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Local missionary writes about African outreach

Water, sewer work OK'd; delays rejected

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Planned improvements to parks and recreation facilities in Plymouth Township will begin this winter with a \$92,000 water and sewer project at Plymouth Township Park.

New water and sewer lines will be put in at the park as part of the infrastructure for the \$625,000 all-weather pavilion officials plan to build near the baseball fields there in

2014.

Contracts for the work between the township and D&D Water & Sewer Inc. of Canton Township - \$53,500 for 1,000 feet of new water main, and \$38,500 for a new 600-foot sewer line - were approved by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday with a pair of 5-2 votes. The work could begin as early as this month, officials said.

Delay urged

Trustees Bob Doroshewitz and Chuck Curmi voted

against both measures, urging fellow board members to delay the projects instead until a planned survey of residents' recreation wants can be completed.

Doroshewitz said residents should also be asked if they want the pavilion and other improvements planned for Township Park.

The township's \$13 million general-fund budget for 2014, also approved on Tuesday, includes \$50,000 for a formal survey of residents' views on

how the township recreation programs could be expanded and improved, though officials said the survey's price will likely be between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

"Let's ask the residents if they want these projects, too," Doroshewitz said. "Since we're going to spend money on the survey anyway, it wouldn't cost more to add a couple of questions."

Doroshewitz made motions to delay both projects until the recreation survey is completed, but both motions failed,

with only Doroshewitz and Curmi supporting them.

Voting in favor of the water and sewer projects were Supervisor Richard Reaume, Treasurer Ron Edwards, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustees Kay Arnold and Mike Kelly.

Board input

Doroshewitz later said he wanted to see an "arm's-length" survey of recreation

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Bode's Corned Beef House owner Rick Meacham has been slinging hash for more than 40 years. Sunday is his last day; he and wife Pam are selling the business and plan to fire up their RV for some travel. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cherry Hill upgrade plan to ease backups

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

With two new schools bringing some 1,600 students and at least 14 new bus routes to an already congested Cherry Hill-Canton Center corridor, everyone involved felt increased traffic was going to be the biggest problem.

But officials from Canton Township, Wayne County, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the new charter school believe they've solved it.

Officials from all of those parties have signed an agreement that will bring improvements to Cherry Hill between Canton Center and Beck and add two traffic lights officials hope will help ease the flow of traffic caused by construction of the two schools.

PCCS is building a new middle school just west of Canton Center on Cherry Hill to open in September 2015, and National Heritage Academies is building a new high school just west of the PCCS site. The charter school is set to open in August 2014.

"Traffic ... was the most important issue," Canton Township Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said. "We know two schools, both of about 800 student population, plus staff and support, is going to gen-



The new middle school being built by Plymouth-Canton Schools will be located just west of Canton Center Rd. on Cherry Hill Rd., behind Rose's restaurant.

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OUT OF THE KITCHEN

Bode's owner hanging up his apron after 40 years

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

In an era of increased franchising, dining trends that change every few months and restaurants that come and go, Bode's Corned Beef House has been a constant in Plymouth for decades.

But major change is coming: Owner Richard Meacham is stepping away from the grill Sunday after 42 years.

Meacham and wife Pam are selling Bode's to a Canton Township chiropractor, and plan to use their newfound free time to travel, relax and slow down a bit - things Richard's 75- to 110-hour weeks often kept them from.

"I want to do it while I'm young enough to enjoy things," said Meacham during a break at Bode's on Thursday. "The running joke is ... I'm going to fall over back there and they're just going to kick me under the grill."

Meacham, who lives with his wife in Salem Township, started



Rick and Pam Meacham have sold their Bode's Corned Beef House to a Canton Township chiropractor who reportedly will keep the restaurant's name and specialty - corned beef. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

working at Bode's as a busboy on June 27, 1971 - he remembers the exact date - at age 17. He was promoted to the kitchen within days, worked at the diner during his senior year at Salem High School through the school's co-op program, and by age 20 or 21 was running the

place for owner Larry Gaffka. He bought it from Gaffka in 1979 and later changed the name from Bode's Coffee Shop to Bode's Corned Beef House.

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Christmas sing-along planned

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Churches across the community are putting denominational differences aside and inviting people to celebrate the season in song in Plymouth.

Kellogg Park will be the site of the Christmas carol sing-along planned for 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. The free event will include both religious Christmas hymns and popular, nonsectarian seasonal hymns, said Jerry Smith, one of the organizers.

Smith, the music director at Plymouth's First Presbyterian Church, said the caroling will be the inaugural event for a group of members of area churches whose representatives have been meeting, under the name Faith Festival, to plan ecumenical activities for the community. The group is planning to formally organize under the name Heartbeat of Plymouth, Smith said.

But one doesn't have to belong to a

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SING

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church to attend the Christmas caroling. The Plymouth Oratorio Society, a regional community chorus, is joining in, and the public is invited as well.

"We didn't want this to be a choral event. We wanted it to become a sing-along," said Smith. Song sheets will be provided for those singing in the 45-minute program, and the crowd will be invited back to First Presbyterian, at Main and Church streets, afterward for refreshments.

Churches involved

In addition to First Presbyterian, Smith said, churches at the core of Faith Festival include First United Methodist, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic, Trinity Presbyterian,

"We didn't want this to be a choral event. We wanted it to become a sing-along."

JERRY SMITH
event organizer

Calvary Baptist in Canton Township and Ward Presbyterian in Northville Township.

The Plymouth area had a strong ecumenical movement years ago, Smith said, with co-sponsored concerts and lectures, and he and others are seeking to revive that tradition.

"The churches just haven't been doing this of late. Years ago, Plymouth was doing more of this kind of thing," he said.

Smith, who has been at First Presbyterian for about a dozen years, taught music at the

long-closed Bentley High School in Livonia for nearly 30 years and directed the music program there. He said he was inspired by Livonia's annual May prayer breakfast, a public event organized by churches across the city and attended by hundreds of people.

The Plymouth ecumenical movement is being led by church members instead of by pastors. "We are lay people who thought this was a good idea," Smith said.

Smith said the hope is that the Christmas caroling will become an annual event. The Faith Festival/Heartbeat of Plymouth is planning to launch two more ecumenical events next year - a day of prayer and a "faith festival" for the summer.

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

PLAN

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erate a lot of traffic. It's on a corridor that already has a congestion problem because it only has two lanes."

To accommodate the two schools, Cherry Hill will be widened by one full lane from Beck to Canton Center, Faas said. Intersection improvements will be made on Cherry Hill at both Beck and Canton Center.

Traffic signals will be installed at Country Club Lane (across from the charter school entrance) and at the entrance to the new middle school. The light at Country Club Lane will be active all the time, while the light at the middle school entrance will be activated for peak school hours, then revert to a flashing light.

The cost of the project will be split between Wayne County, the charter school and PCCS. Wayne County officials were able to move up a project to improve Cherry Hill that was expected for 2018, for which 80 percent of the funding will come from federal money.

NHA and PCCS will

The cost of the "We just knew we had to get it right, for the kids and for the other people who have to drive the roads."

PHIL LAJOY

Canton Township supervisor

split the rest of the cost. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, PCCS executive director of student services, said it would cost the district some \$450,000. Canton Township will front the cost, and NHA and PCCS will reimburse the township.

Faas said the plan calls for the project to be designed in 2014, with construction to begin in early 2015 so it can be completed by July 2015. The charter school will open in 2014, but is expected to have fewer than 200 students at that point.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said safety of the students and the other drivers on Cherry Hill was paramount in everyone's thinking. He said Wayne County officials, including Commissioner Shannon Price, R-Canton, were "very helpful" in pulling the plan together.

"We just knew we had to get it right, for the kids and for the other people who have to drive

the roads," LaJoy said. "I think we came up with a pretty good solution."

The Canton Township Board of Trustees Tuesday voted 6-0 (Trustee Tom Yack was absent) to approve the special land use for PCCS to build the new middle school, which will replace Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth, which will be shuttered following the 2014-15 school year.

While the site-plan process wasn't necessary - the state superintendent of schools has final approval for the site plan and issues the construction permits for public schools - Faas said going through the process anyway was a good thing for the district.

"It basically gives them a chance to have two public hearings - at the Planning Commission and the board - and gives us an opportunity to determine if the facilities are adequate for what they proposed."

SEWER

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needs that is not viewed by the public as tainted.

"You can get studies to tell you anything you want," he said, calling for board members' input and review. "Otherwise, it'll be discredited. We all know that."

Reaume said board members would have a chance to weigh in on survey details and how a survey will be conducted, tentatively sched-

uling the issue for a Tuesday, Jan. 7, study meeting.

In addition to a heated, all-season pavilion with restrooms, meeting space and a kitchen, officials are planning a \$270,000 amphitheater for the park, plus a parking lot expansion, pathway improvements, a footbridge over the pond and playscape and sprayscape maintenance. Improvements at Hilltop Golf Course and Lake Pointe Soccer Park are also planned.

The parks and recreation improvements are

part of a \$2.55 million capital spending plan adopted last summer, and separate from any additional recreation facility proposals that could result from survey results.

The township is selling \$1.9 million in 10-year bonds to help pay for the planned improvements; Edwards said an interest rate of 2.61 percent has been agreed upon, and that closing is scheduled for Tuesday.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
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- 19-22** Central City Dance Christmas Spectacular - Various Times
- 28** Aaron Radatz Holiday Magic Show - 7pm
- 31** Star Tributes from Las Vegas - *Matt King as Elvis with Live Orchestra* - 4pm, 7pm

January

- 11** TLC Productions - *StageLab24: Several One-Act Plays (Studio)* - 8pm
- 17** Detroit Symphony Orchestra - *Mozart and Bach* - 8pm
- 18** Partnership for the Arts - *Simply Diamond* - 2pm
- 20** Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - 5:30pm
- 23-26** Forever After Productions - *Shrek the Musical Various* - Various Times
- 24-25** Spotlight Players - *Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner* - 6:30pm
- 31** Spotlight Players - *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* - 8pm

February

- 1-9** Spotlight Players - *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* - 2pm, 8pm
- 12** PCCS Showcase: Field Elementary Talent Show - 7pm
- 14** Star Tributes from Las Vegas Valentine's Day - 7pm
- 15** Michigan Philharmonic - *Fabulous Fifties* - 7:30pm
- 21-22** Spotlight Players - *Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner* - 6:30pm, 8pm
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BODE'S

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Lifelong routine

He loved the work, even though as a teenager he wanted to own a grocery store.

"It's my thing," Meacham said. "It's always been my thing."

"He could flip an egg in his sleep," said Pam Meacham, who is not on the payroll but helps out with office work, errands, serving coffee and, in a pinch, waitressing.

Meacham said regulars make up 80 percent of his customers, and that people who've been patronizing Bode's longer than he's worked there still drop in. At the same time, he said, he's seen regulars pass away, events that got him thinking that maybe he should slow down.

He likes the interaction, the banter, with the regulars.

"I've seen three and four generations of the same families," he said. "That's pretty neat. ... I like that."

That's one of the things, he added, that'll make leaving difficult. "It's going to be tough," he said.

Bode's roots

Bode's dates from 1959; Larry Gaffka had a partner whom he later bought out. There was briefly another Bode's on Penniman in downtown Plymouth, but it burned down in a 1964 fire, the Meachams said.

The diner's name comes from The Bode Hotel, which was opened in 1868 by E. Gottlieb Bode in a house on the site. The building has also been a boarding house, a church and a clothing store, the Meachams said. The restaurant has been expanded and portions of it remodeled a few times.

The soon-to-be new owner - Pam Meacham said she's not sure the

woman wants to go public just yet - reportedly doesn't plan many changes.

"It's still going to be Bode's Corned Beef House," she said. "It would be silly not to."

'Exciting ... scary'

"I just love working here," said waitress Sharon Moss, who started at Bode's in 1986 and has done a couple of tours, even returning after coming back to the area after a move out of state. The Meachams are like family, she said, and she looks forward to seeing regular customers.

Moss plans to stay on under the new ownership.

"The restaurant's going to change a little bit ... so that's exciting. It's also scary," she said.

Richard Meacham mused that part of Bode's appeal is that things there haven't changed much, though Plymouth has changed around it.

"This used to be a



Rick Meacham serves up a meal at his Bode's Corned Beef House, where he started as a busyboy in 1971. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

good old boys town way back when, and now it's yuppieville," he said. Factory workers made up a large part of the clientele years ago, and lunchtime was a huge rush, but as factories closed, Bode's got fewer and fewer customers from them.

Other change hasn't been a stranger to Bode's, either: the menu, Meacham said, has at

least doubled since he started, the decor has been altered (there was a red, white and blue theme for the Bicentennial in 1976) a no-smoking policy was adopted (before state law mandated one) and meal specials for which Bode's is known were added.

Special tradition

Early on, Meacham served corned beef and

cabbage, a traditional Irish dish, on St. Patrick's Day, which that year fell on a Tuesday. It proved popular, he said, and has been the Tuesday special ever since.

The diner sells between 800 and 900 pounds of corned beef on a typical Tuesday, Meacham said. The Friday fish special is also popular.

Meacham has seen changes in the restaurant business, too: chains and trendy restaurants have largely replaced mom-and-pop operations, things are more "cut-throat" now, and profit margins slimmer than in the comparatively laid-back 1970s.

"Now everybody is undercutting everybody so much, the profit margin is so small, that you've just got to work your buns off to make any money," he said.

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Sarah Kight, a Canton Township teen, returned to Prestige Eyewear recently to drop off more than 80 pairs of used eyeglasses she collected in the Plymouth-Canton area for the Garden City Lions Club. Last year, she made a similar donation. Joining Kight is Garden City Lions Club president Hank Cable (left) and Mike Fearon, owner of Prestige Eyewear (right).

Canton teen collects used eyeglasses for Lions Club

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

A Canton Township teen has been quietly working behind the scene to again collect eyeglasses donations for the Garden City Lions Club.

Sarah Kight, a senior at Canton High School, initiated a community service project of collecting used glasses last year. She donated 83 pairs to Mike Fearon, an optician and owner of Prestige Eyewear on Ford in Garden City, who, in turn, gave them to the Garden City Lions Club.

Kight recently made a return trip to Prestige Eyewear, this time with more than 80 pairs of used and unwanted eyeglasses.

"I told my family and friends during the summer that I wanted to collect them again," Kight said. "I really enjoyed it last year."

This year, Kight went a step further and visited optical stores in the Plymouth-Canton community and asked if they had glasses that could be donated.

Fearon was surprised when Kight dropped off another cache of glasses.

"I hadn't even known that she was still collecting," Fearon said.

Kight and her family have been customers at Prestige Eyewear for about nine years.

"I always came into Prestige Eyewear and other places and saw a little white box that said Lions Club on it," Kight said last year. "Whenever I looked into it, there never were that many glasses that were actually donated."

Kight lives in the Sunflower subdivision at Canton Center and Hanford. Last year, she talked to people at her clubhouse, who allowed

her to set out a collection box for two weeks. She also sent out emails.

The Lions Club sends the glasses to a company in the club credit for them, according to Hank Cable, club president. Most glasses are given to third world countries where people have no glasses.

The company gives the club credit for the number of glasses turned in and sends the club a check twice a year. Typically, the Lions Club receives a check for about \$90-\$100 every six months. The club uses that money to help children in the city who can't afford glasses.

The club also services seniors as well and helps the hearing impaired and collects hearing aids.

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W-W revamps website, adds app to communications arsenal

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is adding a new tool to its list of ways to communicate with students, staff, parents and community members.

Later this month, residents will be able to download a mobile app for smart phones to access the district's news, school calendars, lunch menus, contact information and more. The free app will be available in the Android Play store and the iPhone App store.

"It's very exciting what the Wayne-Westland app will be able to do," Deputy Superintendent Paul Salah said. "It provides another access for our families to our calendars and information also will be available for each individual school."

The mobile app is yet another piece of technology the district is using to communicate with residents. It continues to mail its *Connections* newsletter to 42,000 homes in the district and uses e-blasts and robocalls to get the word out to parents.

Making connections

According to Salah, the volume of information sent electronically is rapidly increasing. This year, the district has sent out 410 total e-blasts via email to 508,366 recipients, compared to 226 total e-blasts sent to 158,983 recipients in 2012. This year, 1,720 total robocalls

have been made to 475,469 recipients, compared to the 801 robocalls that reached 244,816 recipients in 2012.

He added that it is projected that by 2020, "most people will access the Internet via a mobile device."

The district also is utilizing social media sites like YouTube and Twitter to post videos and tweets. Every update posted to the district website's Latest News Section automatically updates its District News RSS Feed and is tweeted on its Twitter account at wwcsd.net. Board meetings, Curriculum Corner episodes, commercials for cable and graduation ceremonies are among the videos posted in its YouTube channel.

"There's no shortage of ways to communicate," Salah said. "The district now has multiple venues for residents to gain access to information."

Salah announced the new app as part of a presentation on the district's revamped website, which went live Tuesday. The work was done by the communications and technology departments to update the district's communications strategy, he said. The new website site contains all aspects of the former site, however, pull-down menus have been switched to a horizontal format so that the entire menu can be viewed on one screen.

Salah praised the work done by the dis-

trict's communications and technology departments.

"We know that clear and concise communication is utmost to success in a school district," he said. "When we were accredited in 2012, the evaluators praised our communication efforts and said that the only other thing we could do is send up smoke signals. I took that as a compliment."

No Facebook page

One social media the district will not be using to get the word out to residents will be Facebook. When asked about it by school board Secretary John Goci, Salah cited the labor-intensive nature of maintaining a Facebook page.

"It takes a lot of manpower to operate a Facebook page, it's a real challenge to manage it in real time," he said.

"What we have found is that districts that started Facebook pages have removed them because it's more than a 40-hour a week task to maintain."

Parent Michelle Sample reminded school officials that years ago a "certain board member asked to have videos posted on YouTube and was harshly knocked down."

"Now you're all for it, now you're on YouTube," she said. "I love it. It keeps us in the loop, but you do need to look at all social media. I'm on Facebook, not Twitter."

smason@hometownlife.com
313-222-6751
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

Canton protects recreation program serving the disabled

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton-based therapeutic recreation program serving thousands of disabled people across western Wayne County has been spared for two more years after officials staved off fears of funding cuts.

"It's a very much-needed service that we're looking forward to fulfilling," Canton Leisure Services Director Debbie Bilbrey-Honsozewicz said.

Canton has secured \$75,000 a year to help offset costs by working with the Wayne County Commission, despite earlier worries funding could be slashed amid county budget woes.

"It's a very important program," said Commis-

sioner Shannon Price, who led the charge to rescue it from the county budget ax.

The therapeutic recreation program offers aquatics classes, exercise programs, summer camps, dances and other activities, many of them housed at Canton's Summit on the Park.

Jon LaFever, Canton Leisure Services recreation and facilities supervisor, said the program serves disabled people ages 8 and up from Canton and 10 other communities including Livonia, Plymouth, Westland, Northville, Northville Township, Wayne and Dearborn.

Canton's program is growing as services have been shifted here from communities such as Westland.

LaFever said the program served 2,754 people who attended 4,581 programs or events during 2012. He said it provides an outlet for independence and social skills for disabled people from families, group homes and other places.

The latest agreement between Canton and Wayne County provides money for employee wages, transportation, contracted services, programs and activity supplies.

"It's a very effective program," Canton Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said. "It's just a little bit of money and 11 different communities take advantage of it."

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Wayne-Westland hires AD, three administrators

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools didn't have to go far to find two of three new school administrators whose appointments were approved by the school board at its meeting last week. They were already working for the district.

Receiving board approval were Kevin Weber of Westland as principal and Keshia Reeves of Southfield as assistant principal, both of Wayne Memorial High School, and Kimberly Cieszynski of Plymouth as assistant principal at John Glenn High School.

Weber has been with the district since 2004, working as a special education teacher until 2011 when he became an assistant principal at Wayne Memorial. He had been serving as the acting principal since Valerie Orr resigned to become principal of Monroe High School.



Kevin Weber



Keshia Reeves



Kimberly Cieszynski



John Young

Weber has a bachelor of science degree from Western Michigan University where he majored in emotionally impaired/communications and a master of science degree in educational leadership from Concordia University.

"He has been acting principal since September and has done a fine job," said School Superintendent Greg Baracy in recommending Weber for the position. "He is more than qualified for the job and has a proven track record."

"It was an odd twist of fate that had me move here," Weber told the board. "I've had 10 tough years serving the Wayne-Westland community and look forward to many

more."

An 'opportunity'

Cieszynski also comes from the Wayne-Westland ranks, working in special education in the district since 2003. She also worked as a substitute teacher in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, a child advocate with First Step and a program assistant with the Beacon Day Treatment Center. She also completed a general education internship with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and a special education internship with Beacon before joining the Wayne-Westland district.

She has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Michigan State

University, a master of arts degree in working with the emotionally impaired from Eastern Michigan University. She plans to complete work on an educational specialist degree in special education administration from EMU in June 2016.

"I want to thank the board and Dr. Baracy and the John Glenn administration and my special education colleagues for their support," Cieszynski said. "You've supported my dreams, thank you for the opportunity."

Reeves comes to the school district from the West Side Academy in Detroit where she was an assistant principal and athletic coordinator. She worked for the Ford Motor Co. Barteck and Carlson Marketing Group before becoming an integrated science teacher at West Side and Detroit City High School.

She has a bachelor of science degree in secondary education and a master's degree in educational leadership, both from

Wayne State University and an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Michigan.

New AD

The school board also approved two other appointments. John Young of Pinckney has been named athletic director at John Glenn High School and Matthew Connolly of Royal Oak has been named field supervisor of maintenance and operations.

Young takes over for Greg Ambrose who has been serving as athletic director for Wayne Memorial and Glenn for three years. Ambrose will return to Wayne as become the full-time AD.

"He comes to us with a vast array of experience," Baracy said. He has an extensive player and coaching background."

