drive."

Winter driving is especially challenging, she added, and revelers are often tired this time of year. Some are using cold medications that can have bad interactions with alcohol.

"You want to have your wits about you," Cain said.

"We have seen some improvement" in drinking and driving attitudes, she said: "Even one crash because of someone drinking is too many."

Friends and party hosts can confiscate car keys or call a cab, Cain said: "Do something so you're keeping them

out of harm's way."

Janet Terry of White Lake is clinical manager for the Pontiac site of Oakland Family Services. Terry holds a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University and is a certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor.

Terry said to never over-serve revelers. An open bar at a workplace yule party is a bad idea, she said.

"It's a lot of your responsibility by hosting that party," Terry said. She also reminds adults to never allow underage drinking: "Just taking somebody's keys away doesn't guarantee safety."

Having less or no alcohol at a workplace party allows you to meet peers and socialize in a fun atmosphere without "confrontations that might occur because of drinking," Terry said. "You can get to know your peers in a nice, out of work basis, get to know a little more about them."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Gracious hosts reach out, help guests feel welcome, festive

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Mickey Edell won a purple ribbon for her banana nut bread as an eighthgrader at the Kansas State Fair. The Canton resident has continued her love of cooking and baking all these years and will be busy this holiday season.

"It's such a passion for me to be able to connect people with food," said Edell, who recently retired as a speech and language pathologist for the Plymouth-Canton schools. She often buys food magazines and cookbooks to peruse recipes.

Her repertoire includes dinner, along with savory to sweet. She's active in the Plymouth-Canton Branch of the American Association of University Women and others in the group appreciate her culinary contributions at their December holiday party and other gatherings.

"I just cook when anybody needs anything," said Edell, who also contributed food for festivities at Hoben Elementary in her 25 years there, 37 total years with Plymouth-Canton.

"It's just kind of an outreach in life about food and camaraderie and connection," she said. "Whoever needs what, I'm happy to provide. I grew up with the same thing. My mother allowed me to cook starting around age 5"

This is the season for holiday parties and area residents have thoughts on how to be a gracious host, make guests feel welcome and create great memories

Sue Sayers of Plymouth, also an active longtime AAUW member, said "You like to feel comfortable with the people who are there. Personally, I just like to have things light and easy, little samples of things."

Sayers, a Madonna University secretary in the math and science department, and husband Tony have two grown children and three grandchildren.

"It's been a long time since I got out the good silver," she said, noting the trend to more casual dining. "I think things are much more relaxed than they used to be."

Sayers grew up with bigger dinners, not the current "catch and run. Everybody's so busy. Young families don't have the same pressure" to eat dinner together at the same time each evening.

"I might have the family at Christmas," she said. "That includes my 94-year-old mom." Sayers hosts no more



Mickey Edell of Canton, a recently retired Plymouth-Canton schools staffer, loves to cook and bake for friends and family come holiday time and year-round. FILE PHOTO

than 12 people for Christmas.

"It's very different than when you have a big family," she added.
At the Plymouth-Canton AAUW

At the Plymouth-Canton AAUW holiday party, there are tables and chairs. "It's not the Ritz, but it is comfortable," said Edell, who enjoys the annual party. Organizers aim to make it appealing "so that we all collect together to have food and conversation."

Longtime Plymouth-Canton AAUW member Luan Brownlee of Livonia said of parties, "When you enter, being made comfortable with someone you know to talk to." She likes "a way to enter the conversation and be a part of it."

Brownlee, a retired Plymouth-Canton schools learning specialist, has a friend who does that well when hosting social occasions. Brownlee noted it can be "tough to escape conversations you're not interested in. There are people who are good at it."

She treasures her close friends. "If the table looks really pretty, there's that wonderful 'Oh.' You know the host has put a lot into it and thought about you." Brownlee's significant other, Allen Odell of Plymouth Township, creates lighted decorations for place settings, which revelers like.