Young was an assistant baseball coach at the University of Michigan, the associate head baseball coach and assistant marketing director at Bradley University, assistant baseball coach at Michigan State Univer-

sity and an athletic supervisor/director with the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

He has a bachelor of science degree in physical education and social studies from U-M where he was a four-year varsity letter winner, and a master of education degree in education, also from U-M.

'Gets job done'

Connolly has been with the school district since 1988, working as a substitute custodian in maintenance and operations and a custodian at Monroe, Schweitzer and Hicks Elementaries and Stevenson Middle School.

He has a bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"I've known Matthew a long time. He's an outstanding person and a great worker," board President Carol Middel said. "He's always there to make sure the job gets done."

Connolly thanked Tony Spina, executive director of maintenance and operations, Hicks Principal Andrew Rosinski and the office staff.



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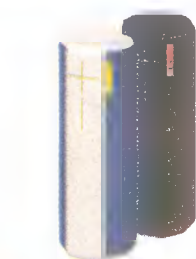


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Michigan-made holiday gifts boost economy, warm local hearts

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Bob Benefiel of Plymouth Township was out shopping on a recent Tuesday evening for a gift for wife Lynn's birthday. He came to the Art Is In Market at Livonia's Laurel Park Place.

"Just something unique, something made by an individual, not mass produced, something that reflects Michigan or Detroit," said Benefiel, a retired lawyer. As he looked at artists' wares, Benefiel noted he had a brother-in-law, father to 12, who delivered Faygo pop.

Benefiel's attitude is music to the ears of Deb La Pratt of Walled Lake, owner of the Art Is In Markets with locations in Twelve Oaks in Novi and the newest at Partridge Creek in Clinton Township, as well as Laurel Park Place.

"I think it's great for the economy, it's great for Michigan," La Pratt said of the growing popularity of made in Michigan gifts. She eschews high-end box stores for shopping.

"I always say it's touched by the artist's hands," said La Pratt, an artist who uses old found objects, focusing on Detroit, for such works as ceramic tiles and mantel covers.

A walk through the Laurel Park Place store reveals pencil drawings of scenes from Livonia, Plymouth, Northville and elsewhere. There are such items as metal garden art pieces, organic spices, women's clothing, jewelry and pottery. Monte Nagler, a Farmington Hills photographer, has his work displayed for sale.

There are also books by Michigan authors.

'Artists and talent'

"We have such a range of artists and talent," she said. "I love helping young artists out." She's done this work some 35 years.

A neighbor who worked for Laurel Park Place got La Pratt in there some eight years ago. "She's so proud of me," the business owner said. "It's all because of one person believing in me."

The Laurel Park store was originally planned to be a November-December holiday market. "The customers kept saying, 'No, you can't close,'" she recalled. "It has just blown up which I'm so excited about."

There are some 40-45 artists at Laurel Park Place's Art Is In Market, and about 65 each at Twelve Oaks and Partridge Creek. "I look at it as a win-win situation for everybody," she said of the buy Michigan trend. "I think we're on a huge buy Michigan, buy local push," La Pratt added. "I think it's great. We're keeping it in our own country."

Lisa Brown of Livonia's also a big advocate of Michigan-made gifts. Diggs heads up the Buy Michigan Now campaign, which includes the August festival in downtown Northville, set for Aug. 1-3, 2014.

Her effort started the day before Thanksgiving in 2007 with an emphasis on Michigan shopping. "We could really make an impact on our economy," Diggs said. "It's been very successful."

The Northville festival has grown, and there are 7,400 people committed to the website BuyMichiganNow.com to Michigan shopping. She has some 5,000 businesses on board of many types.

"That's growing all the time. It's been great,"



Livonia artist Ann Fay Sneddon, here with her service dog Rita, has worked with oils and acrylics for about 10 years. Her subjects include these florals, as well as commissioned pet portraits. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Art Is In Market stocks way more than a truck load of Michigan-made products.



Deb La Pratt's ceramic work uses common objects like this Farmington Hills manhole cover.

Diggs said. This time of year, she helps smaller businesses with local TV appearances highlighting gifts.

She has a holiday gift guide in November-December, currently available online, focusing on Michigan gifts with about 100 and links to their websites for other gift ideas. A grocery guide is available through the website year-round.

Diggs cites Kelly's Karamels in Troy as having a great product. Poof-Slinky makes soft toy balls in Plymouth, and Walled Lake's American Plastic Toys produces beach toys to kitchen sets.

Diggs agreed local artists have much to offer. "A lot of times, it's a one of a kind item," she said. "We've got a great blossoming art community and they deserve our support."

Diggs cited the Art Is In Markets, as well as the Yellow Door Art Market in Berkley and Rust Belt Market in Ferndale for artists' gifts made in Michigan.

Food's local, too

Stella Delap, owner of Basket Kreations in downtown Plymouth, said at least 80 percent of foodstuffs in her store are Michigan products. She finds many customers eager to buy Michigan gifts.

"Once they see all of it, that really gets them excited," said Canton resident Delap, whose 24-year business began in Canton and moved to Plymouth in 1999. "They like it very much."

She does much work by local artists, including Pewabic Pottery. "They love the idea that we do represent a lot of local artists," Delap said.

Basket Kreations carries recycled license plate artwork, including a Michigan cutout of a Florida plate ideal for snowbirds. The store also carries mittens recycled from sweaters.

Basket Kreations carries books on the Daisy Air Rifle Co., based in Plymouth until its 1958 departure for Arkansas. "We just really love our made in Michigan items," Delap said. "It really does help our state. I'm very pro-Michigan."

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Plymouth Christian partners with Detroit Rescue Mission

Each year during the Christmas season, Plymouth Christian Academy students and staff look for ways to give back and serve others. The effort, according to school officials, alternates between service projects that reach around the world by filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and those that serve the community at home.

This year, PCA partnered with the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministry to serve those closer to home. Students and staff collected close to 1,000 cans of food, each wrapped with dollar bills, for donation to the mission.

The DRMM was founded in 1909 and since then, PCA officials said, the mission has "helped to rebuild thousands of lives that were destroyed by addiction, homelessness, and poverty. They have accomplished this mission by sharing the love of Jesus Christ and giving the most hopeless citizens of Detroit the chance for hope and a future."

According to the DRMM website, "In Detroit, there are over 18,000 homeless people in need of shelter on any given night. Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries is providing 600 of them emergency, transitional, and permanent housing each night." Each day the



The Plymouth Christian Academy Student Council carried the filled boxes to the DRMM vehicle.

mission serves more than 1,400 men, women, and children.

PCA has worked with the mission many times

in the past during the school's Christmas service projects and during the annual school Servathon in the spring. This

past spring, PCA students and staff helped to build urban garden boxes for the DRMM, another initiative being taken by

this ministry. To learn more about the DRMM, visit <http://drmm.org>.

Starkweather Academy students donate to charity

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A year ago, Starkweather Academy at Fiegel English professor Regina Wilburn started a community service club at the school to encourage students to get involved with charitable activities.

A year later, while waiting for approval as an official Key Club component of the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, the students are continuing their push to help others.

Partnering with teacher Louis Haddad's "No Shave November" fundraiser, Key Club members gave up their lunch hours to sell baked goods - which they baked themselves - to help raise money for the Westland office of the Michigan Humane Society.

The semester-long fundraiser allowed the

kids to present the Humane Society Wednesday with a check for \$450.

"The (Humane Society) told us we saved six animals' lives with that," Wilburn said. "That was really exciting."

The kids weren't done. They also raised \$200 to donate toys to the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots effort. And on Wednesday afternoon, several Key Club members braved brutally cold temperatures to ring bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign.

Members of the school's Diversity Club are also raising money to send the school's African-American students on a tour of Historical Black Colleges and Universities.

The tour will take students to Tennessee, Alabama and Atlanta, Ga.

Starkweather student Sapphire Jackson of



Key Club advisor Regina Wilburn and Key Club members Brandon Bitner, Alexis Kurzyniec, Melissa Fisher, Morgan Phillips and Sapphire Jackson rang the Red Kettle bells Wednesday with Starkweather student Jordan Phetteplace and P-CEP student Nina Stroyan.

Canton, a member of the Key Club who participated in the Humane Society fundraiser, is one of the students going on the tour.

"It's going to be the best experience of my life," Jackson said. "I'm

so excited."

Starkweather student Morgan Phillips said she was happy to take part in both the fundraising and the bell-ringing.

"I've never done it, and I wanted to see what it was like," said Phillips, a Canton resident. "I like to help people."

Wilburn said the Plymouth Evening Kiwanis Club is sponsoring their bid to become an official



Luke Haddad (Social Studies teacher), Regina Wilburn (Starkweather Key Club advisor and English teacher), Nicole Senczysyn (with Humane Society), Imani McGee (president of Key Club) and Key Club members Clarence Burton (Key Club member), Patti Begoske (Key Club member), Brandon Bitner (vice president) and Victoria Diab with the check donated by Starkweather.

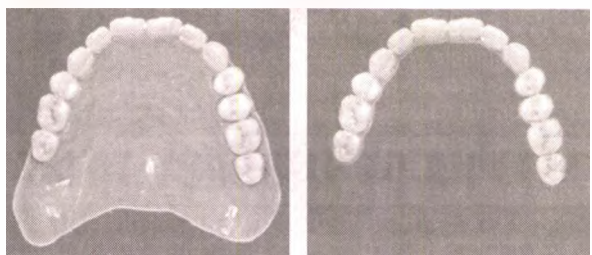
Key Club. She said the students are excited about the involvement, and she hopes it can shed a positive light on Starkweather Academy at Fiegel, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' alternative high school.

"We just have a very

generous group of kids at Starkweather," Wilburn said. "I think often Starkweather kids are misjudged. They're really generous, charitable kids."

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

Publish: December 8, 2013

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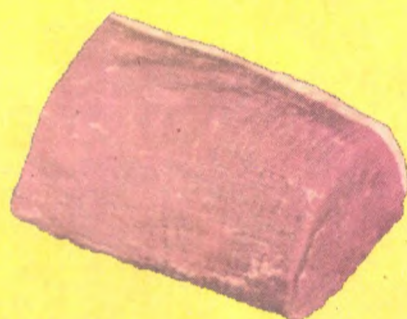
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Open mic nite

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

Location: The Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

Details: The BaseLine Folk Society presents their festive "Total Open Mic" night. Artists can begin signing up at 6:15. This month will be complete open-mic performers to perform two songs, original or cover. There's no featured guests this month. Host for the evening is Kenny Lang, a BaseLine favorite who has performed more than 40 years. BaseLine Folk Society is a group of talented musicians promoting and preserving the fine art of traditional accoustical folk music. Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers.

Contact: Email the president, Scott Ludwig, at BFSpresident@aol.com.

Holiday in the Islands

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 15, 2

p.m.

Location: Canton Public Library
Details: The Canton Public Library hosts The Gratitude Steel Band presenting "A Holiday in the Islands" concert. Visitors will enjoy classics celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza with what library officials call "a tropical twist." All ages are welcome; admission is free.

Contact: Call 734-397-0999, ext. 1078 for more information.

Living nativity

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

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

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

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

Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste 250, Canton



Salem High School math teachers Mike Guinta (from left), Karen Alexander and Debbie Russ accept an \$8,500 check from Heather Robinson of Community Financial Credit Union. The credit union presented the check to purchase math supplies (graphing calculators, compass/protractor sets, individual dry erase boards with markers) at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

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mental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse. No appointment necessary.

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



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St. Dunstan's provides free Christmas Day dinner

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

St. Dunstan Catholic Church will again offer its popular free Christmas Day dinner for those who are alone on the holiday.

The Garden City church has made it a tradition. Judy Larry, a Realtor known affectionately as "Judy O," always tells people to bring a hearty appetite, a joyful spirit and a voice ready to join in on a Christmas carols sing-along. People from throughout the area who need a place to go on Christmas Day are treated like family at the holiday dinner.

"As always, we are in need of volunteers to help at this event," Larry said.

She appreciates anybody who can help out, make cookies or offer a donation.

Larry, an organizer of the annual dinner, also wants fun to punctuate the occasion and guests to be treated royally. The doors open at 1 p.m. and the dinner will be served about 2 p.m. Reservations are preferred, but no one is turned away that day.

Dedicated

Larry's family knows how dedicated she is to this effort. They also volunteer with her. She looks forward to the event, which she calls "really, really nice."

After serving her own family a Christmas breakfast at home, her children and grandchildren know that if they want to see more of Grandma Judy, they can follow her over to the church complex on Belton, south of Ford, in Garden City. They roll up their sleeves and pitch in

to serve the guests.

Larry's volunteers haven't wavered through the years since Larry took over the task more than 10 years ago from volunteers John and Mary Surge.

Donations needed

People can make cash donations to help off-set the costs for the dinner, which is funded through St. Dunstan's Christian Service Fund. That money also feeds hundreds of people during the year through the church's food pantry program.

The full sit-down dinner includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, rolls, butter and an assortment of desserts. Larry likes to have a lot of baked goods on hand. People who want to donate something can drop it off at the parish office.

For reservations, call Larry at 734-595-3049.



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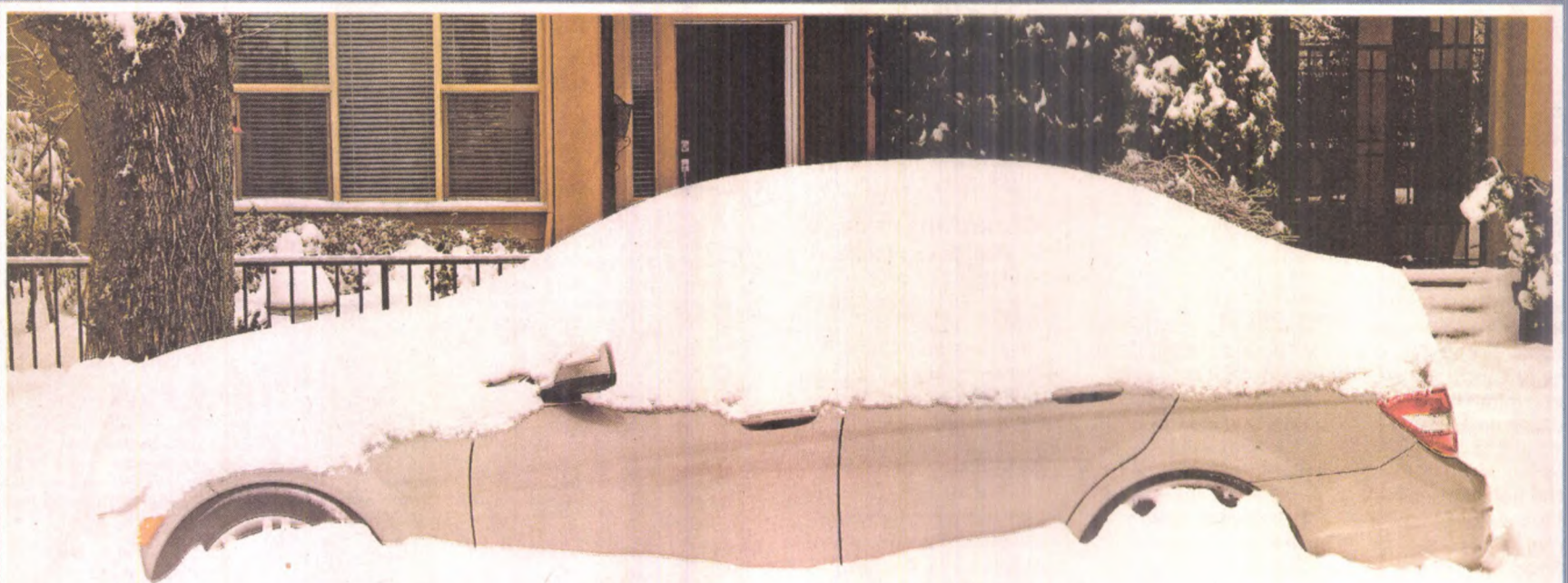
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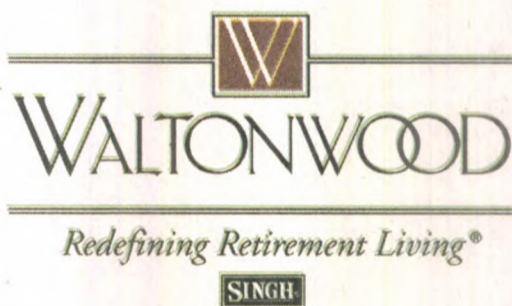
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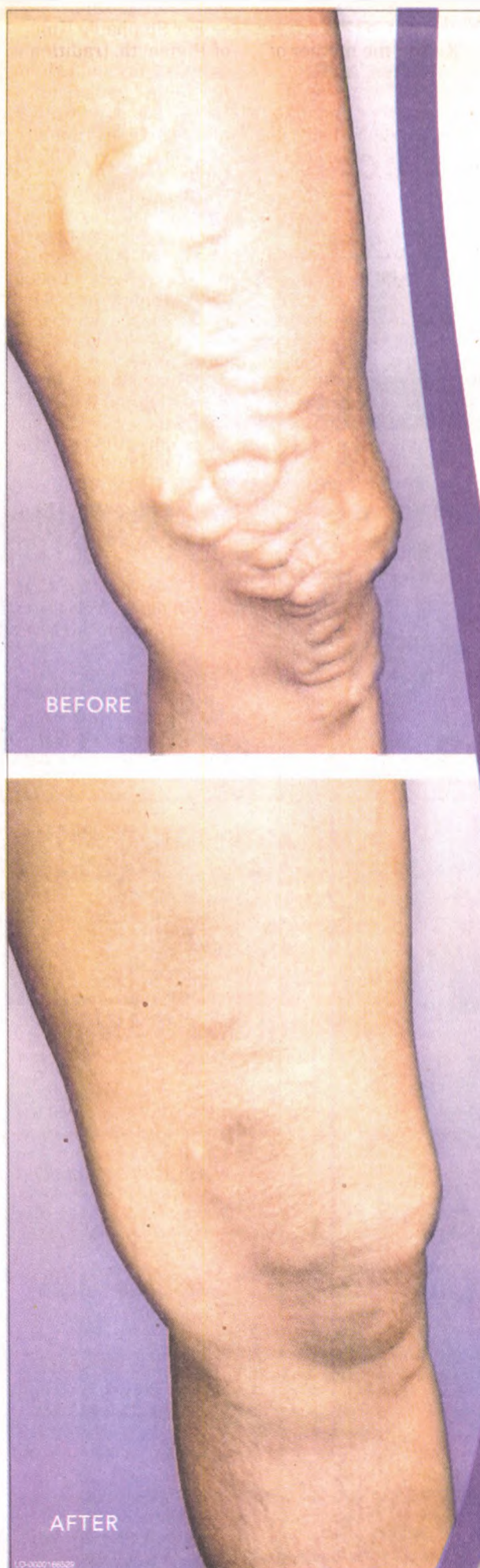
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Readers share special holiday traditions

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Traditions – those special events and practices that bind us to one another, creating happy memories and something to cling to in times of trouble – can be as simple as getting together to bake cookies every year or an elaborate gathering of family and friends complete with an ugly sweater contest.

New or old, these traditions centered around the holiday season hold a special place in both the hearts and minds of readers in the area.

Just ask Livonia's Judy Franco, who celebrates her Polish heritage with her family every year, a tradition built upon her studies of the subject as a college student years ago.

"Wigilia is the traditional Polish Christmas Eve dinner, and begins when the first evening star is sighted in sky," Franco said.

The traditional menu is quite specific; however, Franco altered hers a bit on some advice from her mother.

"When I first started hosting this event, I told my mother that I wanted to have the traditional Polish menu. She said, 'I didn't like it when I was young girl and I am not going to like it now either,'" remembers Franco, laughing.

As one of six sisters, all of whom are accomplished cooks, Franco's meal is typically meatless and usually includes sauteed perch and other Polish delicacies, such as potato or sauerkraut pierogi, homemade potato soup flavored with sautéed onions, cucumbers and sour cream, coleslaw and Jell-O – "everyone loves Jell-O," Franco said.

Served on a white tablecloth over hay to signify a manger, the meal is completed with a wide array of cookies and pastries prepared by Franco and her sisters.

Christmas wafer

A highlight of the meal is the passing of the Christmas wafer, or oplatki – thin, unleavened wafer unblessed with writing or Christmas images.

"We pass them with a plate of honey to those surrounding us as a sign of peace and love," Franco said.

One caveat that Franco is careful to observe is that there should always be an even number of places set at the table.

"There is a saying that if there is an odd number, someone who is not at the table will not return the following year," she said.

This year, Franco will set a table for 28 guests, family members that include her husband and their three grown sons, and her sisters and their families. It has become a tradition that is quite special to her.



The Ugly Sweater Contest winners from 2012 were (from left) Tim Markham, Bruce Markham, Matt Markham, Tanaz Naterwala and Mallory Maxton, all of Novi.

"It just makes it Christmas. It is a just a wonderful way of remembering," she said.

For Novi's Elaine Maylen, tradition is not only about past memories but creating new ones to pass along to her daughters and friends.

Growing up as an only child, Maylen remembers quiet gatherings with her small family where often she was the only youngster.

"It wasn't like you see on television – these big celebrations with lots of people and lots going on," Maylen said.

Making memories

It was these memories, she explains, that are behind the Christmas party that Maylen and her husband, also an only child, have been hosting for friends and neighbors the past nine years, complete with a fiercely competitive ugly sweater contest and a prize-filled bingo game.

"When you are just a small family, it can get really lonely. We knew there were others in the same situation that we were, so we decided to do something about it," she said, adding, "People like to be social. They want to go out and do things with others on Christmas day – even if they are not Christian."

The tradition that began with "20 or so" is now taken on much larger proportions.

"We now have over 50 people – Christian, Jewish, Parsi and Hindu – from Novi, Northville, Livonia and Farmington Hills. We even have someone from Boston who attends with her brother, who lives nearby," Maylen said.

The party, while creating happy, fun-filled memories for her two daughters ages 23 and 16, is a testimony to the need for people have social tradition in their lives, Maylen said.

"I think the party and the fact that it has grown – is a reflection of the need people have to connect and celebrate with each other," she said.

When Joe Legato of South Lyon and his family gather each holiday it is around a pile of themed-gifts, each handmade by family members, which are then handed out, white elephant style.

"The beauty of it is that we are not all craftsmen. Some of the gifts are just fantastic – and

then some of them, well you kind of wonder how in the world they are staying together," he said with a laugh.

Legato, whose family own Bill and Rod's Appliances in Livonia, has been participating in the gift exchange "for as long as I can remember," he said.

Snowmen, boxes and clocks have all been some of the themes, but Legato is quite proud if his gift entry into this year's birdhouse-themed exchange, made of driftwood and stones personally culled from the shores of Lake Superior.

"It is a lot of fun, and has made for some great memories," he said.

Grandma's house is special

This Christmas morning, as it has been for the past 18 Christmas mornings, Maris Ryckman of Livonia will wake up in her grandmother's Grosse Ile home, surrounded by the warmth of her family.

It is a tradition that Ryckman, a freshman at Michigan State University, has shared with parents Bob and Carrie of Livonia and three siblings, ages 15, 21 and 24, since her birth 18 years ago.

"I can't imagine not waking up on Christmas surrounded by my entire family. It just wouldn't seem like Christmas," said Ryckman of the family's holiday sojourn to Grandmother Georgiann McDonald's Downriver home.

Ryckman's family's traditions also include attending a special service at St. John Bosco in Redford, the same church where she and her three siblings participated in the annual Christmas pageant followed by an elaborate home-cooked Polish feast at her parents' house.

"We have homemade pierogi, golumpki, kielbasa and other great Polish foods before we leave for my grandmother's," Ryckman said.

These traditions, Ryckman said, always make the holidays special for her.

"It brings our family together and gives us something to look back on remember. It just



Here's a group photo from a past Maylen holiday party. Friends from Bloomfield Hills, Novi, Wayne, Northville and Lansing attended.



Grace, 9, Ashlyn, 6, and Aubrey Kuhn, 7 of Plymouth.

wouldn't be the same without our traditions," she said.

The opportunity to celebrate family is exactly what makes tradition so important to Kelli Turi, 47.

The Canton mother of four children ages 15, 14, 12 and 10 is part of a very large family that has made a tradition of gathering together – close to 50 of them all living in the metro Detroit area – every year to celebrate the Christmas.

One of 12 grandchildren of family matriarch of Lixonia Harrigan, 91, of Livonia, Turi said that this tradition is something the entire family eagerly anticipates throughout the year.

"We have all stayed close to one another as cousins and now we are passing it on to our own children. It's very special," Turi said.

"I have so much gratitude for being a part of such a large family that has remained close throughout the years. We are all so proud to be part of such a loving family," she said.

Creating lasting memories like these and others is what makes traditions so valuable, said Liz Keiser, 38, who works in the Observer & Eccentric Media Classified Call Center.

Making candy

Keiser, the mother of two children, Aiden, 4 and Samantha, 4 months, has joined her aunt, Kathy Held of Shelby Township every year for the past five years in a candy-making extravaganza that would make Willy Wonka jealous.

Last year, the women made close to 600 turtles, truffles and cherry cordials together to pass out to family and friends throughout the holiday season.

Not only does this annual event help put Keiser in the spirit of the season, it also provides

her the opportunity to spend some special time with her aunt.

"It is nice reminder of what the holidays are all about: making and keeping memories of people who are important to you," Keiser said.

For Stephanie Kuhn of Plymouth, tradition is centered around helping her three young daughters Grace, 9, Aubrey, 7, and Ashlyn, 6, remember the true meaning of Christmas.

An exquisitely designed book, *The Advent Book* by Jack and Kathy Stockman, is carefully packed away throughout the year, unwrapped only as the season approaches and read aloud every day as a family.

"The girls look forward to it and it is a really nice way to spend some quiet time together," Kuhn said.

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Groups offer comfort when holiday season gets tough

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Despite the brightly colored lights, festive decorations and wishes of good cheer, the holidays are not always happy – especially for those experiencing some type of grief.

Glad tidings aside, the feelings of loss – of a loved one, a job, housing or other tragedy – are often intensified during this stressful season, leading to anything but a “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holiday.”

“It is not always a joyful celebration – for many, it’s a really tough time,” said the Rev. Michael Horlocker of the First Presbyterian Church of South Lyon.

“Christmas can be a really tough time: in addition to your own personal issues, you now have the added stresses and expectations that traditionally surround the holidays. Whether you’re experiencing a loss or dealing with addictions or even just feeling broken – this time of year can be very rough,” Horlocker said.

Suicide rates are highest during the holidays, noted Horlocker, adding that he believes that feelings of grief and loss throughout the holidays may be more common than most people realize.

That is one reason that his church, along with others in the area, are

SERVICES SCHEDULED

Other local churches offering special services include

LONGEST NIGHT: A WORSHIP SERVICE OF STRENGTH HOPE AND COMMUNITY
Where: First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church St., downtown Plymouth
When: 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF SOLACE AND HOPE
Where: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
When: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Where: St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church of Livonia, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia (just west of Inkster Road)
When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18

offering special services designed to address the needs of those anticipating the holidays with dread. The First Presbyterian Church of South Lyon “Blue Christmas” service, scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 19 is aimed at giving space and voice to the trying feelings surrounding the Christmas

season.

“Anyone feeling broken is welcome,” he said.

“The holidays are not the same for everyone,” said the Rev. Ann Webber, rector of Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Novi, whose church held its annual Blue Christmas service Dec. 14.

Acknowledging loss

Loss of any sort – jobs, health, income, the many losses that we feel that cause grief – can be acknowledged and addressed with hope, Webber said.

“Our lives are always going to be changed and different – but that does not mean they are ended. We can look with hope for God’s gracious love to be with us as we journey through our grief to a time of hope and resolution,” Webber said.

Karen Laing, executive director of the Northville-based New Hope Center for Grief Support, knows firsthand the pain that can surround the holidays following the loss of a loved one.

“The holidays can be extremely difficult,” acknowledges Laing, a Northville mother of two college-aged children who lost her husband, Keith, in 2009.

“Everyone is saying ‘Joy to the World’ and you feel anything but joyous. It presents a difficult situation. You miss the person and the

traditions they created or were a part of, and the holidays themselves can be overwhelming. It just adds to the sense of loss – it is exhausting,” she said.

Attending special services that provide a quiet, special place to grieve can be very helpful in coping throughout the holidays, Laing said.

“It also helps to be able to talk about your loved one,” Laing said, “Saying things like, ‘I remember when ...’ can be very healing.”

Taking time to memorialize your loved one by participating in special volunteer work of making a donation in their name can also be helpful, she said.

“This year, we adopted a family for Christmas this year in honor of my husband,” she said.

Laing said that often, the anticipation of the holiday is much worse than the holiday itself. Keep this in mind, and try to plan for the holiday in advance.

“Think about the things you are going to keep on doing, the things you are not going to do anymore and the things you may change,” she advises, “For instance, instead of a sit-down family dinner, try it buffet-style. I have even heard of a family that barbecues.”

Horlocker is looking forward to the opportunity to offer comfort to those in spiritual need.

“We’re all expected to be happy and celebrate and we feel like something is wrong with us when we can’t,” Horlocker said.

Tips for safe walking in snow, ice

Falls account for more than one million injuries in the U.S. annually. There are four types of walking accidents with the most common being the slip and fall. That’s the type of fall that happens when you fall due a surface not cleared of snow or ice.

“Every winter the hazards of driving in snow and icy conditions are noted, but rarely is walking on snow and ice addressed,” stated Martin B. Tirado, CAE, executive director of the Snow & Ice Management Association. “Slipping and falling while walking accounts for a large number of winter-related injuries and can have an impact on the quality of life for the injured person.”

SIMA, the national nonprofit organization representing the snow removal industry, has some tips on safe winter walking.

» **Wear proper footwear.** Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and have visible treads. Avoid a smooth sole and opt for a heavy treaded shoe with a flat bottom.

» **Accessorize to see and be seen.** Wear sunglasses so that you can see in the reflective light of the snow. Also, wear a bright coat or scarf so that drivers can easily see you.

» **Plan ahead.** While walking on snow or ice on sidewalks or in parking lots, walk consciously. Instead of looking down, look up and see where your feet will move next to anticipate ice or an uneven surface. Occasionally scan from left to right to ensure you are not in

the way of vehicles or other hazards.

» **Make sure you can hear.** While seeing the environment is important, you also want to be sure you can hear approaching traffic and other noises. Avoid listening to music or engaging in conversation that may prevent you from hearing oncoming traffic or snow removal equipment.

» **Anticipate ice.** Be weary of thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement (black ice). Often ice will appear in the morning, in shady spots or where the sun shines during the day and melted snow refreezes at night.

» **Walk steps slowly.** When walking down steps, be sure to grip handrails firmly and plant your feet securely on each step.

» **Enter a building carefully.** When you get to your destination such as school, work, shopping center, etc., be sure to look at the floor as you enter the building. The floor may be wet with melted snow and ice.

» **Be careful when you shift your weight.** When stepping off a curb or getting into a car, be careful since shifting your weight may cause an imbalance and result in a fall.

» **Avoid taking shortcuts.** Shortcuts are a good idea if you are in a hurry, but may be a bad idea if there is snow and ice on the ground. A shortcut path may be treacherous because it is likely to be located where snow and ice removal is not possible.

» **Look up.** Be careful about what you walk under.



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Cheers: Salem winery wins top awards

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Obstbaum Orchards owner Hans Neuroth has sold gallons of cider for years, so when he decided to try his hand at producing wine, he was sure to follow the same mantra that has kept his business thriving.

Value, quality and price. It seems to be working. At this fall's American Wine Association National Conference, Obstbaum Orchards in Salem took "best of class" designation for its cherry wine, which also won a silver medal. The local orchard additionally won a bronze medal for its apple honey wine.

Award winning

The best in class designation "means the most to me," Neuroth said, adding that he was up against small wineries and even the biggest, like Gallo. "We are a small operation and yet we're doing, I think, things pretty well. This is the first round and now the standard is set and going on from there."

"I was trying to get a product that was worthy to be sold for three or four years," he said, adding that he wasn't quite sure how to make wine, so he brought in a mentor who showed him the ropes. Two other people, including his dentist, also an amateur wine maker, served as his advisory board.

The next step: "took it to the next step." The fine tuning comes in choosing the right yeast and nutrients "and you have to know when to treat the wine," Neuroth said.

"One of the things he recommended was to get some heirloom apples to make the wine," said Neuroth, 71, explaining that there seems to be a growing interest in heir-



Hans Neuroth won best of class at the fall American Wine Association National Conference. The wine was made at Obstbaum Orchards in Salem. HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

loom fruits. The entire wine-making process is done right on the cider mill premises.

Obstbaum Orchards has also had a cider mill and doughnut factory at 9252 Currie Road, north of Seven Mile, for almost 40 years. The wines are sold at the orchard and at Karl's Cabin. Neuroth said he plans to approach local grocery stores to put them on their shelves, too.

He produces a little more than 1,000 bottles annually and "I could easily triple that production if the demand were there," he said.

Michigan grown

He's got hard cider that sells for \$7 a bottle, cherry wine for \$12 a bottle and honey apple wine for \$14 a bottle. It took 600 pounds of honey to make 175 bottles of honey wine, Neuroth said. The apples come from his orchards, the cherries from Traverse City and the honey from Onsted.

"It's been a great experience," said Neuroth, a retired Livonia school teacher who taught 40 years. His wife Lynda is also a retired Livonia

school teacher who helps him with the cider mill and winery, as does his daughter Heidi Neuroth-Koese.

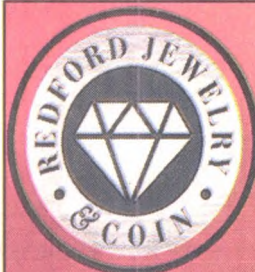
"I've found new and exciting things to do since I left that," he said. "It really keeps me going. The last batch, I made all on my own."

The name of his orchard celebrates his German heritage — "obst" means fruit and "baum" is tree. He has 3,000 apple trees in 30 varieties. The apple growing interest began with his father George, who emigrated from Germany in the early 1920s, worked at Ford Motor Co. as a tool and die maker and had some land in Livonia, which was still rural at the time. He grew apple trees and vegetables and even had some animals. Living the rural life became a family tradition that continued with Hans, who lived on the family homestead until he and Lynda had a house built in Canton, which coincidentally had some apple trees.

Working all week as teachers, they decided in 1982 to open a store on the property during the weekends selling apples and cider made by someone else. By 1987, they bought their own cider press and, in 1999, they updated the press and added the doughnut kitchen.

He sells between 4,000 to 5,000 gallons of cider and about 2,000 gallons of cherry concentrate annually. He is the only full-time employee and he gets help from family members and few part-time workers to help during the fall to run the cider mill operation. At the company's peak, for a few weeks in the autumn, he said, he employs four part-time workers.

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Area malls help boost holiday fitness

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Mall walking is a great way to keep holiday calories at bay and keep seasonal stresses to a minimum at the same time.

"We have a very enthusiastic group here," Dan Jones, general manager of Twelve Oaks in Novi, said. "A big part of mall walking is the social aspect."

Twelve Oaks opens to mall walkers two hours before regular opening. Jones is more of a visit the gym before work guy, but also appreciates fitness opportunities at work.

"I certainly get a few laps in," he said. "It's great just to go and take a few laps and stretch my legs a bit."

Twelve Oaks opens 8 a.m. Monday-Saturday for walkers, 9 a.m. Sunday, with walkers asked to use only the lower level before 9 a.m. First-timers should register at the Customer Service Desk in the Center Court after 10 a.m.

At Westland Shopping Center, Garden City Hospital is the official partner for Westland Walkers. Westland's doors open 7 a.m. by Olga's (Arcade 2), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday. Mall walkers at Westland are using the mall entrance south of Arcade 2 (Olga's) during construction.

Laurel Park Place in Livonia also offers mall walking, beginning 8 a.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Jack Morrison of Plymouth Township has been a mall walker for about 20 years at Laurel Park Place. "For the camaraderie and the very small exercise I get," the retired brick salesman said.

Morrison also likes the people he's met walking. "Everybody is lovely. It's

the people we've lost," he said of those who've passed away. "We've met so many lovely people and now they're gone."

Friend Mel Karfis of Livonia, a retired ironworker, has also walked at Laurel Park some 20 years. "For the exercise and the camaraderie," Karfis said of mall walking. He has both family and friends who walk at Laurel Park.

"I've learned a lot of things. Our group is very well-informed," Karfis said. "It's like one big family in a way."

Walker Jim White of Livonia, who's exercised about 15 years at Laurel Park, said of Morrison, "He's the patriarch of this mall."

White, a retired banker, said, "I've got to keep my health up" of walking, which he does with wife Mary Ann and his friends. "It's like we're having our own town meeting here," White said. "You don't dare miss." Absences of regulars are quickly noted.

Over at Westland Shopping Center that same Thursday morning, friends Linda Young and Carmen Vella were walking. The Livonia residents are regulars at the Westland mall.

"I stopped smoking four years ago, gained some weight and wanted to lose it," said Young, a retired Walgreens supervisor. "And good for the heart. That's what the doctor says."

The women walk outdoors in warmer weather, aiming for three miles daily. Vella is a home-



A trio of walkers hits the upper level of Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall on Dec. 9. The three -- Tom Grabowski, Dave Axelrad and Dave Butler -- were among a few dozen walkers at the mall by 8 a.m. on that sub-zero morning. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

maker. Young's been walking there since her retirement four years ago. "I was very active at work," she said. She wanted to keep that up.

"Nice mall, clean, safe," Young said of Westland. "I enjoy it. It gives you a good chance to look at the specials."

At Westland, Charles Monroe of Garden City was also doing fitness walking that morning. The Ford Motor Co. retiree has done mall walking eight-nine years, begin-

ning at Wonderland in Livonia.

"To stay healthy, stay active," said Monroe, who walks at Westland three-five days weekly. "Sometimes you have things to do."

Monroe agreed the other walkers are friendly. "Oh, yeah, I'm a people person," he said. "They're nice."

Florence Marini of Novi was walking the upper level of Twelve Oaks on a recent Monday morning.

"I've been walking

here just three years," she said. "My husband's been walking here eight years. He likes the longer route (on the lower level) and I began basically to keep him company."

Some mall walkers track their distance, but she doesn't.

"I worked for 40 years; I don't want any regimens," the retired Kroger cashier explained. She likes her fellow Twelve Oaks walkers: "Everybody's friendly."

The security staff is also friendly and helpful.

"I feel comfortable, secure," Marini said. "It's all controlled, the weather and everything. It's free, although I do patronize it. For my husband, it's like going to work. He needs that 'get up in the morning.'"

They socialize at the Novi mall near I-96 on weekends. Marini has her mom, 92, at home who needs help.

"Starbucks is our bar," she said with a smile.

Downstairs at Twelve Oaks was Janet Trusty of Wixom, who's walked there three-four years. She works in the office of a family-owned business.

"We do the exercise class in front of Macy's," Trusty said of that Monday-Wednesday morning class. "Then we're out of here."

Liz Smith of Commerce Township, a retired warehouse staffer, walks and takes the class for "exercise. And it's nice and warm in here in the wintertime."

The women sometimes walk outdoors at Twelve Oaks in warm weather. "A lot of nice people," Smith added.

Walker Janice Cavins of Wixom is Trusty's twin sister, and retired in May from the city of Wixom. She was in California five months with her daughter, and just started Twelve Oaks exercise.

"I miss from being retired people," said Cavins. "Just super people." She hopes to come to Twelve Oaks more often for exercise, encouraging her twin.

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11:15, 11:45, 2:40, 3:25, 6:10, 6:45, 9:30, 10:00
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11:30, 2:55, 6:25, 9:45
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TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA CHRISTMAS (PG-13)
11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:55, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

OUT OF THE FURNACE (R)
FRI. SUN-MON 11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
SAT 4:45, 7:20, 9:55

FROZEN (PG)
11:25, 2:00, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10
3D FROZEN (PG)
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Game on: Dave and Buster's opening new store Monday morning in Livonia

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

It's been a long time coming, but Livonia residents will be able to have their first chance at playing games and hanging out at one of the hotter places to be.

Dave and Buster's, located at 19375 Victor Parkway, is scheduled to open at 11 a.m. Monday. The 40,000-square-foot combination sports bar, restaurant and arcade can accommodate more than 1,800 patrons, including many who have waited for months for the business to open.

General manager David Rogan is excited at the opportunity to serve the Livonia area.

"We want to be a part of the community," he said. "We want people to

realize that Dave and Buster's is a part of Livonia."

Guests will be able to enjoy a wide array of entrees, including bacon-wrapped beef medallions, grilled shrimp, burgers and signature cocktails. The restaurant, the 66th in the United States for the Dallas-based company, also has a sports bar area complete with big-screen televisions and a variety of alcoholic beverages, including some Michigan craft beers.

The bar area has some touches of local flavor as well, with the names of Michigan-area sports teams printed on the wall, along with other images, such as Motown Records and the front end of a Ford Mustang.

The restaurant also has several separate

dining rooms that can be used for parties or other events.

170 interactive games

Patrons will have a wide array of arcade-style games to enjoy as well. About 170 interactive games will be available to play, including ones based on popular iPhone and Android apps like Doodle Jump and Temple Run. Success in many of the arcade games can yield users tickets, which can be redeemed for prizes such as board games, tablets and other goodies.

Rogan, who has relocated to Michigan after living in Ohio for several years, said he has already reached out to the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the mayor's

office to see what opportunities there are to be involved in Livonia.

"So many great people live here in Livonia, and we want to make sure we give back," he said.

Emily Profit, the senior manager at the restaurant and a Livonia resident, said she's been involved with two other major openings of Dave and Buster's locations in Kansas City and Orlando and said the hype surrounding the opening of the location in Livonia shows it will be a busy place.

"The buzz that surrounds this opening compares to our Orlando opening," she said. "No matter what time of year, we're always very, very full and very busy."

The restaurant will be the second one in the Metro Detroit area and first in Wayne County. The other one is in Utica near Hall and the Van Dyke expressway.

Mike Gold, assistant general manager, said he worked at the Utica location for several years before coming to the Livonia restaurant. He said patrons used to the location in Macomb County will see some differences in decor, but the experience will remain the same.

Profit said much of the hype comes from its location. Because of the lengthy drive from areas such as Plymouth and Livonia to Utica, many users will find themselves saving as much as an hour in drive time to visit the popular restaurant and arcade.

"There's nothing really like us close by," she said. "We completely understand the need for something close."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
313-222-5379
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Fix mistakes: Filing an amended tax return

Q: Dear Rick: I just received notice from the individual who prepares my tax return that a mistake was made on my 2012 return. Deductions that I was not entitled to were used. The bottom line is I owe an additional \$4,000 in taxes. They have prepared an amended return for me, free of charge, and have informed me they will pay any interest that the IRS may assess. Since it was their mistake they should be responsible for the tax as well. Do you agree? What will happen if I don't file an amended return? Should I just wait until I hear from the IRS?

A: I do not agree. If they had correctly prepared your return, you would have owed that additional tax liability. The fact that they made a mistake did not cause you any harm with regard to the tax liability. The harm comes in that the IRS will assess you interest and that is what they have offered to compensate you. I believe their response to you was fair. You may wish to discuss what happens if you are assessed a penalty. It would seem to me they are liable for that as well.

As to whether you should file the amended return, it is a slam dunk - yes. It is our responsibility as taxpayers to file accurate returns. When a mistake is made, it is our obligation to correct it and that is why you file amended returns.

In addition, it makes sense to file an amended return because if you do not and if for some reason the IRS discovers the error, you could cause yourself more tax problems. Not only can



they assess you additional penalties, but it could also cause them to further scrutinize your 2012 return and potentially past returns.