Brownlee has another friend who gives away candy party favors tied in ribbons. "It makes you feel special," she said

Brownlee likes to give toasts as birthdays or other occasions. "I write them myself. That's a nice thing. It makes people feel it's a special event," she said.

"Plymouth has so much to offer," said Brownlee.



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Give your Christmas décor a country feel

Christmas decorations can range from grandiose lighting displays to more subtle adornments. Some families may prefer more traditional holiday decor, while others might like the look of modern trimmings.

Holiday decorations can also be used to create an atmosphere reminiscent of a certain type of locale, giving a home a holiday in the city vibe or a more rustic feel.

For those who prefer a rustic look reminiscent of a country Christmas, consider the following tips:

» Start with the tree. The Christmas tree is the center of many a home's holiday decor and those who want to create a country Christmas can start with their tree. Instead of traditional holiday lights, choose lights that look like candles while adorning the tree with wooden ornaments and strands of popcorn.

» Forgo traditional wrapping paper. Instead of flashy, store-bought wrapping paper, wrap presents in brown paper and put presents under the tree as early as possible. Instead of store-bought gift tags, create your own and attach a candy cane or another candy to the gift.

» Think nature with decorations. Items gathered from nature can give a home a rustic appeal during the holidays. Hang a homemade wreath on the front door and include pine cones and clippings from evergreen trees when adding decorative accents around the house. Tuck a few decorative woven baskets in corners to further emphasize a rustic look.

» Create homemade ornaments. Homemade ornaments can also give a home a more rustic look come the holiday season. Spend an afternoon creating holiday crafts with the kids and use these instead of store-bought ornaments. For those who are especially gifted craftsmen, put your woodworking skills to the test to create decorative wooden stockings that, if not functional, can be replaced with more



Hang a homemade wreath on the front door and include pine cones and clippings from evergreen trees when adding decorative accents around the house.

traditional stockings come Christmas Eve.

» Don't forget the music. Another way to create a country Christmas is to play country Christmas albums instead of classical or more traditional Christmas records. Nearly every country music star of the past and present has

recorded a Christmas song or album, so create a master play list of country Christmas songs on your digital music player and play it throughout the season to set the holiday mood in your household

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



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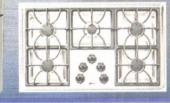




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Holiday buffets taste and look more festive with grapes

Clusters of colorful grapes are traditional additions to many holiday tables. Whether they are used for a centerpiece, a garnish for the main course (think turkey, crown roast of pork, baked ham) or a "must" addition to a fruit and cheese plate, grapes offer beauty, flavor and freshness to the season.

But there are many other ways to add grapes to special meals and party fare. The recipes included here are easy to make, beautiful and tasty examples of unique ways to prepare and serve grapes. Luckily, many varieties of fresh grapes from California are available throughout the holiday season and into January. For more recipes and serving suggestions, visit www.grapesfromcalifornia.com.

Grape Tuxedo Bites, 3 Ways

Sometimes, the amount of cookies and other sweets served during the holidays can be overwhelming. Grape Tuxedo Bites 3 Ways are the exception. These three recipes, featuring white and dark chocolate, caramel, toffee bits, almonds and peanuts, are definitely rich, but because the center of each is a refreshing, juicy grape, they avoid being overly sweet.

- Courtesy of Family Features





CHOCOLATE TOFFEE GRAPES

Makes 25

25 green or red seedless California grapes ½ cup semisweet chocolate chips or chopped semisweet chocolate
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
½ cup finely chopped toffee bits

Put toothpicks into grapes, set aside. Line baking sheet with wax paper or parchment. In small double boiler, melt chocolate and

oil together over medium-low heat, stirring until melted, about 5 minutes (or in microwave on high power 30 seconds, stirring once). Dip grapes in chocolate and then in toffee. Place on baking sheet lined with wax paper or parchment. Repeat until all grapes are used. Chill until set.