I have no idea what the chances are of the IRS discovering the error. My general belief is that if you discover an error and it is material, such as in your particular case, then it absolutely makes sense to be proactive. I believe you are in much better shape in dealing with the IRS if you come forward and correct your error as opposed to them discovering it.

Therefore, I believe it is in your best interest to file the amended return.

It is important to recognize that whether we use professional tax preparers ultimately you are responsible for your tax return. Make sure to hire someone taking continuing education on a year-by-year basis.

As 2013 winds down, it's wise to start your search now for a professional tax preparer. Talk to family and friends to see whom they have used or get a referral from another professional. Filing your tax returns is too important to just trust to anyone. Don't hire the cheapest tax preparer, hire a competent one.

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

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COMERICA PARK HOSTS CANTON VS. PLYMOUTH

MORNING GLORY

Early puck drop aside, Chiefs and 'Cats stoked about playing 'pond hockey' at CoPa

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

An outdoor boys high school hockey game at 8:30 a.m. in mid-December — and paying a whole lot of money for the privilege — might not seem like much fun to most people.

It is to the Canton Chiefs and Plymouth Wildcats.

The campus rivals can't wait until Thursday morning rolls around, when they'll board separate buses from Arctic Edge Arena two hours before game time and head down to their Hockeytown Winter Festival contest at Comerica Park in Detroit.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing," said Plymouth senior forward and captain Kyle Bauer, before practice last week at Arctic Edge. "I'm never going to be able to play in a game like this again. It's just going to be crazy."

"... I've always played pond hockey, so now it's kind of actually a game that counts and it's against a rival. So that's cool."

Down the corridor in front

of Canton's team room following their workout, Chiefs senior forward and co-captain Christian Flack spewed similar superlatives about the rare chance.

"I think it's an unbelievable opportunity for the Canton hockey team and we're going to make the most of it," Flack said. "It's a great thing that Comerica and the NHL is putting it on for young guys like us to get this opportunity."

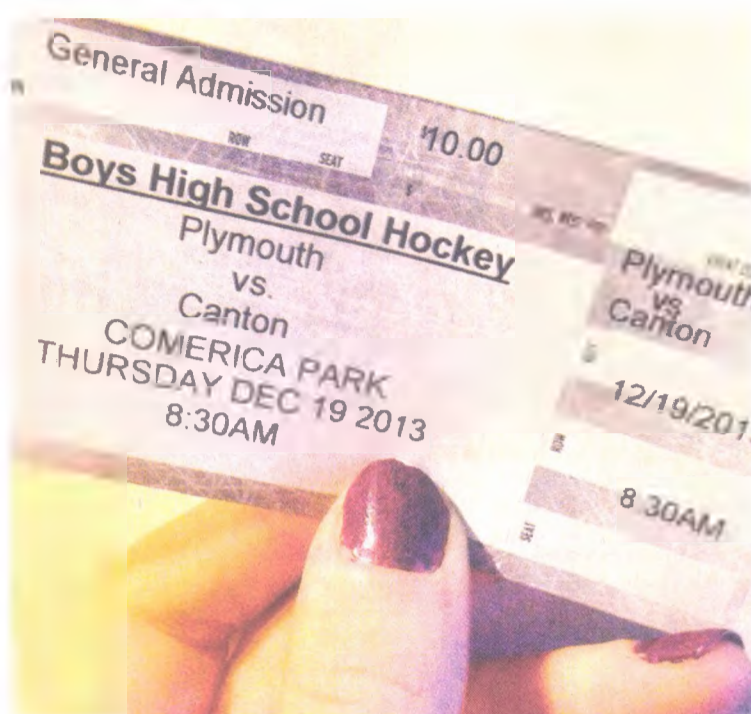
Wonderfully crazy

Here's how crazy (and unbelievable) it will be for the Chiefs and Wildcats come Dec. 19.

After getting to the stadium around 7 a.m., players will put on extra layers of clothes under their equipment, skate out into the cold, biting winds and joyously jump out onto the specially made Comerica Park ice.

They'll look around, and then try to do their respective jobs during the KLAA South Division matchup.

"It may take a couple min-



Tickets like this are still available to watch Canton play Plymouth at Comerica Park.

utes, but once the puck drops it's a hockey game," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "It's just a different environment. We'll get down there early enough and hopefully they can soak it in beforehand

so they're not awestruck when they start playing."

Flack said he had to "run up to the store and get some Under Armour stuff, a couple face masks, maybe some thin gloves for under my (hockey) gloves"

TAKING IT OUTSIDE

What: Canton Chiefs vs. Plymouth Wildcats varsity boys hockey game at Comerica Park, as part of the Hockeytown Winter Festival.

When: 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

Throwbacks: The Chiefs will wear throwback jerseys specially designed by the players, the Wildcats will not.

Tickets: Both teams must cover the total \$5,000 bill to skate in the contest, one of many prep games on the docket between Monday and Dec. 23. Coaches and team managers still have tickets that can be had. Email Canton head coach Brad Barath

(cantonboysicehockey@pccsml.net), team manager Dave Flack (flackshack4@wowway.com) or Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento (gvento1@yahoo.com) for more details about ticket prices and how to pick tickets up before Thursday morning.

Concessions: It is expected that Comerica Park concession stands will be open during the game.

in order to stay warm.

Likewise expecting to don extra clothing for the game was Canton senior forward and co-captain Kurt Snow, although he emphasized that he'd other-

See **HOCKEY**, Page B3

BOYS BASKETBALL



Canton's Shaine Keyandwy (No. 11) puts the ball up over Salem defender Evan Klenk (No. 22) during Friday night's game. KATHY HANSEN

Chiefs' power duo snuffs out Salem

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

On a night when Canton senior forward Jordan Nobles' future college coach was watching the Chiefs take on Salem, the Eastern Michigan University recruit wasn't about to not put on a winning show.

Time and time again in the varsity boys basketball matchup at Canton, the 6-8 Nobles came up big to spark the Chiefs to a 60-56 victory.

"Yeah, I saw him (Rob Murphy) in the stands around the second quarter," said Nobles, who led all scorers with 26 points as Canton upped its record to 2-0. "It was extra motivation for sure."

Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy doubted whether Nobles really needed it. He said having such a special guest watching doesn't faze Nobles or 6-6 senior forward Davon Taylor (18 points, 14 rebounds), for that matter.

Also helping the Chiefs'

attack were senior guard Chase Wingham (six points, four assists) and sophomore forward Logan Ryan (five points).

"We've said before, those guys are horses," Reddy said. "They make winning basketball plays. They made winning plays on Tuesday night down the stretch, they made winning plays again tonight down the stretch."

"That's the difference between winning and losing. Can you make that extra play when you need to?"

Shaking his head after the contest about Canton's dominant duo was Salem head coach Bob Brodie.

"He (Noble) is a good D-I player, he can play inside, outside," Brodie said. "We ran at him with a couple players at times and he still answered the bell every time."

"And Taylor's not too shabby either, he plays the game well. Those two guys were a force tonight."

For the Rocks (1-1), 6-4 sen-

ior forward Alec Winfrey led the way with 19 points while junior guard Connor Cole contributed 11.

Helping the attack with seven points each were senior guard Brady Cole and junior forward Jake Lenders (a sparkplug off the bench).

Canton led 15-10 after one quarter and 26-24 at halftime as neither team could sustain much offense.

Getting after it

At halftime, Nobles said the team talked about ramping up the intensity and that helped to a degree, although the Rocks never really went away.

"It was just hustle plays," Nobles said. "We were getting beat a lot on hustle plays in the first half and coach told us to pick it up when we were talking at halftime and we just got out all the loose balls, the extra rebounds and we made shots."

Nobles made a couple huge baskets, niftily driving through

See **POWER DUO**, Page B4

Rocks let lead, game slip away

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For most of Wednesday night's nonleague varsity boys hockey game at the Ice Box in Brownstown Township, Salem had a solid grip on two points.

Senior forward and co-captain Jake Sealy was dominant at times, scoring his first two goals of the season early in the middle stanza to put the Rocks in front 2-0. Salem, missing a handful of skaters due to injuries, still nursed a 3-1 lead midway in the third.

But then the Rocks were beset by a missed scoring chance here, the inability to

clear the puck there — and wound up losing 4-3 in overtime to fall to 2-2 on the season.

"We were shorthanded numbers wise and we got a little tired," Salem head coach Ryan Ossemacher said. "But at the end of the day, that doesn't matter either."

"You just got to make the plays to win hockey games and we didn't do that."

Host Woodhaven (5-1) trailed 3-1 midway through the third period and fought back to force overtime thanks to a power play goal by sophomore forward Drew Holland with 55 seconds remaining.

Then, the Warriors em-

barked on an odd-man rush early in overtime, having been sprung loose when a Salem player was tripped up at the Woodhaven blue line.


Senior forward Dominic Moore, finishing up a nifty give-and-go with senior linemate Yusef Suede, sent the puck past Salem junior goalie Dillon Phillips (making his varsity debut) just 2:06 into the extra frame. Moore led the Warriors with a goal and two assists.

Ossemacher downplayed the OT noncall, not to mention the back-to-back penalties

See **ROCKS**, Page B3




Salem's Jack Driscoll (No. 28) battles against Woodhaven's Kyle Moran (No. 14) for the puck during Wednesday night's non-league boys hockey game at the Ice Box in Brownstown Twp. BRIAN QUINTOS



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GIRLS HOCKEY

PCS Penguins rebound from deficit to earn 3-1 win

After falling behind early Tuesday night, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team came to life against Bloomfield Hills to earn a 3-1 victory.

PCS trailed 1-0 after one period of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League contest at Canton Arctic Edge, but the Penguins caught and surpassed the Black Hawks in the second frame.

Netting the tying goal with 6:15 left was center Megan Brace, with assists going to winger Jessica Marek and defenseman Gabby Godre.

Less than two minutes later, Godre earned an assist on the go-ahead marker by forward Morgan Cusumano with winger Jenna Carter picking up the second helper.

In the third, however, the Black Hawks came out storming PCS senior goalie Gwen Gadulka in hopes of getting back into the game. Gadulka held firm and the Penguins scored an important insurance tally with 12:40 remaining.

Forward Loren Hitch's unassisted



Gwen Gadulka of the PCS Penguins turns aside a shot with help from Megan Brace. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

goal gave the Penguins the breathing room they needed.

"We really played well in the third period and weathered the storm as Bloomfield fought to tie the game," PCS assistant coach Brad Johnson said. "... Gadulka was strong in goal, especially in the third period, when Bloomfield really poured it on."

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers can't climb out of early hole against Saginaw

The Saginaw Spirit built a 3-0 lead after one period and went on to defeat the Plymouth Whalers, 6-2, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Wednesday at Compuware Arena.

Saginaw is now 16-11-4-1; Plymouth is 11-18-0-3.

The Saginaw forward line of Luke Cairns, Jimmy Lodge and Kristoff Kontos led the way for the Spirit, going a combined three goals, seven assists and +9 for the evening. First star Cairns scored the first two goals of the game (8-9 on the season) and added two as-

sists; second star Lodge scored a goal (11) with two assists; third star Kontos dished out three assists.

Justin Kea (13), Dylan Sadowy (12) and Justin Sefton (6) also scored for Saginaw, while goaltender Jake Pater-son stopped 35-of-37 shots.

Ginaluca Curcuruto (3) and Carter Sandlak replied for Plymouth.

Plymouth plays in Sarnia on Friday (7 pm, 88.1FM WSDP) before returning home Saturday to host Peterborough at 7:05 pm.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Chiefs continue winning ways

Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team improved to 3-0 with Thursday's wins over Walled Lake Gold and Walled Lake Maroon at Plymouth High School.

The Chiefs swept the top five places in every event and in all-around en route to winning the tri-meet with 141.95 points to WLG's 103.45 and WLM's 102.0.

"The team had a much improved performance with fewer falls and cleaner routines," Canton coach John Cunningham reported. "Fortunately, there is plenty of room for better scores and we hope that the early season jitters will disappear."

Leading the impressive cast was Jocelyn Moraw. She was first in all-around with a 35.475 tally, also winning in uneven parallel bars (8.5) and taking second on floor exercise (9.2).

Moraw also placed third on vault (8.95).

Maddie Toal had another big night. She won floor with a 9.4 and tied for the top spot with teammate Melissa Green on balance beam (9.1).

Toal was second in all-around with 35.4 points, not to mention third on bars (8.2) and fourth on vault (8.7).

Taking third in all-around was Erica Lucas (35.2), thanks to her win on vault (9.275) along with fourths on bars (8.1) and beam (8.8).

In fourth place overall with 34.925 points was Green. In addition to sharing the top spot with Toal on beam, she came in second on bars (8.45) and third on floor (9.125).

Hailey Hodgson, meanwhile, placed second on vault and fourth on floor with scores of 9.175 and 9.1, respectively.

With the victories, Canton's undefeated streak (stretching back three seasons) is at 34-0.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Rock the Clock

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

Race proceeds will benefit the Gerard Meteyer Foundation, which helps

support Camp Midicha for efforts in curtailing juvenile diabetes.

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

For more information, or to register, go to www.rocktheclockrun.com.

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

wise “probably just do the same old routine, not do anything different.”

Once bundled up, the Chiefs and Wildcats will be ready for a hot time. They’ll play a KLA South Division matchup in front of parents, grandparents, friends and — they hope, given the early start time on a school day — classmates.

To ensure paying the \$5,000 bill (\$2,500 per team) required by Olympia Entertainment (jointly running the two-week festival with the National Hockey League, linked to the Jan. 1 NHL Winter Classic in Ann Arbor) players and their families are selling blocks of general admission tickets.

Yet because the game is much earlier in the day than hoped for, it’s been challenging trying to sell tickets to other students who have to worry about taking tests just before the winter break.

“It’s a little disappointing that it’s so early, because not as many people might show up,” said Plymouth junior forward and assistant captain Josh Smith. “But I’m still loving the opportunity to get out there and play outside. It’s still awesome.”

“I’ve talked to people, I’m trying to get people to come out. I’m sure everyone else is trying to get people to come out and watch. We’ll see.”

Selling points

Wildcats senior forward and assistant captain Zach Tavierne agreed that “it would have been nice if it was later, we could



Looking forward to a “once in a lifetime” opportunity are Plymouth’s (from left) Kyle Bauer, Josh Smith and Zach Tavierne. PHOTOS BY TIM SMITH

have had a few more people show up to the game.”

But that won’t stop Tavierne from getting all he can out of the experience.

“I think we’ve learned within the past month about that (8:30 a.m. game time), so it’s fairly recent,” Tavierne said. “Now we’re just getting excited for the opportunity.”

“I’ve been to lots of Tigers games. It’s a great stadium and it will be really exciting to be in a different atmosphere to play a hockey game outside against a rival.”

Collin Smith, a senior defenseman and co-captain for Canton, said each player was given 28 tickets to sell around school or anyplace else they could find buyers. The face value for each ducat is \$10.

“It’s a little slow,” said Smith, about his ticket sales. “But from other guys what I’ve

heard is they’re actually selling some tickets. So that’s good to hear.”

Canton head coach and former varsity player Brad Barath said the early game time on a weekday likely will hurt attendance. No matter how many come out to Comerica, however, the ice bill must be met.

“They got to sell tickets, that’s the biggest thing,” Barath said. “And that was part of the reason we got the game. Plymouth-Canton, that’s something you can sell tickets for, advertise and get people down there to watch.”

“Being an 8:30 in the morning game, that kind of took some of the ability to do that away. We’re supposed to sell 500 tickets a piece, we got 500 and Plymouth got 500.”



Putting on their game face before the Comerica Park game are Canton’s (from left) Collin Smith, Kurt Snow and Christian Flack.

Worth the price

But Barath and Vento agreed that economics and any inconvenience because of an early morning puck drop won’t spoil the hockey party.

“It’s something kids dream about,” Barath said. “They dream about playing outdoors, especially in a situation like that.”

“Comerica Park, downtown Detroit, big game against your rival team. It’s something you dream about and it’s something not a lot of players get a good shot at.”

Vento realizes it’s a special occasion, the opportunity of a lifetime for teenagers.

“It’s another hockey game, but obviously I want them to really enjoy it and soak it in,” Vento said. “I’m old enough to be their dad and this is my first outdoor game. So I want to

make sure they really enjoy it because there might not play another one.

“It’s going to be a lot of fun. I’m looking forward to it. It’s going to be freezing cold, but what a great opportunity. We’re very privileged and honored that we’re able to partake in it.”

The Chiefs will wear throwback jerseys as part of the fun.

“I haven’t seen them yet,” said Barath with a chuckle. “It’s kind of their thing. I let them design it, and they’re going to be jerseys that they get to keep at the end of the year.”

“So I let them design what they wanted on them. I’m curious to see them.”

The uniforms will harken to the past, but the experience of playing at Comerica Park will be something these high school kids will never forget.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING PREVIEW - PART 1



One of the top Salem returnees is Matt Pairitz, shown from last season. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vets poised to be Salem catalysts

But Rocks also feature plenty of younger talent

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Once again, Salem’s varsity boys swim and dive team features plenty of experienced athletes who will lead in the pool and help bring along newcomers into more prominent roles.

At least, that’s how veteran Rocks head coach Chuck Olson envisions his 2013-14 squad, which opens this weekend at the Eastern Michigan University Relays.

Salem will look to make another run for the top in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association Central Division and Kensington Conference, with a nucleus of 20 athletes bolstered by another 26 looking to make their mark.

At the top of the list for Salem are senior co-captains and 2012-13 state qualifiers Matt Pairitz and Jason Basanese.

“Pairitz and Basanese were sprint freestylers at the (Division 1) state meet last year,” noted Olson, in a recent email to the *Observer*. “And they will be there again.”

That duo won’t be alone as

far as scoring plenty of points across the board for Salem.

Olson listed 18 others expected to be “major contributors for a successful season.”

Russ Sharpe, Andrew Schwank, Peter Merenda and Franco Papp are other seniors with plenty of talent and experience in various events.

Patrick Casey (100 backstroke), Matt Chin and Brandin Yee (each 100 breaststroke) are just a few of Salem’s solid junior class.

Other juniors ready to help the cause include freestylers Nick Fornalewicz, Brian Kuang, Greg Payne and Nick Marion, along with Brendan Wellman (100 butterfly, 100 backstroke).

Sophomore Charles Liu is good to go in “all strokes,” Olson said.

Diver Mike Falzon and freestylers Matt Croop and Brendan Casey are other key 10th-graders on the roster.

Meanwhile, two versatile freshmen (Phil Conlingwood and Noah Fleming) look poised to jump right into the fray.

Following the EMU Relays, Salem is idle until hosting the annual Rock Kilgore Invite on Saturday, Jan. 4.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

called against his team late in the third period that led to the equalizer.

“That’s one play, games never come down to one play,” Ossenmacher stressed. “It’s an unfortunate play, but the reality is we should never put us in a position to even go to overtime.”

“We had enough opportunities to put away the game early and we didn’t and that’s what happens.”

Sealy cashes in

Following a scoreless first period, featuring solid play by Phillips and his Woodhaven counterpart senior Trevor Monaco (27 saves for the night), Sealy went to work to open the second.

Just 1:31 into the frame Sealy took a pass from senior linemate and co-captain Jack Driscoll, spun around between the circles and snapped a shot into the top left corner for the game’s first tally.

About three minutes later, Sealy muscled his way from behind the Woodhaven net, leaving two Warriors D-men behind. Sealy subsequently walked in front of Monaco and hit the target. Assisting were senior forwards Jason Newel and Steven Homrich.

“Seals (showed) his ability to slow down the game the first five minutes of the second period when we went up by a couple, he’s so heavy on the puck,” Ossenmacher said. “When he gets the puck on his team it’s going to take at least two guys to get the puck off his stick.”

Woodhaven sliced that lead to 2-1 with 6:31 left in the second when senior forward Brett Gomolak’s wrist from the left circle beat Phillips high to the glove side. Assisting was junior forward Nick Youngheim.

Salem regained a two-goal spread thanks to the persistence of junior forward Noah Willer with 3:22 remaining in the second.

Willer jammed in his own rebound at the right post. Drawing the assists were junior forward Rich Corso and junior defenseman Nate West.

That lead stayed the same for nearly nine minutes of the third period, thanks to excellent work between the pipes by Phillips (16 saves). He stopped



Carrying the puck Wednesday night is senior forward Steven Homrich (No. 14). BRIAN QUINTOS

Moore cold on a breakaway.

“He (Phillips) played well, for his first game,” Ossenmacher said. “He hasn’t played a game since who knows when in October sometime. I thought he stepped in and did a good job, I don’t think any of those goals (were) his fault. He battled hard.”

The Warriors finally closed the gap to 3-2 with 8:21 to play in regulation when a screen shot by sophomore forward Jon Szczepaniak found the mark. Collecting assists were Moore and sophomore defenseman Kyle Moran.

Salem later killed off a penalty, narrowly missing a short-handed goal when Monaco stymied an end-to-end rush by Driscoll.

“I thought Jack played pretty well tonight, especially there at the end when he went to the net hard,” Ossenmacher said.

Yet 15 seconds after returning to full strength, the Rocks were called for another minor infraction. This time, they could not hold back the Warriors as Moore’s point shot hit a skate and caromed to Holland, who banged the puck in from near the left post.

In the first minute of overtime, Driscoll’s blast from the right circle was turned aside by Monaco for Salem’s best chance of the extra session.

Spoiler alert

Then came the Woodhaven winner, spoiling what for the most part was a solid effort by the Rocks.

“These types of games,” Ossenmacher said, “you hope in the end of the season they’re the type of experiences you can rely on to be better prepared to win tight hockey games in the playoffs.”

The Warriors showed they still have a formidable squad, despite losing 12 players to graduation.

“When you lose focus, the details of the game catch up,” Ossenmacher noted. “What happens is one little mistake against a good hockey team — Woodhaven’s a good team, they’re a young team but they’re good — they’re going to beat you.”

“And so, we have to realize that. Mistakes that are made in practice they translate into games and we got caught tonight.”

As for Salem’s depleted lineup, Ossenmacher said he hoped to begin getting players back as soon as this weekend with a full bench expected for the campus rivalry game against Plymouth set for 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20 at Plymouth Cultural Center.

NORTHVILLE 2, CANTON 1: Wednesday night at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, the Mustangs edged the Chiefs in a KLA South Division contest. Scoring for Canton was Kurt Snow on the power play, assisted by Cooper Rice and Hunter Schlamp.

Answering for Northville were Nick Stegmeyer (on the power play) and Buster White.

Northville goalie Jeremy Onofrio stopped 19 of 20 Canton shots as he kept the Chiefs from forcing overtime.

PLYMOUTH 5, FRANKLIN 1: In a KLA South Division game Wednesday, the Wildcats (3-2, 2-2) downed host Livonia Franklin (2-4, 0-2) thanks to three second-period goals at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Plymouth’s Charlie Supernois scored from Ben Chafin just 35 seconds into the game. The Wildcats led 1-0 after one period with a 10-6 shot advantage as the Patriots failed to capitalize on a fourth-minute power play after a double minor to Zak Fadden.

The Wildcats then scored three times in the second — John VanDenBurgeury (from Kyle Melnick and Ben Chafin at 2:19); Josh Smith on a power play (from Zach Tavierne and VanDenBurgeury at 4:09); and Alex Bump (from Supernois at 11:25).

Corey Ferrier netted his first of the year with 54 seconds left in the second from Dylan Smith and freshman Kolby Dewhirst to give to give Franklin hope going into the final period despite being out-shot 15-5.

But Smith notched his second of the game with only 6:20 remaining from VanDenBurgeury to close out the scoring.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Madonna trio earn NAIA All-America honors

Three Madonna University players were named to Monday to a pair of NAIA All-America teams recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association as well as Tachikara.

Seniors Emilie Freeman (Livonia/Lutheran High Westland) and Evia Prieditis (Mil-

ford) were tabbed by both groups to their respective All-America first teams, while fellow senior Stacey Catalano (Utica Eisenhower) was named to the honorable mention by both organizations.

MU has now had a player selected to an All-America team 46 times in the 27-year

history of the program.

Freeman — who was a finalist for NAIA National Player of the Year — saved her best season for last, leading the WHAC in total kills (551), kills per set (3.9), blocks (166) and blocks per set (1.2).

Freeman earned AVCA Region Player of the Year and

WHAC Player of the Year honors this season.

For Prieditis, 2013 marks the second straight season she was named to an All-America team as MU’s setter earning second-team honors from both groups in 2012.

The 2013 WHAC Setter of the Year (a repeat award from

2010 and 2012), Prieditis closed her career by leading the conference and ranking fourth nationally in assists per set (11.39). She also paced the WHAC for the third time in her four years in total assists (1,629), which ranked her fifth nationally in 2013.

PREP WRESTLING QUAD MEET

'Cats take down Fenton, Woodhaven

It's looking like Plymouth's core of wrestlers from last season are picking up right where they left off.

The Wildcats' lineup featuring five wrestlers who are still undefeated for the season steamrolled over Fenton (75-6) and Woodhaven (44-20) in a quad meet Wednesday night at Plymouth High School.

That quintet of Brandon Harris (112), Mo Youssef (119), Jon Conn (145), Hussein Youssef (171) and Joey Shaer (160) have each collected at least six victories so far this young season, said Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey.

But others also were strong throughout the quad meet. Others who defeated opponents in both duals included Nourdeen Hussini (125), Dylan Dwyer (130), Daniel Ahearn (135), Sofus Nielson (152), Sam Campbell and heavyweight Michael Jordan.

"In all it was a good night of wrestling for Plymouth," Guernsey noted. "A lot of guys looked good in their matches. Nourdeen stepped up for us and was a little nervous at the start but wrestled two great matches."

"Sofus and Hussein both got great wins against quality opponents, they are wrestling really well right now."

Guernsey said the first match of the Fenton dual was one of the most entertaining as Plymouth sophomore Collin Reed engaged in a back-and-forth tussle against Fenton senior Norman Golden before pinning him in 3:17.

Hussini, in his first varsity

match, was asked to fill in at 125 and he met the challenge with a second period fall against Jake Church to build Plymouth's lead to 24-0.

The Wildcats then snapped off eight more wins in a row, the last being a thriller between Plymouth senior Tarek Tamimi and Fenton's Justin Hill at 189. Tamimi earned a 16-10 decision to up the lead to 69-0 before 215-pounder Scott Becker pinned Plymouth's Ricky Burke in 2:13 for the home team's lone blemish of the dual.

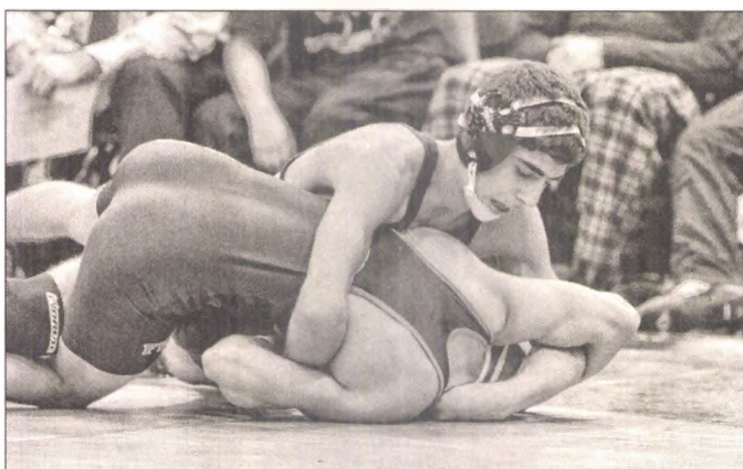
Plymouth followed that up admirably against the more-experienced Warriors, going up 17-0 by winning the first five bouts.

Guernsey said the 152 matchup between regional qualifiers Nielson and Jarod Ammons was top-notch all the way (a 4-0 win by Nielson, who wrestled well from the top position) with another quality contest at 171 between Hussein Youssef and Justin Patton. Youssef pinned Patton in the second period.

After wrestling Saturday at the Wayne County Championships at Wyandotte Roosevelt, the Wildcats will host another quad 5:30 p.m. Wednesday (against No. 3 Harland and Howell; also competing, but not against Plymouth, will be Canton).

Split for Rocks

Despite not having several wrestlers available, requiring Salem head coach Pete Israel to shuffle the lineup, the Rocks competed well in earning a 1-1



Plymouth's Nourdeen Hussini (top) finishes pinning Fenton's Tyle Rice during Wednesday's quad meet. ROB SHAVER

split at the Plymouth-hosted quad meet.

Salem (5-2 overall) bested Fenton (45-27) before falling 50-23 to Woodhaven.

Winning both of their matches were Cameron Shaughnessy (119), Bruce Haslitt (135), Mitchell Gross (215) and co-captains Hamad Abed (145) and Connor Thornbury (171).

"I was happy with the guys that made pins, got the extra points for a major decisions and those that had tech falls," Israel said. "Every match you have to be looking for those extra points and most of the 2-0 guys did just that."

"I was pleased to see Thornbury pull out an OT win. Today he believed in himself and his conditioning."

Israel cited the efforts of Peter Bushaw (152) and Haslitt, younger wrestlers making a successful transition from

the Salem feeder team to high school.

"Cameron (Shaughnessy) also had a good day, he just needs to continue to work hard and good things will happen for him," the coach added.

Chiefs clipped

Although host Canton dropped Wednesday's dual meet to New Boston-Huron, 52-18, elite wrestlers Ben Griffin and Alec Pantaleo each came up big.

Griffin pinned Roger Maddux in 1:01 to give the Chiefs their first points of the dual while Pantaleo scored five points with his 21-4 technical fall over Andrew Cholette.

Also victorious for Canton were Ty Jasman at 140 (a 13-1 major decision over Joseph Cox) and Victor Villarini at 145 (a hard-fought 8-7 decision over Jason Shulaw).

DUAL MEET RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 75 FENTON 6

Dec. 11 at Plymouth

103 pounds: Collin Reed (Plymouth) pinned Norman Golden, 3:17; **112:** Brandon Harris (P) won by void; **119:** Mohamad Youssef (P) p. Connor Putman, 2:54; **125:** Nourdeen Hussini (P) p. Tyler Rice, 2:55; **130:** Dylan Dwyer (P) p. Jake Church, 2:41; **135:** Daniel Ahearn (P) p. Ryan Parks, 2:39; **140:** Sterling Schiffrar (P) p. Josh Tousey, 2:30; **145:** Jonathan Conn (P) p. Shae Parson, 4:35; **152:** Sofus Nielson (P) p. Brendan Thompson, 1:37; **160:** Joseph Shaver (P) won by void; **171:** Hussein Youssef (P) p. Jack Andersen, 2:40; **189:** Terek Tamimi (P) won by decision over Justin Hill, 16:10; **215:** Scott Becker (Fenton) p. Ricky Burke, 2:13; **285:** Michael Jordan (P) p. Mason McCormick, 1:17.

SALEM 45 FENTON 27

Dec. 11 at Plymouth

112: Golden (F) pinned Akashdeed Rai, 2:31; **119:** Cameron Shaughnessy (Salem) won by major decision over Putman, 16:7; **125:** Kent Woody (S) p. Rice, 1:19; **130:** Mitch Rosinski (S) p. Church, 1:50; **135:** Bruce Haslitt (S) p. Parks, 0:30; **140:** Tousey (F) p. Joe Taylor, 0:37; **145:** Hamad Abed (S) p. Parson, 0:25; **152:** Peter Bushaw (S) p. Marshke, 0:53; **160:** Thompson (F) p. Tayler Born, 1:13; **171:** Connor Thornbury (S) won by tech fall over Anderson, 4:54, 25:10; **189:** Hill (F) dec. Roy Foster, 16:15; **215:** Mitchell Gross (S) p. Becker, 0:59; **285:** McCormick (F) won by forfeit; **103:** double forfeit.

WOODHAVEN 50 SALEM 23

Dec. 11 at Plymouth

103 pounds: Xavier Graham (Woodhaven) won by forfeit; **112:** Jacob Emery (W) pinned Rai, 1:11; **119:** Shaughnessy (S) decisioned Bradley Jones, 15:9; **125:** Hunter Grasso (W) p. Woody, 1:54; **130:** Devin McClain (W) p. Rosinski, 1:45; **135:** Haslitt (S) p. Noah Anderson, 1:35; **140:** Austin Avison (W) p. Taylor, 1:36; **145:** Abed (S) won by forfeit; **152:** Jared Ammons (W) dec. Bushaw, 10:5; **160:** Jacob Courtney (W) p. Born, 5:34; **171:** Thornbury (S) won in overtime over Justin Patton, 16:15; **189:** Derek Hillman (W) won by tech fall over Foster, 0:00, 20:5; **215:** Gross (S) won by tech fall over Tyler Christian, 0:00, 23:8; **285:** Devin Dozier (W) won by forfeit.

NEW BOSTON-HURON 52 CANTON 18

Dec. 11 at Canton

103 pounds: Bailey Zablocki (NBH) won by forfeit; **112:** DJ Christie (NBH) won by decision over Harrison Samoy, 10:3; **119:** Judah Caballero (NBH) won by major decision over Justin Winnie, 19:7; **125:** Jonathan Wellman (NBH) pinned Sam Orr, 1:32; **130:** Nicholas Phelps (NBH) p. Sammy Baraka, 3:05; **135:** Benjamin Griffin (Canton) p. Roger Maddux, 1:01; **140:** Ty Jasman (C) maj. dec. Joseph Cox, 13:1; **145:** Victor Villarini (C) dec. Jason Shulaw, 8:7; **152:** Alec Pantaleo (C) won by tech fall over Andrew Cholette, 0:00, 21:4; **160:** Logan Ritchie (NBH) won by forfeit; **171:** Riley Griffin (NBH) p. Kyle Schwiabert, 3:32; **189:** Bryce Thomas (NBH) p. Nicholas Durocher, 3:32; **215:** Deion Copley (NBH) dec. Ken Wooley, 5:2; **285:** Jeffrey Henderson (NBH) p. Andrew Blevins, 0:00.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Plymouth undefeated; Chiefs notch 1st win

After Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team spotted Grosse Pointe North with the first 10 points of Thursday's nonleague contest, the Wildcats' seniors came to the rescue.

As a result, host Plymouth outlasted North 47-40 to improve to 3-0 on the season. North dropped to 2-2.

Senior guard Kylie Robb and senior post Shelby Cheston keyed a 15-3 run (Robb scored 10 first-half points and 11 for the night) to lift the Wildcats to a 25-21 lead late in the first half.

Then reserve junior point guard Courtney LaVallee made a valuable contribution. She connected on a deep three at the buzzer to end the half and scored her first points of the season, upping that advantage to 28-21.

To the dismay of Wildcats head coach Nick Brandon, his team got off to a slow start in the third quarter giving up three consecutive buckets to slice Plymouth's edge to 28-27.

That's where senior wing Jada Woody (13 points) came to the forefront, scoring five of her points in the frame.

In the fourth, Plymouth hit six of eight free throws (two each by Cheston, and junior post Patti Begoske) to seal the victory.

Also playing well in the second half was junior wing Kendall Rose, with six boards and five points.

Cheston led the Wildcats on the glass, with nine rebounds, along with three blocks, to go with her 10 points.

Brandon lamented his team not being sharp at the start of the contest and to open the second half

Brandon praised his team's depth, primarily LaVallee, Begoske and Rose.

CANTON 36, DIVINE CHILD 25

Canton (1-2) got in the victory column with Friday's comeback win thanks to a 11-0 run in the third to go up 23-18.

Senior guard Rachel Winters scored nine of her 11 points in the second half. Scoring 14 for the Chiefs was senior Paige Aresco while senior Taylor Hunley added six.

Others coming up big included Natalie Winters (six steals), Alanna Brown (six rebounds) and senior Shannon Perry — who scored two points in her first varsity game since injuring a knee during last season's playoffs.

"She (Perry) gave us some huge minutes in the third quarter to help us get going and her leadership was outstanding," Samulski said.

SALEM 33, BRIGHTON 25: Host Salem improved to 3-1 with Wednesday's 33-25 victory over Brighton in a KLAA nonleague matchup. The Rocks opened strong to lead 8-4 after one quarter, then padded that edge to 18-7 at halftime. Only in the third (when Brighton held a 13-8 edge) did Salem falter. "We played a really strong first half, we only gave up seven points," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "They made a run at us in the third period, to cut the deficit down. "And then in the fourth quarter we turned it back around and were able to put the game away." Leading Salem were Jamyra Wilson and Shara Long, with nine points each. Adding six points was Kayla Kavulich while Haylee Rogers and Long each pulled down seven rebounds. For Brighton (2-2), Jessica Savage scored 11 points.

POWER DUO

Continued from Page B1

the lane for layups or connecting on short-range jumpers.

Also big in key spots was Taylor, who muscled inside for a three-point play late in the third, which ended with Canton holding on 39-37.

Salem had another surge early in the fourth, however, building a 46-41 lead with 6:15 remaining following a coast-to-coast layup by Lenders and a three-point play by junior forward Allante Wheeler.

Canton came right back, however, with Birmingham's trey from the left corner circling the rim before dropping through to make it a 46-44 Salem advantage.

Nobles' biggest bucket of the night was a trey from the right flank with two minutes remaining in the game to give Canton a 55-54 lead that the Chiefs would not relinquish.

Brady Cole's layup made it 57-56 with 1:41 left, but he missed the and-one foul shot that would have tied the game. Taylor's putback padded the Canton lead to three with 45 seconds to go.

Conversely, Brodie said his team lacked the intensity that helped Salem defeat Ann Arbor Skyline in Tuesday's season opener.

It also didn't help that the Rocks had a tough time scoring, making just 14 of 31 free-throw attempts and hitting just 19 of 60 shots from the floor.

"We played one game with a lot of intensity, we ran the floor well, we got a lot of fast-break baskets," Brodie said. "Tonight we didn't run as well and we didn't have as much intensity defensively."

"We didn't shoot the ball well, at all. That's going to happen at times. But you can't lack in the defensive end."



Looking to snuff out this shot by Salem's Brady Cole (No. 23) are Canton's Logan Ryan (No. 30) and Jordan Nobles (No. 15). KATHY HANSEN

Stepping up

Yet Brodie saw some good things, too. One player that caught his eye was Lenders, who sparked Salem's 11-2 run (a personal eight-point run by Winfrey) early in the second to get the Rocks out of an early hole.

Lenders scored a layup following his offensive rebound to cut Canton's edge to 15-13 in the first minute of the second quarter.

By the midway point of the frame, Salem had a shortlived 21-17 advantage and Lenders had plenty to do with that. Two more of his rebounds were cashed in by Winfrey.

And then Brady Cole set up Winfrey for a triple from the corner.

"We never gave up," Brodie added. "We kept counterpunching theirs, and we had a lot of players contribute off the bench and that makes me feel good early in the season."

"Everybody gets a little bit of PT and we see who develops and and who steps up in a game like this."

PLYMOUTH 48, D.H. ANNAPOLIS 45: Visiting Plymouth improved to 2-0 thanks to a buzzer-beating trey by

Josh Reynolds.

"We came out of a timeout, drew up a play for him to get the ball in the corner and he nailed it," Wildcats head coach Mike Soukup said.

Dishing the ball to Reynolds (nine points) was Chris Walls.

Plymouth trailed 36-31 after three frames but stepped things up in time, Soukup said.

"That's a young team thing, we played a couple of good quarters and a couple of bad quarters," he said. "That can be expected nightly of us."

Leading Plymouth with 18 points was Randall Aikins while Deji Adebisi chipped in with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

PCA 63, LANSING CHRISTIAN 55: Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team won for the first time this season Thursday night.

Sparkling the Eagles (1-1) were Daniel Jipping (24 points, 14 rebounds) and Jacob Bailey (13 points).

"Great win, the boys played hard from start to finish," PCA head coach Dominique Washington said. "We sustained a nice run by Lansing Christian at the end of the first half and came out composed for the second half."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Huron Valley Lutheran registers convincing victory, 60-36

Thurston no match for Class D Hawks

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

It was bitter cold outside Thursday night, but nice and toasty in the Redford Thurston gymnasium — especially when the Westland Huron Valley Lutheran girls basketball team's pressure defense turned up a heat.

Fueled by the full-court zone press, the Hawks forced 26 Thurston turnovers on the way to posting a 60-36 victory.

HVL improved to 2-1 while Thurston slipped to 0-4.

The winners' premier ball hawk was senior guard Sarah Setian, who registered six

steals to go with 12 points.

"We ran the court tonight better than we did in the first two games," said HVL coach Kris Ruth. "Sarah did a nice job of leading our pressure up top. We need to work on playing defense with our feet, but other than that I thought the girls did a nice job."

With four freshmen and one sophomore in the playing rotation, and with just one senior on the roster, the Eagles are learning on the fly, so to speak.

"I told the girls after the game that every time they step on the floor, I want to see them take a step forward," said Thurston coach Bob Ostrowski. "Tonight, with the 26 turnovers, we didn't take a step forward. We didn't necessarily take a step back, either,

but we didn't show improvement."

"We're such a young team; games like tonight are going to happen. We just have to keep pushing and practicing hard. The girls' effort has been great. They'd run through a wall if we asked them to. But they need more experience."

Hawks junior forward Julie St. John led all scorers with 19 points. St. John carved up the Eagles' interior defense with slicing drives and hustle-based put-backs.

Brooke Kuehn added 12 points for the Class D Hawks.

Sydney Taylor had a huge night for the Eagles, chalking up 12 points, five steals, six rebounds and two assists. Megan Abela contributed five points and six rebounds for

Thurston.

HVL held a tenuous 13-10 lead after the first quarter before expanding its cushion to 31-20 at the half.

"We came unglued a little bit in the second quarter," Ostrowski observed. "They grabbed the momentum in the second quarter and never took their foot off the gas pedal."

HVL sealed the Eagles' fate by opening the third quarter with a 10-2 run.

The Hawks canned six of 13 free throws. Thurston was just 1 for 10 from the stripe.

HVL launched an amazing 72 shots, connecting on 27.

"We're good at taking a lot of shots," Ruth said, smiling, "but we have to get better at making them."



Huron Valley Lutheran's Sarah Setian (with ball) looks for inside position against Thurston. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Dieting? Add seasonal produce to meals for topnotch health

TOPS Club Inc, the nonprofit weight-loss support group, offers its favorite picks for winter fruits and vegetables that are packed with nutrients and make it easier to avoid high-fat treats.

The organization suggests these foods to add dazzle to dinner in a healthy way:

» Look for squash in the butternut, sweet dumpling, acorn, spaghetti, banana, Hubbard, and buttercup varieties. Surprisingly, the rich taste of winter squash contains only 80 calories per cup. Winter squash is a source of complex carbohydrates and fiber, and also contains potassium, niacin, iron, vitamin C, folate, and cancer-fighting beta-carotene. Try it baked, boiled, microwaved, sauteed, or steamed. Squash halves can be baked as a boat containing fillings such as vegetable and bread stuffing or fruit mixtures. Squash can also be added to enhance pasta and rice dishes, adding extra fiber, vitamins, and minerals.

» Kale, a member of the cabbage family, can be used as a stand-in for spinach or collard greens in many dishes. Bursting with nutrients, kale contains potassium, vitamin A, vitamin C, iron, calcium, and beta-carotene. Kale also has two grams of filling protein in a serving. Look for dark-colored bunches of kale and avoid brown or yellow leaves. It makes a delicious addition to smoothies, soups, stir-fries, casseroles, or even simply sauteed as a side dish.

» Clementines are a refreshingly sweet variety of mandarin orange often referred to as "seedless tangerine." They are much easier to peel than other citrus fruits and are a good source of vitamin C, potassium, folic acid, and fiber. When picking out clementines, choose those that are slightly soft, blemish-free, strongly fragrant, and heavy for their size, meaning they're full of juice. Peel the skin and eat the fruit's segments or add them to salads.