Nutritional analysis per dipped grape: Calories 47; Protein .5 g; Carbohydrate 6 g; Fat 3 g; 48% Calories from Fat; Cholesterol 2 mg; Sodium 20 mg; Potassium 22 mg; Fiber .24 g



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GRAPE RELISH

For a small holiday party, a festive assortment of cheeses, meats, breads and crackers is an easy solution. This pretty Grape Relish provides the perfect foil to the rich assortment, combining sweet, tart and aromatic elements. The relish is also a wonderful accompaniment to poultry dishes, too. Servings: 8

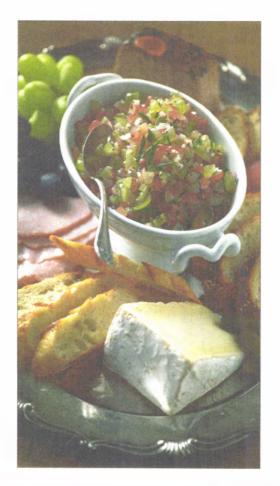
- 2 cups finely chopped red and green seedless California grapes
- 2 tablespoons minced shallot
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon sherry vinegar
- 1½ teaspoons sugar

dar or goat cheese.

- 1 teaspoon safflower or vegetable oil
- ¼ teaspoon each salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 baguette, sliced thinly

In medium bowl, combine chopped grapes, shallot, thyme, vinegar, sugar, oil, salt and pepper. Transfer to small serving bowl and set aside. Makes

To make crostini, preheat oven to 350°F. Spread baguette slices on baking sheet and toast until crisp, about 10 minutes. Let cool Nutritional analysis per 1/4 cup grape relish: Calories 27; Protein .3 g; Carbohydrate 6 g; Fat .63 g; 19% Calories from Fat; Cholesterol 0 mg; Sodium 74 mg; Potassium 57 mg; Fiber .3 g Suggested buffet platter selections to accompany relish: Crostini, ham, sliced duck breast, pates, additional grape clusters, assorted mustards in small condiment bowls or custard cups and cheeses, such as St. Andre, Manchego, aged ched-



CARAMEL PEANUT GRAPES

Makes 25

25 green seedless California grapes ½ cup finely chopped salted peanuts ½ cup caramel bits or 10 unwrapped caramels

1 tablespoon heavy cream

Put toothpicks into grapes, set aside. Line baking sheet with parchment. Place peanuts in small bowl and set aside. In small saucepan, melt caramel and cream together over medium-low heat, stirring until melted, about 5 minutes. Keep warm, Dip grapes in caramel and then in nuts. Place on baking sheet lined with wax paper or parchment. Repeat until all grapes are used. Chill until set. Note: You can also melt caramel in microwave. Put caramels in microwaveable bowl or glass measure and zap on high 30 seconds. Stir until smooth and zap an additional 20 seconds if neces-

Nutritional analysis per dipped grape: Calories 38; Protein 1 g; Carbohydrate 4.5 g; Fat 2 g; 46% Calories from Fat; Cholesterol 1 mg; Sodium 19 mg; Potassium 8 mg; Fiber .3 g

WHITE CHOCOLATE **ALMOND GRAPES**

Makes 25

- 25 green or red seedless California
- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips or chopped white chocolate
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil ½ cup finely chopped salted almonds

Put toothpicks into grapes, set aside. Line baking sheet with wax paper or parchment.