» Sweet potatoes, often mistakenly advertised as yams, can be substituted for regular potatoes, not only to add variety to menus, but to provide a healthier option.

Sweet potatoes have almost twice the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A, 42 percent of the RDA for vitamin C, and four times the RDA for beta-carotene compared to white potatoes. When eaten with the skin on, sweet potatoes have more fiber than oatmeal and carry a reasonable 130 to 160 calories. And sweet potatoes digest slowly, causing a gradual rise in blood sugar so people feel satisfied longer.

» Pomegranates are known for their bright, tart taste and pinkish-red pulp and juice. They contain arils, which are full of nutritious juice surrounding a small white crunchy seed. You can eat the entire aril, containing fiber-rich seeds, or spit them out. One glass of pomegranate juice contains the same disease-fighting polyphenol content as four glasses of cranberry juice or 10 cups of green tea. They are an ideal source of potassium, vitamin C, and niacin. When buying a pomegranate, look for round, plump, and heavy fruit. The arils are tasty eaten raw or sprinkled over salads, oatmeal, yogurt, and fruit salad.

TOPS Club Inc promotes successful weight management with a "Real People. Real Weight Loss" philosophy that combines support from others at weekly chapter meetings, healthy eating, regular exercise, and wellness information. TOPS has about 150,000 members — male and female, age 7 and older — in thousands of chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Membership is \$28 per year in the U.S., in addition to chapter fees. To find a local chapter, view www.tops.org or call 800-932-8677.



Regional network aims to enhance stroke research

Nine hospitals in southeast Michigan have formed a network that will help researchers address stroke prevention, treatment and recovery. The new Michigan StrokeNet is one of 25 regional stroke networks across the nation.

The University of Michigan health System's Stroke Program is coordinating the network. Hospitals involved are University Hospital (U-M Health System), Ann Arbor; St. Joseph Mercy Health System, Ann Arbor; St. Mary Mercy, Livonia; DMC Detroit Receiving Hospital, Detroit; DMC Harper University Hospital, Detroit; DMC Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Detroit; DMC Children's Hospital (U-M Health System), Ann Arbor.

Philip Scott, M.D., and Devin Brown, M.D., of U-M's Department of Emergency Medicine and Department of Neurology serve as co-principal investigators.

U-M is already the home of the national clinical coordinating center of the NIH-funded Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trials Network, which coordinates studies on the emergency care of a range of brain-related issues.

"The new system is intended to streamline stroke research, by centralizing approval and review, lessening time and costs of clinical trials, and assembling a comprehensive data sharing system," said Petra Kaufmann, M.D., the associate director for clinical research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

NINDS, which will fund and manage the NIH Stroke Trials Network — NIH StrokeNet — has a history of successful stroke clinical trials over the past 40 years, leading to advances in treatment and prevention of the

disease, including the first treatment for acute stroke, announced in 1995.

Each of the 25 networks will receive infrastructure funding for research and education support, with \$50,000 per year allocated to train the next generation of stroke clinical researchers.

NIH StrokeNet investigators will propose, develop and conduct stroke protocols to be administered within the network and train the future generation of clinical researchers in stroke.



Brown



Scott

Improving clinical trials

The network concept evolved from a NINDS planning effort in which stroke experts were asked what is most needed to reduce death and disability due to stroke in the United States. They called for a nationwide stroke network that would allow for a more seamless transition between early safety and efficacy trials and clinical trials.

"Our goal for the NIH Stroke Centers network is to initiate four to five NINDS-funded exploratory Phase I and II stroke clinical trials, and two to four Phase III trials over the next five years. This is a major challenge which we believe the stroke research community will embrace," said Scott Janis, Ph.D., NINDS program director of the NIH StrokeNet.

A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted, causing brain cells in the immediate area to die because they stop getting oxygen. Stroke can also occur when a vessel breaks and bleeds into the brain. The number of new strokes reported each year is 795,000, making stroke the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.

For more information about stroke visit stroke.nih.gov. For more information about stroke research and care at the U-M Health System, visit www.uofmhealth.org/medical-services/stroke and for information about participating in clinical research studies at the U-M Health System, visit www.umclinicalstudies.org.

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Dealing with Sports Injuries

Therapy or Surgery?...That is the Question.

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



J. Holland
Rehabilitation
Therapies

Playing organized sports is a great way for children and teens to improve social skills, build relationships and develop better overall physical coordination. However, as with any physical activity, there is always an increased risk for injury. Garden City Hospital's Director of Rehabilitation Therapy, Jennifer Holland, discusses the options for treating shoulder problems.

Q: Our son has suffered a partial rotator cuff tear from playing football. We've spoken to an orthopedic surgeon who recommends surgery as the best solution. Our friends have encouraged us to try physical therapy before considering surgery. We're not sure what to do. Can you shed some light on the matter?

A: Your physician has received formal training, has the most knowledge about your son's personal situation and is the best resource for determining a course of treatment. However, if you are not comfortable with a diagnosis, I always suggest getting a second opinion. In the event you want to explore a more conservative alternative to surgery, you may want to try physical therapy (PT) first. People with smaller tears usually improve with a combination of physical therapy and steroid injections. If shoulder strength and function do not improve after three to six months of physical therapy, surgical repair may be considered.

The rotator cuff is composed of four muscles, each of which has a tendon that attaches to the upper arm bone. These tendons form a cuff around the head of the upper arm bone. The rotator cuff tendons may tear as a result of injury, chronic over use, or a combination of both.

The treatment goals for a torn rotator cuff are to recover lost strength, improve the function of the shoulder, and treat any underlying tendinitis. Conservative treatment is adequate in the vast majority of cases, although younger athletes with larger tears, particularly affecting the dominant arm, may be candidates for surgical repair. Following shoulder surgery, your physician will determine a rehabilitation plan for your unique situation.

It's important to note that symptoms of rotator cuff tear often include pain and weakness of the shoulder, although some people have few or no symptoms. In addition, the severity of the tear does not necessarily correlate with the severity of a person's pain; in other words, a person with a partial tear may have severe pain while a person with a complete tear may have little or no pain. However, if left untreated, the condition and symptoms may worsen.

Cold winter weather often has an intensifying effect on old sports injuries. There's no need to suffer from the chronic discomfort associated with age or injury. From aquatic therapy to strength and conditioning, the Garden City Hospital Center for Sports and Rehabilitation offers a complete series of treatment options for everyone and every issue. For more information or to make an appointment, visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE HEALTH EXPERTS OF GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL!

JOURNEY OF HOPE

COUPLE EMPOWERS AFRICAN TRIBE
WITH FOOD, LITERACY PROJECTSBy Sidney R. Bonvallet
Guest Columnist

Clouds of dust rolled over our vehicle as we pulled into the remote village of Bennde Mutale. We were in the homeland of the Venda people of South Africa, back to do the mission work we began more than a year ago in these five villages.

Helping Hands Touching Hearts, a 501(c)3 charity has served for five years with a mission to empower impoverished people through sustainability with education, health and hope. Wayne, my husband, C.J. Christopher, my daughter, and I were here to build chicken coops, plant gardens, work with the schools and implement other projects to relieve the burden of poverty that has gripped these people.

We made our way to the huts of Aida and Humbilani Baloyi, where we would make our home for the next two months. It was a complex of two mud huts, called rondavels, a patio and fire pit, a small rectangular building the family occupied, an outdoor shower and outdoor toilets. Wayne and I stayed in one rondavel and C.J. stayed in the other just across the patio from us.

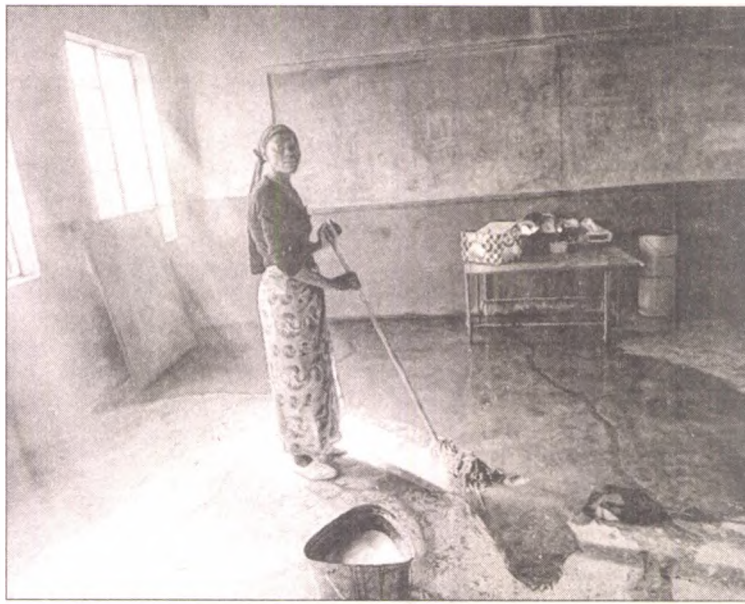
We culturally traveled at warp speed from the 21st century back to the ancient ways of life in this small Venda village. We very quickly learned to carry our water from the well, cook our food over an open fire pit and cope with the lack of modern technology. Although it was a little difficult for an 83- and 73-year-old couple, we managed quite well. This was life at the most basic level.

We discovered that the Venda are a graceful and contented people, in spite of the harsh environment. The women gather at the well to socialize while they draw water and together they go to the river to wash their clothes. Women carry the wood and water for the family, cook meals and care for the children. The men farm, tend the goat and cattle herds, feed the chickens, build the mud huts and do the repairs.

There is an easy flow to life and the sounds of nature strike a primitive harmonious tone. We reveled in the sounds of the mourning dove, a distant lion roaring, roosters "waking the dead" with their insistent crowing, children laughing and bells clanging.

Sustainable projects

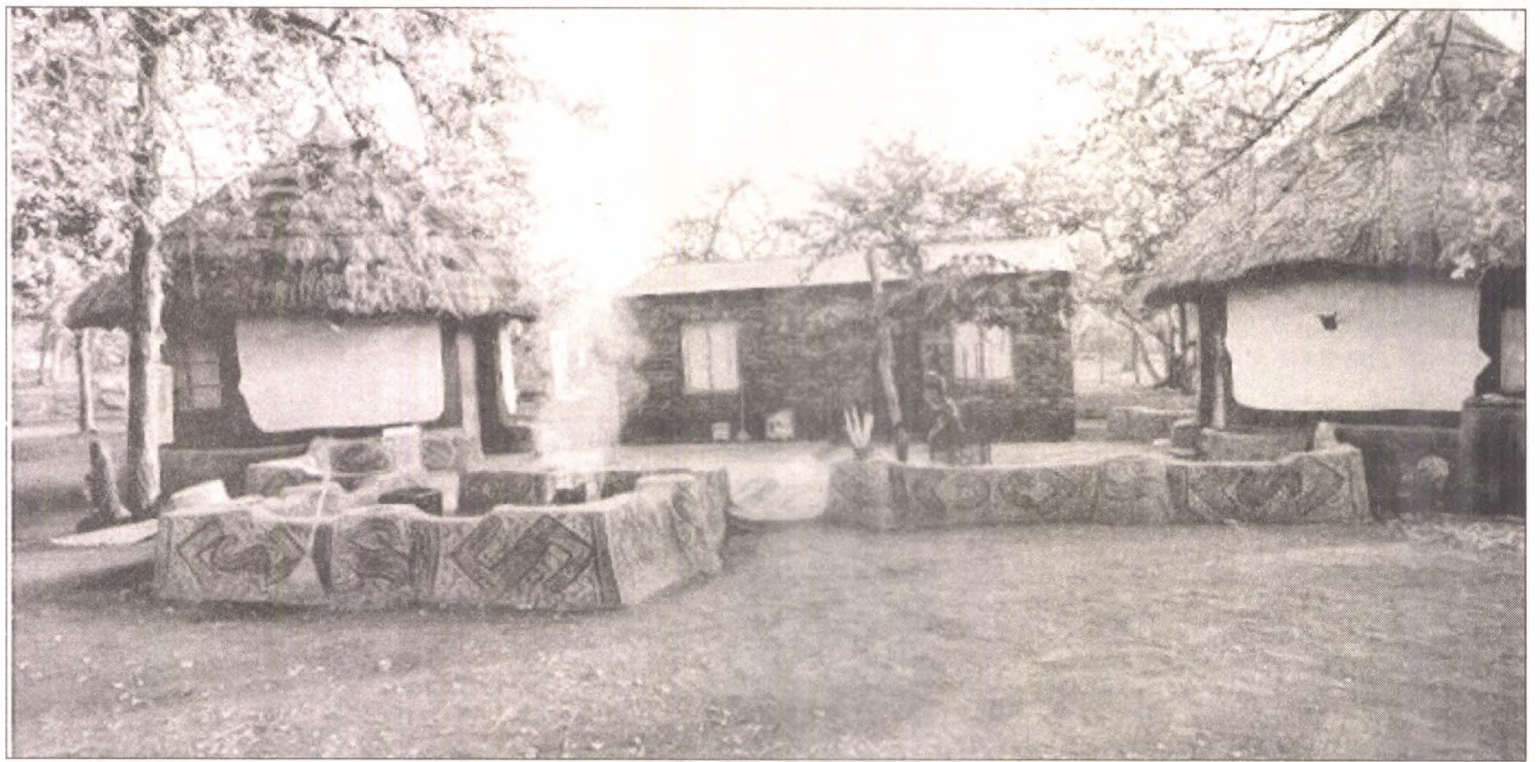
C.J., Wayne and I revisited Gilbert Mbedzi, the principal of Fhetani High School. When Mbedzi started, there was only a 44-percent graduation rate. He has consistently raised the bar until it is now at 92 percent, but he will not be happy until it is 100 percent. HHTH brought him the photocopier we promised last year, as well as a computer. Now he can go



A woman helps clean the school in the village.



Sidney Bonvallet of Farmington Hills gathers eggs with Prince, a member of the Venda tribe.



Sidney Bonvallet, her husband, and daughter lived in these mud huts for two months while working with the Venda tribe.

to the nearest town with Internet and download lessons, exams and teaching material to upgrade the children's educational opportunities.

We soon learned there was no industry in this area of 90-percent unemployment. HHTH took on this challenge with several sustainable projects to lift the hearts of the Venda people in these villages. We built chicken coops for two villages and supplied laying hens to provide fresh eggs for the children. These two projects are already producing 25-30 eggs each a day, which supplements the children's poor diet. Another project was started with 60 baby chicks that have now grown to adulthood and will be laying soon.

Two gardens were planted, leading us to another exciting possibility. We found there were six men who wanted to grow a large garden for the community. HHTH believed in their dream and backed their project, which created six jobs in the village. They cleared 13 acres of thorn bushes and trees

by hand with saws, panga knives and axes. HHTH provided them with the equipment, tools, seeds, water pump and fertilizer for their venture.

It did not take long for us to realize the harsh reality of AIDS as we worked in the villages. So many children are orphaned, with no one to care for them or supply their basic needs. HHTH identified the orphans who needed shoes, measured their feet and gave them each a new pair of shoes.

Because malaria is still a dangerous threat, we distributed 250 mosquito nets. One person dies every minute in this area of Africa and these nets save precious lives.

When we drove away from the village for the last time, it was with a contented and grateful heart. We had installed so many sustainable projects that were up and running. The Venda people are willing to work hard to improve their lot in life. They want something better than poverty for their children and to get them the education that



Thompo, a young Venda tribe member, holds a baby chick

will create a whole new order.

Sidney Bonvallet of Farmington Hills is the founder and president of Helping Hands Touching Hearts. She

accepts donations for her work at www.clotheavillagenow.com. For more information, call her at 248-514-3022.

Donate to a 'giving tree' or pet food pantry this season

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Laura Zain tries to feed as many animals as she can with her Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program at Tail Waggers' 1990 in Livonia.

That includes pets that have been turned away for assistance from other animal welfare organizations.

"I got a call from a lady from Matrix Human Services. They have 40 senior citizens that own animals," said Zain, founder and director of the nonprofit animal welfare group.

The seniors needed help feeding their pets, mostly larger dogs, including pit bulls and rottweilers.

"After being turned down by other organizations — that said they didn't have a food pantry — they turned to Tail Waggers. We made up tote bags for individual seniors, stuffed them and started a file on each one. It wiped us out of



food, but how could we turn them away?"

Now Tail Waggers' is looking for a helping hand to restock its shelves. The goal is to collect enough food so that dogs and cats in the community can have a little something special under the tree during the holiday season. The organization accepts both dry and wet food for cats and dogs, and gift cards to pet supply stores, Target and Walmart. It espe-

cially needs treats this month.

"I tell people (to buy) boxes of Milk Bones," Zain said. "I stay away from rawhide and stuff from China."

She prefers "main brand" popular cat and dog treats made in America, that are less likely to be recalled than their Chinese counterparts.

Zain said Tail Waggers' pet food pantry feeds hundreds of animals, and distributes "thousands of pounds" of food each month. Participants, who are struggling financially, may return for more food when their pet supplies run low. The pantry program aims to keep families and their pets together during financially challenging times.

"We base it on the honesty system for the most part. We write down what we give them, but we've never had a problem. I don't feel we're ever being abused and makes it easy for us to continue wanting to give to the community.

"And we really hook these

people up. We don't just give them a four-pound bag. I had a lady reach out to us, she was feeding her animals salami," said Zain, noting that the client was unemployed. "She cried when she saw how much cat litter and food she was getting from us."

Tail Waggers' is located at 28402 Five Mile, at Harrison between Middlebelt and Inkster Road. Food donations are accepted from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Zain also encourages local businesses to collect food for the pantry program. Collection sites are given a sign, personalized flier and bin, along with exposure on the Tail Waggers' website.

Families in need of pet food assistance can contact the Tail Waggers' office at 734-855-4077 or email tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com.

Helping MHS

Canine College in Farmington Hills is sponsoring its "Giv-

ing Tree" program for the second year to help the Michigan Humane Society care for homeless animals.

The Giving Tree is located in the lobby of Canine College at 23717 Research Drive, and is covered with ornaments made of paper that feature a photograph of a homeless pet at the Michigan Humane Society Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland. Each ornament also includes a wish list of needed items.

Animal supporters can stop by, choose an ornament from the tree, buy the items on the wish list, place them in a holiday stocking and staple the ornament to the stocking. Then they return the gift to Canine College for placement under the tree.

All holiday stockings must be returned to Canine College by Dec. 18 for delivery to MHS on Dec. 20.

For more information, call 248-427-8245.

Galas raise \$1 million each for DIA, Alzheimer's Association

At a time when Detroit and the Detroit Institute of Arts need the most community support and dollars to save our cultural institution, 800 donors rallied to help raise \$1 million at the recent DIA Night of Illusion Gala.



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

What was no illusion is that the \$1 million was 30 percent over the DIA's goal.

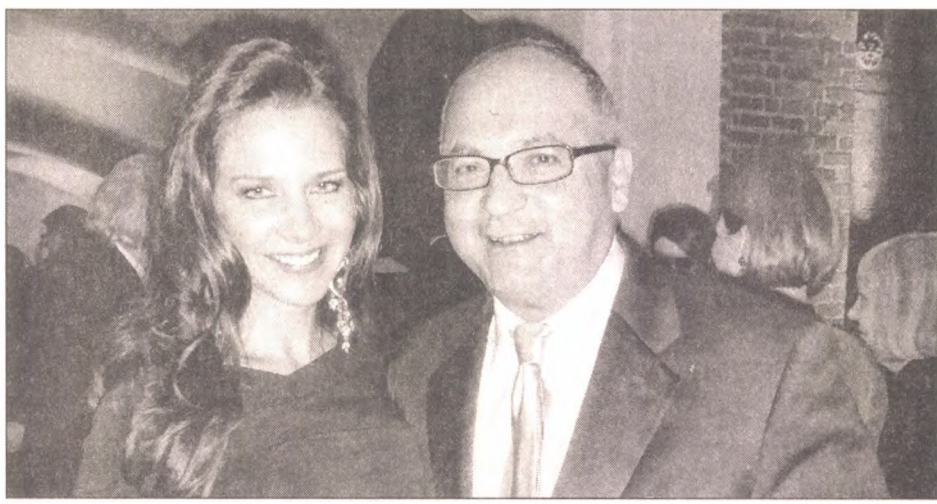
Still wracking your brain for the perfect holiday gift? A DIA membership is just the ticket. Memberships start at \$65 for individuals, \$60 for senior citizens, 62 and over, and \$110 for families. For more information, call 313-833-7971 or email membership@dia.org.

Local artists

Speaking of art, The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center annual Shop & Champagne preview evening was a fun evening of mingling, strolling delicacies, bountiful bubbly and, of course, shopping for one-of-a-kind art including colorful fiber scarves and hats, pottery, jewelry, sculptures, paintings, ornaments and stocking stuffers of handmade soaps. The items, including works by Westland artist Mary Kernahan and Louise Malinowski, a Redford resident, will be Center's Gallery Shop through Dec. 21.

Local sponsor

It was a sweet ending to 2013 for the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The 29th annual Chocolate Jubilee, held at the MGM Grand Hotel, was attended by more than 750 patrons. The event,



Susan Lampinen of Pleasant Ridge and Jim Vella of Canton enjoy the DIA Night of Illusion Gala.



Attending the Alzheimer's Association's Chocolate Jubilee, from left were Taylor residents Eileen Verner and Geoffray Drutchas and Scott Colburn Boots & Western Wear owners Marge Colburn of Farmington Hills and Sarah Colburn of Ferndale.



Plymouth residents Steve and Sandy Zanella are among the 800 DIA supporters who attended Night of Illusion Gala. PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

combined with some major gifts, raised \$1 million for the organization.

This year's Country Western theme was espe-

cially appropriate for Livonia-based corporate sponsor Scott Colburn Boots & Western Wear.



Grand Opening



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

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Jr. Naturalist

The Junior Naturalist club meets 10-11:30 a.m. the second Saturday of each month at Heritage Park, on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. It's for ages 5-11 and is a "drop-off class." Topics are animal tracking, Jan. 12, 2014; owl prowling, Feb. 9, 2014; maple sugaring, March 9, 2014; signs of spring, April 13, 2014; beginning birding, May 11, 2014; and bug and wetland exploration, June 8, 2014. The fee is \$10 per class in advance and \$12 per class paid at the door. Register online at <https://re-creg.fhgov.com>. For more information, call 248-477-1135.

Master Gardeners

Bob Bransky, amateur photographer, will talk about basic photographic techniques, lighting and hints for taking photographs, at the general membership meeting of the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, Jan. 2, 2014, at the MSU Extension, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, visit mgwww.org.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

50 Shades of Green exhibit runs through Jan. 5, 2014, at 1800 N.I. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, and includes flower displays, ideas for holiday tree decorating, art inspired by the color green and holiday items for sale in the garden store. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily; open until 8 p.m. Wednesday. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve. 734-647-7600

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Resurrection Parish

48755 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187
734-451-0444
www.resurrectionparish.net

Tuesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve: 4 PM, 6 PM, 10 PM

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day: 10:30 AM

Tuesday, December 31st:

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: 4:30 PM

Wednesday, January 1st:

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: 10:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE: New Mass Times - All in the Church!

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH!

Celebrate Christmas!
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Rd, Livonia
(just north of I-96)

Christmas Eve:
5pm Family Service
11pm Candlelight Service
Christmas Day:
10am Worship
(734) 522-6830
www.christsaviors.org

North Congregational Church

36520 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI
248/848-1750 northcongregationalchurch.org



Sunday, December 22, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Worship, Special Music: "Lessons and Carols"

Tuesday, December 24, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
"No Average Baby: What if God Was One of Us?"

Rev. Mary E. Biedron, Senior Minister



Newburg United Methodist Church

36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI
734-422-0149 www.newburgumc.org

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. - Children/Family Friendly Service
7:00 p.m. - Festival Worship, Communion and Candlelight
11:00 p.m. - Lessons, Carols, Communion and Candlelight

Newburg UMC is a welcoming congregation.
Come as you are, just as you are - all are beloved children of God.

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tridentine Latin Rite Mass 734-462-3200
38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154
One quarter mile West of Newburgh Road

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Confessions	11:00-11:50 pm
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
	Morning Mass	10:00 am
	Confessions	9:30 am



Volunteers vital to therapy choir mission

During this holiday season, there is a great deal of giving and receiving going on. It is a time to enjoy the good feelings associated with sharing gifts. Customs of giving and receiving have been handed down through the ages.

With 2014 approaching, it is a good time to turn our attention to volunteering. When we volunteer, we are giving the gift of ourselves. And, volunteering is not limited to a holiday season. It can be ongoing. One wise man said, "There is nothing to make you like other human beings so much as doing things for them." The second wise man said, "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted. And behold, service was joy." And then the third wise man said: "Volunteering is like a paying job, only better. It is better because of the generosity and focus on others, rather than ourselves."

The Bible tells us of Jesus Christ giving sight to the blind, life to the dead, and much more — all free of charge! Some may believe that one person can't make a difference. I say, think of Mother Teresa who opened hospices for the dying. Or, think about how our Meals on Wheels program began with one person taking a meal to a needy family, by bicycle, in World War I.

Volunteer Voices

Another opportunity for volunteerism, perhaps less known, is The Therapy Choirs of Michigan's Volunteer Voices in Farmington Hills. TCM is a unique, a cappella choir, comprised of individuals with various types of disabilities such as: traumatic brain injury, developmental disabilities, mental health problems, and associated traumatic



Len McCulloch

challenges of life.

The Volunteer Voices component of TCM is available to any interested person, be they an able-bodied, or challenged. Good singing skills are not required. Volunteers can lend their voices or assist with many other tasks involved in maintaining and expanding TCM's mission of providing a therapeutic experience for its members and listening audiences through song.

Volunteer Voices members have included a member of the Rockettes dance troupe, the director of community programs at the Detroit Opera House, and the Royal Oak Police Department's chaplain, who also serves as TCM's chaplain. Many citizens from near and far, all ages, continue to respond to TCM's call for volunteers. There is a former member of a barbershop singing group and the mothers of young adults who struggle with Down syndrome, autism and related disabilities.

Helping TCM

Recently, school children from St. Edith School participated with the choir's holiday concert at the Sanctuary at Villa Marie, Livonia. Others, often anonymously, volunteer by helping with choir robes, transportation and, sometimes simply turning the page of a song book for a person who needs help. Audience members, perhaps without knowing it, volunteer simply by their presence and their listening. All shows are free donations are greatly appreciated.

The Finnish American Singers of Michigan is sponsored by the

Finnish Center Association and calls the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills its home. It presents Finnish and English chorale concerts. The group's president, Eileen Yankee, and her colleagues frequently volunteer to sing with the Therapy Choirs of Michigan. They have been beside the choir singing the national anthem at the Detroit Tiger Baseball game at Comerica Park and at TCM's Annual Capitol Concert in Lansing, which champions the cause of people with disabilities.

TCM members, past and present, and Volunteer Voices will perform at a special event March 5, 2014 at the Capitol in Lansing. At this event, a national proclamation will be issued declaring the first week of March as Choir Therapy Awareness Week in the United States. Needless to say, the TCM mission would not be possible without the work of Volunteer Voices. Its members demonstrate time and again how volunteerism involves giving and receiving. Everybody wins. This generates resiliency, which is a key component in mental health.

Resources

- » www.volunteerconnections.com.
- » Call 248-478-6639 for information about the Finnish American Singers.
- » Visit TCM's website: www.therapychoir-s.org.

Len McCulloch is a Diplomat of The American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, addictions, traumatic stress and social work. He is a volunteer member of the American Red Cross Mental Health Disaster Team. His column, *Our Mental Health*, is archived at www.farmlib.org. McCulloch can be reached at 248-476-9329.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

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

COMEDY

GO! COMEDY

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

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: *The Worst Noel*, the fifth annual holiday sketch revue. Tickets are \$15 Thursday, \$20 Friday and Saturday, available at gocomedy.net

Also playing: *Frosty*, 10 p.m. Dec. 19, is an original late night show about Frosty the Snowman who returns to the town of Armonk from the North Pole to find the children he once knew have grown up and are home from college. Tickets are \$10.

Contact: 248-327-0575

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, and 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: *A Christmas Story*; \$3 admission

Coming up: *The Polar Express*, 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 21-22

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 20 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 21

Location: 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Avenue, Detroit

Details: *White Christmas*; tickets \$5. Bring your camera to get a photo with Santa. Donations of nonperishable food items will be accepted for St. Christine Food Pantry.

Contact: 313-537-2560

HISTORICAL

GARDEN CITY MUSEUM

Time/Date: Noon-3 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, through Dec. 28

Location: 6221 Merri-



man, Garden City

Details: View a collection of more than 200 Santa Claus figures

Contact: 734-838-0650

GREENMEAD

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22

Location: At Eight Mile and Newburgh in Livonia

Details: Tours of the village buildings, which will be decorated for the holidays

Contact: 248-477-8568

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 19, 2014

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: A Red Ryder Christmas Story is an exhibit based on the film, *A Christmas Story*. The museum is filled with vignettes of scenes from the movie, including the infamous leg lamp and Flick's tongue getting stuck to the flag pole. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

LIGHTS

LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. nightly through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along Hines Drive. Enter at 7651 Merriam, in Westland

Details: See 45 giant animated light displays along more than four miles of Hines Drive. \$5 per vehicle

Contact: 734-261-1990

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and Sunday, and 5:30-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 13-15, 20-23, 26-30; and Jan. 2-5, 2014

Location: Detroit Zoo, Woodward Ave., at the 1-696 service drive, Royal Oak

Details: More than two million twinkling LED lights adorn buildings, animal sculptures and trees on a half-mile trail through the front of the zoo. Tickets are \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the gate for ages 2 and up (under 2 free); parking is \$5 per car. Buy tickets at the Detroit Zoo main admissions or online at <http://www.detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights>. They also are available at Kroger stores

Contact: 248-541-5717

MUSIC

DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21

Location: 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Details: Too Hot to Handel features a jazz gospel version of *The Messiah*. Tickets are \$20-\$68.

Contact: michiganopera.org

FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

Location: 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Far-

mington and Newburgh, Farmington Hills

Details: The Finnish-American Singers of Michigan present "A Musical Christmas Card" featuring carols and other seasonal favorites. Admission is \$10 for adults, over 12; \$5 for youth, 5-12; and free for children under 5. Price includes luncheon

Contact: 248-478-6939

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16

Location: VisTaTech Center on the main campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo present Winter Wonderland Concert, featuring both large and small jazz groups performing traditional, contemporary, and holiday jazz arrangements. Admission is free, although donations will be accepted.

Coming up: The Schoolcraft College music ensembles, including the Choral Union, Synthesizer Ensemble and Wind Ensemble, will present a special holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, in the VisTaTech Center. The concert is free, although donations will be accepted

Contact: www.schoolcraft.edu

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Location: Petco, 45725 Warren Road, Westland

Details: Pets pose for a photo with Santa and receive goodies. Pet owners pay \$8.95 and receive a 4- by 6-inch photo of their pet with Santa, along with a keepsake frame. Proceeds help Tail Waggers' 1990 in Livonia and the Petco Foundation

Contact: 734-641-8422

THEATER

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Time/Date: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

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

Details: *A Wonderful World of Christmas* tells the story of Billy, who believes in Santa Claus but his 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. Tickets are \$10, available at the door or online at www.cantonmi.org/villagetheater.

Contact: 248-719-3637; soy@mi.rr.com

TWO MUSES THEATRE

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Dec. 15, 21-22 for *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 20-21, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 and 22, for *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)*

Location: Barnes & Noble Bookseller, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield

Details: The theater presents two plays, one a matinee for families and the other, a madcap retelling of traditional holiday stories at evening performances. Tickets range from \$10-\$25.

Contact: 248-850-9919; www.twomusetheatre.org

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:

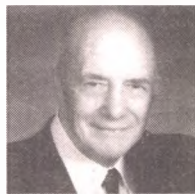
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

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



CHUMBLEY, DONALD R.

November 28, 2013, age 80. Beloved husband of the late Joyce Willis Chumbley. Dear father of Karen (Paul Killick) Chumbley, Linda (Bill Trubey) Chumbley, Elaine (Dan) Flood, and Steve (Laurie) Willis. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Sophia Chumbley, Lindsay Flood, Nicholas and Daniel Willis. Don also leaves behind his dear friend of 15 years, Barbara Robler. Memorial Gathering, Saturday, December 21, 2013 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan. Share your memories at www.schrader-howell.com



McCALMONT, J. DAVID

December 9, 2013, age 91 of Naples, Florida, formerly of New York. Loving husband of the late Laura. Dear father of Derek McCalmont, M.D. (Patricia) and the late John Lorenz McCalmont. Beloved grandfather of John. Funeral Service Monday December 16th at 1:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham. Visitation at church begins at 12:00 p.m. Memorial tributes to International Rescue Committee or the University of Michigan. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500.

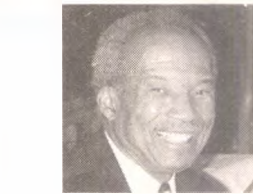
View obituary and share memories at DesmondFuneralHome.com

AJ DESMOND & SONS



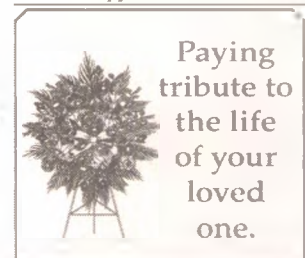
SYDLOWSKI, JEANNETTE K.

Age 81 of Northville. Cherished wife of Harry. Loving mother of Jane (Arnold) Johnson, Jerry (Julia), Julie and Joel (Jane). Proud grandma of nine. Dearest sister of Jim and Mark Kuchnicki. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home Rice Chapel, 36100 Five Mile Rd. Livonia (E. of Levan), Sunday 2-9 p.m. with 4 p.m. Rosary. Funeral Monday at St. Genevieve-St. Maurice Catholic Church, 29015 Jamison, Livonia. In state 10:15 a.m., Mass 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Kay Lasante Clinic in Haiti. Please visit online guestbook. fredwoodfuneralhome.com.



THOMPSON, HERMAN ELLIOTT

Age 82. Southfield resident passed November 30, 2013. Graduated from Pershing High School and honorably discharged from the US Army. Retired from Ford Motor Company after 35 years as a Journeyman Plumber. Married to Barbara Jemison-Thompson; two daughters Deborah Defoe (William) and Denise Hawkins (Theodore); one brother and five grandchildren. Services were held on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at Corinthian MBC, 1725 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212. For more information and online condolence please visit www.pyefuneralhome.com.



GLINSKI, KATHRYN

age 91, December 11, 2013 of Romulus. Beloved wife of the late Felix. Loving mother of Larry Glinski, Betty (Chuck) Moser, Glenn Glinski and Bonnie (Doug) Good. Proud grandmother of twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Services carefully arranged with Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 North Newburgh Rd., Westland. Interment Michigan Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to the 1st Congregational Church of Wayne. To share a memory, visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



Rotary's pancake breakfast a success

The Rotary Club of Berkley hosted its annual pancake fundraiser in early November and raised \$9,700 at the event.

Proceeds from the fundraiser, which was attended by more than 450 people, will be used to benefit the Club's "No Place for Hate" antibullying project with the Berkley Public Schools and other Rotary causes.

"This year's fundraiser was one of our best," said Charlie Glogman, fundraiser chairman. "I would like to thank all of the area businesses and restaurants that supported the event."

Alex's of Berkley, Tim

Horton's, Trader Joe's, Buddy's Pizza, New York Bagel, Busch's Market, Vinsetta Garage, Bagger Dave's, Sila's Italian Dining & Pizzeria, Sidney Bogg's Sweet Essentials all donated in support of the event.

At its meeting on Nov. 25, the Rotary Club of Berkley approved donating \$1,000 to Shelter Box. Funds will be used to advance Shelter Box's efforts to deliver boxes of aid to those who need it most following natural and other disasters.

The club also donated \$100 to the Red Cross for its relief work in the Philippines.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

THE DIVINE INTERRUPTION

Join us Christmas Eve
4:00 - 7:00 - 11:00pm

4pm
Family Service, includes paifing stable from 3-3:50. Childcare available.

7 & 11pm
Identical candle lighting services. Childcare available at 7pm

Trinity Church
10101 Ann Arbor Rd. W.
Plymouth, MI 48170
www.trinityepc.org

LO-0000171945

Christmas Eve in the Village
Franklin Community Church

11:00 pm **Holy Night Service**
Candlelit Sanctuary, Harp, Cello
Holy Communion
Caroling on Church Steps - 10:45

7:00 pm **Noel Service - Music, Peace, Joy**
Choir, Candles, Children's Story

Everyone Welcome!
Overlooking the Village Commons
Just off Franklin Rd south of 14 Mile
www.FranklinChurch.us



LO-0000171951

WARD CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:00 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. | 7:00 p.m.

Find out more online at
www.wardchurch.org

40000 SIX MILE ROAD | NORTHVILLE, MI | (248) 374-7400

LO-0000171933

Friends of Unity
774 North Sheldon Road
(At the Plymouth Community Arts Council)

December 18
Candle Lighting Service 7:30 p.m.

December 22
A Franciscan Christmas with Song and Spirit 10 a.m.

December 29
Relight Your Christmas Candles 10 a.m.

December 31
New Year's Eve Burning Bowl 6:30 p.m.

LO-0000171945

Friday Night Lights Presents
A Christmas for Everyone

Sunday, December 22, 2013
5:00 & 6:30 p.m.
at the Palladium Theater
FREE tickets will be available at the Palladium



LO-0000171911


Christmas Worship
Christmas Eve - December 24

2:00 p.m.
Traditional service including carols, Holy Communion, a homily and candle lighting.

4:00 p.m.
A service for children younger than five years old and their families.

5:30 p.m.
A family worship time led by children in first-fifth grades.

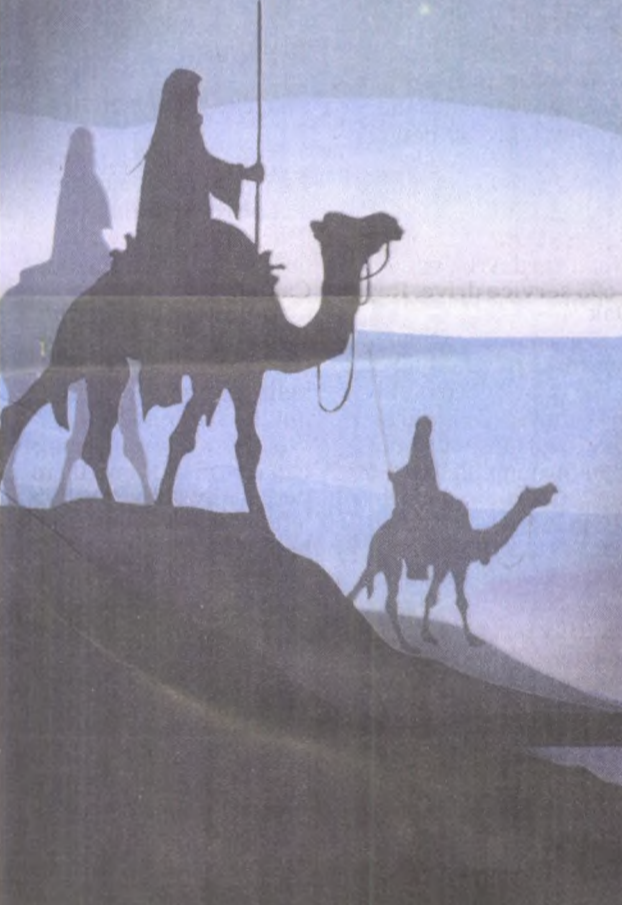
7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.
Traditional services featuring beautiful music and a Christmas Eve sermon.



1589 West Maple Road
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-646-1200
fumebirmingham.org

First United Methodist Church
OF BIRMINGHAM

LO-0000171905



St. John's Episcopal Church of Westland

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

December 24, 2013
The Vigil Mass of Christmas 6:00pm
The Solemn High Mass of the Nativity 10:00pm

December 25, 2013
Christmas Morning Prayer 11:00am
The Mass of Christmas Day 11:30am

December 29th, 2013
The Feast of the Holy Family 8:30am
10:30am

The only traditional, dynamic and welcoming Anglo-Catholic Parish in Metro-Detroit

555 S. Wayne Road, Westland, MI
734-721-5023



LO-0000171883

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

~ Christmas Eve Services ~
Tuesday, December 24, 2013
5:00 p.m. - Family Service

Featuring Children's Choir and Youth Handbells
10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service
Featuring Adult Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir
Rev. Steve Clark, Pastor - Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Pastor

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, USA 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago Livonia, MI 48150
734-422-0494

www.rosedalegardens.org Wheelchair Accessible




LO-0000171905

Christmas at the Kirk

December 22
4:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols
7:00 PM Service of Comfort and Hope

December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 AM Young Family Service Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon
8:30 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard

4:00 PM Family Service Rev. William Adams III
11:00 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard

6:00 PM Family Service Rev. Carol Tate



Kirk in the Hills
1340 West Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302
(248) 626-2515 kirkinthehills.org

LO-0000171914

Covenant Community Church

25800 Student Redford, MI 48239
313-535-3100
(1 block north of Five Mile on Beech Daly)
www.covenantredford.com

Christmas Service Schedule

Sunday, December 22, 2013 - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 2013 - 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

LO-0000171943

Please Join Us at **CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK**

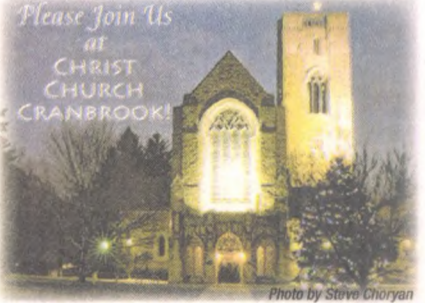



Photo by Steve Choyan

"O" Antiphons (Lessons and Carols) — Sunday, December 15 at 10 AM
Traditional Anglican Holy Eucharist service of Scripture and Christmas carols led by the Christ Church Cranbrook Choir. No sermon.


Blue Christmas — Sunday, December 15 at 4 PM
A service dedicated to all who are challenged by this year's holiday season; such as the grieving, the unemployed, and those feeling alone.

Christmas Eve - December 24
Holy Eucharist at 5 PM (suggested for families with small children and youth);
Festive Holy Eucharist at 8 and 11 PM with full choir and musicians.

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25 at 10 AM
Holy Eucharist service with cantor and sermon.
Christmas Brunch — Christmas Day at 11 AM
Offering music, appetizers, conversation, and a traditional Christmas day feast with turkey, ham, and all the trimmings.



CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK
470 Church Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI
248.644.5210
www.christchurchcranbrook.org




LO-0000171918

Make Christmas Eve Worship at **Plymouth First United Methodist Church**
a part of your family's Christmas tradition!

Tuesday, December 24th
4:30 P.M. 8:00 P.M. & 10:00 P.M.

45201 N. Territorial Road
Plymouth, MI
(734) 453-5280
www.pfumc.org




LO-0000171825

Join Us For a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** with Communion

5 and 8:30 pm

Celebration! Lutheran Church, ELCA

9300 Farmington Rd, Livonia (between W Chicago and Joy)
734-421-0749



The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor
www.celebrationLC.com

LO-0000171905

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia
734.464.0211 www.holytrinitylivonia.org

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion offered at all Services
5:00 pm Family Worship
7:00 pm Candlelight Worship
10:30 pm Festival Prelude of Christmas Music
11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day
11:00 am Holy Communion

This is Christ's church. There's a place for you here.