In small double boiler, melt chocolate and oil together over medium-low heat, stirring until melted, about 5 minutes (or in microwave on high power 30 seconds, stirring once). Dip grapes in chocolate and then in almonds. Place on baking sheet lined with wax paper or parchment. Repeat until all grapes are used. Chill until set. Nutritional analysis per dipped grape: Calories 48; Protein 1 g; Carbohydrate 4 g; Fat 3.5 g; 61% Calories from Fat; Cholesterol .71 mg; Sodium 17 mg; Potassium 49 mg; Fiber .5 g

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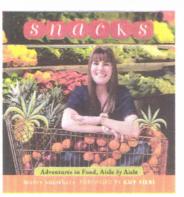
Every chef knows a properly outfitted kitchen is a must in order to create culinary masterpieces. This year, make sure the special food lover in your life has everything he or she needs to stir their passion for food and drink. Expand their culinary library with a book that serves up helpful food tips and original recipes. Let them prepare their favorite recipes with a set of ergonomic and innovative knives. Perk up their mornings with a coffee maker that quickly brews a customized cup at the touch of a button. Or help them serve up delightful dishes by keeping their pantry stocked with superior quality olive oil. This guide will help you find unique gifts for every kitchen connoisseur on your list.

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'Tis the season for shipping gifts

Travel is a staple of the holiday season. Many men and women find themselves spending a significant amount of time in the air or on the road, whether traveling to visit family or embarking on a holiday getaway.

For those who must fly to their holiday destinations, travel can present certain obstacles, as baggage restrictions and fees have made it more difficult and more expensive to travel with gifts in tow. But savvy holiday shoppers need not worry about fitting all of those gifts into their overstuffed luggage. Shipping gifts is a far more convenient way to get all those precious presents from point A to point B and it saves travelers money on airline baggage fees. When shipping gifts this holiday season, consider the following tips.

» Use the right box. Boxes come in all shapes and sizes and there are packing methods to ensure gifts arrive intact. The gift should not have much wiggle room inside the box, as the more the gift can move around, the more likely it is to break. Gently shake the box before closing it, adding any padding if the gift is moving around too much, otherwise move the gift to a smaller box. A box also should not be too small, as it may break before reaching its destination.

» Wrap each individual item. When shipping holiday gifts, it's often most convenient to include several items in one large box. When doing so, wrap each item separately in air-filled wrapping or newspaper. This reduces the risk of items breaking during shipping.

» Line the interior of the box with a garbage bag. A garbage bag lining along the inside of the box can help to prevent potential water damage from rain, snow or other leaky packages.

» Tightly tape the box. Once items are inside the box, be sure to use professional packing tape. Though there are cheaper alternatives available, professional packing tape is far more likely to hold up as the item travels from your home to its ultimate destination. Low quality tape could split or tear, resulting in a situation where boxes break open and items fall out.

» Pay attention when reusing boxes. Reusing boxes is a great way to benefit the environment when shipping holiday gifts, but carefully examine the box before shipping it. Old labels and bar codes should be removed so packages ultimately end up in the correct destination. In addition, check any boxes for wear and tear before reusing them. Avoid using any boxes with previous water damage or tears.

» Double check addresses. Before shipping items, double check the address, making sure the name, address and ZIP code are correct. Confirm the information with the recipient as well. Be sure to write the address and full ZIP code in the method the shipping company requires to ensure prompt delivery.

» Include an extra mailing label inside the box. Inclement weather is common come the holiday season and some packages may fall victim to the elements. In such situations, shipping labels can be compromised and some shipping companies have admitted they will open the box to look for a backup label if the exterior label has been soiled. Include an extra mailing label inside the box as a backup plan.

Debit card returns may differ from cash

According to the American Bankers Association, many merchants view debit card purchases in the same light that they do purchases made with cash or personal checks.

That's an important distinction for holiday shoppers to consider before making purchases, as any items bought on their debit cards may only be worthy of store credit instead of a full refund should such items need to be returned.

When buying items with credit cards, consumers can withhold payment if they are not satisfied with the product. No such option exists when using debit cards.

In addition to more restrictive return policies, shoppers who use debit cards may incur debit transaction fees, This means they are charged each time they use their debit cards, or such fees may be triggered when users use their card too often.

Debit card users can check the agreement signed when they opened their accounts to determine if they will be subjected to debit transaction fees.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



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