LO-0000171905

Extra Holiday Cash Just Announced

the during dream big sales event⁶

**PLUS
RECEIVE A SYNC
AND SOUND PACKAGE
WORTH \$1,199 AT
NO CHARGE!⁵**

2014 FOCUS SE FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**26 city /
36 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 2.0L Ti-VCT Direct-Injection Flex-Fuel I-4 Engine • Ambient Lighting
- Leather-Wrapped Steering Wheel & Shifter
- Leather-Trimmed Seats with Six-Way Power Driver's Seat
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio with Six-Month Subscription (not available in AL or HI)
- SelectShift® Six-Speed Automatic Transmission

\$169
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees!
\$629 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

2014 FUSION SE FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**22 city /
34 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 2.5L Duratec® I-4 engine
- AdvanceTrac® with Electronic Stability Control
- SYNC® with MyFord® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System³
- SecuriCode™ Keyless-Entry Keypad
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio
- Upgraded Heated Exterior Mirrors with Signal Indicator and Puddle Lamps

\$199
PER MONTH
LEASE

FOR EVERYONE!
\$2,538 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

2014 ESCAPE SE FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**23 city /
32 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 1.6L GTDI EcoBoost® Engine
- 6-Speed SelectShift® Automatic Transmission
- SecuriCode™ Keyless-Entry Keypad
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio with 6-month Prepaid Subscription • SYNC® with MyFord® Voice-Activated Communications & Entertainment System³
- SecuriLock® Passive Anti-Theft System

\$199
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees!
\$1,012 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

2013 EDGE SE FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**19 city /
27 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
- Reverse Sensing System
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
- SecuriCode™ Keyless Entry Keypad
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio
- Voice-Activated SYNC®³

\$209
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees!
\$1,329 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

2014 FLEX SEL FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**18 city /
25 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine
- 6-Speed SelectShift® Automatic Transmission with shifter button activation
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control®
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio
- Power Liftgate • Rear View Camera
- SYNC® with MyFord Touch®³

\$259
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees!
\$1,506 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

2014 TAURUS SEL FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**19 city /
29 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
- AdvanceTrac® with Electronic Stability Control
- Dual-Zone Electronic Automatic Temperature Control • Perimeter Anti-Theft Alarm
- SYNC® with MyFord® Voice-Activated Communications & Entertainment System³

\$259
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees!
\$1,064 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

2014 EXPLORER XLT FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**17 city /
24 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V6
- SYNC® with MyFord Touch®
- Rearview Camera
- Leather-Trimmed, Heated Front Bucket Seats
- SYNC® with MyFord®³ • SiriusXM Satellite Radio
- AdvanceTrac® with RSC®
- Safety Canopy® System

\$279
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees!
\$1,185 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

2013 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4



EPA-estimated rating of
**14 city /
19 highway
MPG**

This Vehicle Features:

- 5.0L V8 Ti-VCT V-8 Engine
- 6-speed SelectShift® Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
- Reverse Sensing System
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio
- Sync® with MyFord®³

\$279
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees!
\$1,100 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

Offers end January 2nd!



Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers
thinkfordfirst.com



(1) Not all customers qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low-mileage lease. Some payments higher; some lower. Residency restrictions apply. Payment includes \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash for RCL/RCO customers who currently lease a Ford product and lease again through Ford Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/2/14. See dealer for details. (2) EPA-estimate based on 2014 Focus SE FWD 2.0L Ti-VCT direct-injection I-4 engine 26 city/36 hwy/30 combined MPG; 2014 Fusion SE FWD 2.5L Duratec I-4 engine 22 city/34 highway/26 combined MPG; 2014 Escape SE FWD 1.6L EcoBoost® I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 23 city/32 hwy/26 combined MPG; 2013 Edge SE FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine 19 city/27 hwy/22 combined MPG; 2013 Flex SEL FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine EPA estimated rating of 18 city/25 highway/20 combined MPG. 2014 Taurus SEL FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine 19 city/29 hwy/23 combined MPG and 2013 F-150 XLT 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 FFV engine EPA estimated rating of 14 city/19 hwy/16 combined MPG. Actual mileages will vary. (3) Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. (4) Sound and Sync Package with leather seating valued at \$1,190 on package 201A. Sound & Sync discount excludes "S" model. See dealer for details. (5) Not all lessees will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low-mileage lease. Must lease through Ford Credit. Some payments higher; some lower. Residency restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/2/14. See dealer for details. (6) All applicable incentives are included in the lease payments shown above.

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Homes • Wheels • Pets • Services

JOBS

careerbuilder.com
A GANNETT COMPANY

By Beth Braccio Hering
Special to CareerBuilder

Worried that age might be a strike against you when applying for a job? Present yourself the right way and experts agree that you can turn that potential negative into one of your selling points.

"The key for older job seekers is to embrace rather than hide from what they have to offer future employers," says Tamryn Hennessy, national director of career development for Rasmusen College. "A lifetime of a variety of employments, household and family obligations and volunteer accomplishments can be assembled into a résumé and interview that a younger job seeker simply cannot offer."

So get set to put your experience to good use by doing these three things:

1. Concentrate on the job

If you spend your time demonstrating how you are the right candidate for the position, age need not even enter into the equation. "Not even enter into the equation," states Martha Finney, a Santa Fe-based employee engagement and career management consultant and co-author of "Unlock the Hidden Job Market." "Focus on who you are and how what you bring to the table would meet the company's strategic objectives."

Hennessy suggests highlighting your suitability right from the start by looking at the key action words from the job description (such as "analyze," "design," "inspect," etc.) and matching them to your history. "Focus on your past experiences including non-industry, volunteer and family obligations where you have demonstrated accomplishments under these action word categories. Use the exact same action word and apply it to your experience, always being sure to offer quantifiable results."

Proving your age is an asset in a job search



2. Have confidence in your past

Lavie Margolin, author of "Lion Cub Job Search: Practical Job Search Assistance for Practical Job Seekers," advises mature job seekers to get in the mindset that age is a strength. "As opposed to a recent college graduate filled only with potential, the mature worker can demonstrate a track record of accomplishment throughout his career."

Let your years of real-life experience shine by presenting evidence of qualities employers value.

These may include:

- The ability to meet deadlines
- Loyalty to a company, industry or cause
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Problem-solving skills
- A strong work ethic
- Leadership
- Teamwork

To generate ideas, look at past performance reviews. Not only will this help provide concrete examples, but select words of praise to be incorporated into your application or interview to add credibility (as in, "My direct supervisor at company X noted in my evaluation that my thorough research on our three main competitors was instrumental to selecting the launch date of our newest product.").

3. Have equal confidence in your future

If worries over new methods or technologies are putting a dent in your confidence, take a class or two to get up to speed. Since one of the greatest fears about hiring older workers is that they are too set in their ways, this action to learn new things and willingness to learn new things, will allow also can show employers your enthusiasm for continual growth.

By law, age should not be a

consideration for employment, yet many job seekers receive subtle (and not so subtle) clues that it may be an issue. If concerns about age do come up, try to tactfully redirect the conversation back to your abilities. Another tactic is to show that you are comfortable and happy with where you are. "Stress the great stage of life you are entering, one with fewer family distractions that will allow you to be the most reliable and dedicated employee possible," Hennessy suggests. Also worth pointing out: "Younger workers may have less understanding of what they want to do exactly in their career," Margolin notes. "An older worker has a better understanding of his interests and how they fit best into the market."

Watch, too, that you aren't blaming age when there is actually a different problem. "Don't assume you're increasing your

chances of landing a job by applying for jobs that are beneath your experience level," Finney notes. "Overqualified for the position" isn't always code for "too old." Hiring managers wisely prefer candidates who are appropriate for the job level, so if you're experiencing a long string of application rejections, don't lower your sights, raise them. Only go after jobs that appropriate for your skill sets and experiences."

Finally, remember that employers want to hire likeable people who fit into company culture and can do their job. Treating interviewers as friendly equals and relating to them with relaxed confidence never goes out of style.

Beth Braccio Hering researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder.com. Follow @ CareerBuilder on Twitter.

JOBS
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Help Wanted - General
APPLICANTS for Residential Cleaning Co. \$10/hr. + mileage & travel time. No nights/weekends. 734-812-5683

Help Wanted - General
BOOKKEEPER
Full-charge duties for multi-family property mgmt. Co. in Farmington 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 EOE

Help Wanted - General
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE
For Award Winning Automotive Dealership is seeking a talented Business Development Representative for our call center located in Westland, MI. Please Contact Jackie at 734-421-1300

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

Help Wanted - General
CARPET CLEANING TECHS & ASSISTANTS
Must have exp., good driving record & Great communication skills, pass drug test. Come work for the best. Join our team at MIDWEST! 5 locations, great pay & benefits. Call Doug: 734-260-1645 or email: warren@midwestcarpet.com

Help Wanted - General
CNC LATHE/MILL
Programmer/Machinist MasterCAM experience needed. Full time with benefits. Email to: jurgent1@fleetwoodtool.com

Help Wanted - General
CUSTOMER SERVICE:
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri 9-5: 734-728-4572 or email: phonenumber@aol.com

Help Wanted - General
DELIVERY/SALES \$800 A WEEK!!
Nationwide Company 5 full time positions Driver's license needed Call Jackie: 248-596-9910

Help Wanted - General
DIRECT CARE: Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations & shifts! Must be at least 18 yrs old, have valid MI Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, OH

Help Wanted - General
DIRECT CARE STAFF
Work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland. (734) 722-4580 x9
O&E Media Classifieds Just a quick call away... 800-579-7355

Help Wanted - General
Fleet Maintenance (PT/Entry Level)
The City of Novi For job description and application visit: www.cityofnovi.org Submit completed City application to: HumanResources@cityofnovi.org Or fax: (248) 735-5698 Apply promptly. EOE

Help Wanted - General
JOB FAIR
verizon
Now Hiring Full Time:
• Sales Associates
• Store Managers
Hiring for Canton, Livonia, Westland, Southfield, Lincoln Park, Taylor, and Clinton Township Weds, Dec. 18th, 12pm-6pm 46540 Michigan Ave Canton MI 48188 765-517-0672

Help Wanted - General
OFFICE CLEANING
EVENING HOURS Need cleaners in Novi Area MON-FRI CORPORATE CLEANING GROUP 248-313-9465

Help Wanted - General
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work with Michigan's #1 REALTOR
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Earn High Commission Income Rapidly Expanding Real Estate Market
Start Earning Commissions Right Away
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• Work Your Schedule
• You Determine Your Income
• Bonus Programs
• Health/Life/Disability/Retirement
• Full Time Support Staff
Pat Ryan, REALTOR (734) 591-9200 PatRyan@RealEstateOne.com

Help Wanted - General
RELIGIOUS FORMATION SECRETARY
for St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton. Requires basic secretarial duties, excellent computer & tech skills. Also physical lifting and movement in fast paced environment. Part-Time 15hrs/wk. Please send your résumé & cover letter to: Sabrina Queen, Religious Formation Director, squeen@stjohnneumann.us

Help Wanted - General
REACH MORE potential employees with an O&E Media RECRUITMENT PACKAGE!
1-800-579-7355 hometownlife.com

Help Wanted - General
NEW YEAR NEW CAREER
Weed Man Lawn Care is looking for outgoing, competitive Inside Sales Reps with excellent communication skills to join our team in January. Part time, up to \$14/hr Mon - Thurs, 6-9pm & Sat 9am-1pm. Call/email to join our team today! 248-477-4880 wolle@radicoservices.com

Help Wanted - Medical
DIRECT CARE WORKERS - ASL
Waterford, MI
Requirements:
• Fluent in American Sign Language Skills
• DCW Cert Training (CLS, MORC, TTI, NSO, Hazey, etc.)
• CPR & First Aid Cert
• Valid MI Drivers License (No Suspension History)
ENHANCE, INC.
248-919-4287
EMAIL RESUME TO: cfeeman@enhance-inc.com

Help Wanted - Medical
DIRECT CARE WORKERS
Full Time Evergreen
Midnight, Clarkston, Livonia, Inkster, West Bloomfield, Lake Orion, Waterford, & South Lyon.
Requirements:
• DCW Certification (CLS, MORC, TTI, NSO, Hazey, etc.)
• CPR & First Aid Cert
• Valid MI Drivers License (No Suspension History)
ENHANCE, INC.
248-919-4287
EMAIL RESUME TO: JOBS@ENHANCE-INC.COM

Help Wanted - Medical
DIRECT CARE WORKERS
needed for position in Canton and Westland. \$9/hr. FT/PT 734-637-8143, 248-471-9168

Help Wanted - Medical
MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Pediatric office in Livonia. Exp req. approx 30 hrs/wk 734-591-0220

Help Wanted - Medical
MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Full Time for busy internal medicine office. Must be experienced, well organized and able to multi task. Berkeley area. Fax resume: 248-541-0232

Help Wanted - Medical
Food - Beverage

Help Wanted - Medical
BOB'S PIZZA PALACE
20510 W 7 Mile 5 BLKS West of Evergreen 313-538-2742
PIZZA MAKER:
Must be Exp'd w/brick ovens
COOK
Exp'd w/dishwashers and grill
DRIVERS:
Earn \$10-\$15/hr or more
PHONE PERSONNEL
Professional & Friendly
MUST Apply In Person

Help Wanted - Medical
IMMEDIATELY HIRING!
•COOKS •WAITSTAFF
•BARTENDER Exp. a must. Apply in person: Starting Gate, 135 N. Center St., Northville.
O&E Media Classifieds Just a quick call away... 800-579-7355

Help Wanted - Domestic
HOUSEKEEPER WANTED
Days, Part-Time, \$8-\$12/hr. Call between 9-5pm. (734) 394-0864

Cash in with Classifieds
800-579-SELL

CASH IN with O&E Media's CLASSIFIEDS
800-579-SELL

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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.



Maybe the Grass IS Greener...

You'll never know if you don't look. Take a peek today, and browse hundreds of local job opportunities from a variety of exciting employers.

O&E Media's Jobs Section
In Print & Online

Search hometownlife.com
To advertise, call: 800-579-7355

O&E MEDIA
Observer & Eccentric Media

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - Domestic

ASSISTANT / HELPER
To provide transportation and care taking services for an active disabled person in and around community. \$11.50/hr. Seeking personable, high-energy individual. 734-718-6928

Position Wanted

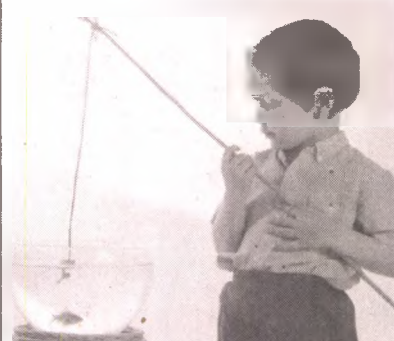
Experienced & Dependable
Housekeeper looking for work in private home. 248-474-3650

NURSING AID E WILL DO
babysitting, housekeeping, booking & errands, will travel. Call: 734-778-4212

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

Childcare Needed
NANNY NEEDED
For Farmington Hills family. \$9-10/hr. 20 hrs/week. Must have valid driver's license. 734-537-8143

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800-579-7355

Observer & Eccentric Media

CONTACT US AT:
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www.hometownlife.com
oeads@hometownlife.com

DEADLINES:

Fri. at 4 pm for Sunday
Tues. at 3 pm for Thursday

NEWSPAPER POLICY

All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department.)

Observer & Eccentric Media
615 W. Lafayette Blvd.,
Detroit, MI 48226
866-887-2737

We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order.

Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper & only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads the first time it appears & reporting any 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 will be credited.

Publishers Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis.

Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter & spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage & support an affirmative advertising & marketing program in which there are no barriers.

DISCLAIMER: All classified ads are subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from our Advertising Dept. All ads are subject to approval before publication. Observer & Eccentric Media reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time.

Errors must be reported in the first day of publication. Observer & Eccentric Media shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refunds for early cancellation of order.

NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER, Find Your Next Job Here!

Find your next job opportunity here, in the Observer & Eccentric Media Employment section. We have listings every week in the following communities:

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- 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 Employment Guide call:

1-800-579-SELL



ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE!

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 join our team.

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

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

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

Our Company

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 and anywhere.

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: lvern@annett.com. Attn: Sales Please specify the territory you are interested in on the subject line of your email. EEOC



Challenging fun for ALL ages Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

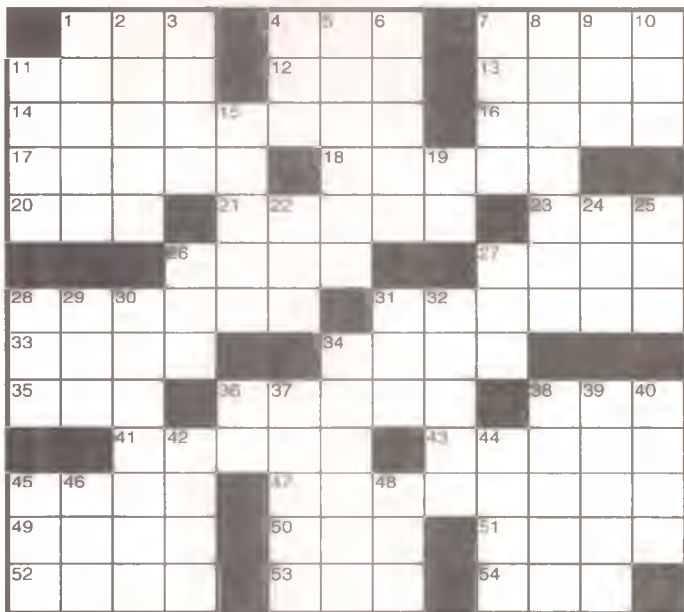
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Soap pad brand
 - "Lettuce pray," e.g.
 - Hangs back
 - White-water transport
 - She loved Lennon
 - fixe
 - Uncertainty
 - Soften
 - Name in tractors
 - Early moralist
 - Make a mistake
 - Cancels
 - Barge pusher
 - X-rated
 - Leap in a tutu
 - Gambles
 - Poor, as soil
 - Cousteau's middle name
 - Weeps
 - Above, to a bard
- DOWN**
- Less risky
 - Volunteer
 - Cook in a wok
 - "The Gold-Bug" author
 - Not mentioned
 - Sniffed at

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	E	G	G	T	N	T	S	A	W	N
R	A	N	I	R	Y	E	E	L	I	A
S	T	U	B	B	I	E	R	M	I	S
			B	O	B	S	T	I	T	C
M	A	K	O	E	P	E	E	S		
O	M	E	N	S		O	L	D	B	O
R	E	G		T	H	E	Y	D	L	G
E	S	S		Y	O	M		Y	I	E
			P	L	U	S	H		C	U
E	N	S	U	E	D		U	N	I	
P	E	E	L		I	N	N	U	E	N
I	R	A	S		N	E	T		S	O
C	O	T	E		I	D	S		T	B

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Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

COUNTRY STAR WORD SEARCH

WORDS

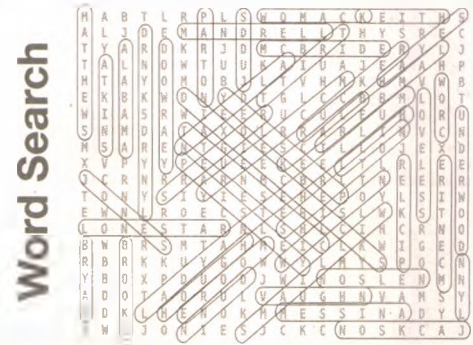
M	A	B	T	L	R	P	L	S	W	H	A	C	K	E	I	T	H	S	A	L	B	A	M	A	L	J	D	E	M	A	N	D	R	E	L	L	T	H	Y	S	R	E	C	T	Y	A	R	D	K	R	J	D	M	C	B	R	I	D	E	R	Y	L	J	T	A	L	N	O	W	T	U	K	A	I	U	A	J	E	A	A	H	P	H	T	A	Y	O	M	B	J	L	T	V	H	M	K	H	M	V	W	B	E	K	B	K	W	D	N	Y	D	T	G	L	C	C	B	B	H	L	O	T	W	I	A	S	R	W	I	E	E	R	U	C	U	L	E	U	H	O	R	U	S	N	M	D	A	T	A	X	D	L	R	R	A	R	L	I	N	V	C	N	M	S	A	R	E	N	T	G	I	E	S	C	T	L	L	O	J	E	X	D	X	V	P	Y	Y	P	E	U	E	K	E	L	T	L	R	E	E	J	C	R	N	R	R	A	R	N	M	C	B	R	L	T	N	E	R	E	T	O	N	Y	S	I	Y	I	E	S	E	H	E	P	O	Y	L	S	I	W	E	W	N	L	R	O	E	C	S	T	E	H	I	S	L	W	K	S	T	O	L	O	N	E	S	T	A	R	N	L	S	H	L	C	I	H	C	R	N	O	B	W	B	R	S	M	T	A	H	M	E	I	C	L	K	W	I	G	E	D	R	B	R	K	K	U	Y	G	O	W	Y	L	N	Y	S	P	O	C	N	Y	B	O	X	P	D	U	D	J	W	I	N	D	S	L	E	N	M	N	A	D	O	T	A	O	R	U	L	V	A	U	G	H	N	V	A	M	S	Y	L	N	D	K	L	H	E	N	O	K	M	E	S	S	I	N	A	D	Y	L	P	W	S	J	O	N	I	E	S	J	C	K	C	N	O	S	K	C	A	J
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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Car Report

Advertising Feature

New Acura MDX Is Worthy of Accolades – and Customers



By Dale Buss

to accompany the introduction of the MDX.

And the brand was absolutely right: the MDX nameplate and, by extension, the entire Acura franchise has taken a significant leap forward with the new Acura MDX and its reception by American consumers, competitors and the automotive press.

In fact, MDX was just named one of three finalists for the highly coveted North American Truck-Utility of the Year Award that will be presented at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January. The other two finalists are the Jeep Cherokee and Chevrolet Silverado, each of which represents a crucial entry for their respective brands. Car of the Year finalists are the Cadillac CTS, Mazda3 and Chevrolet Corvette Stingray.

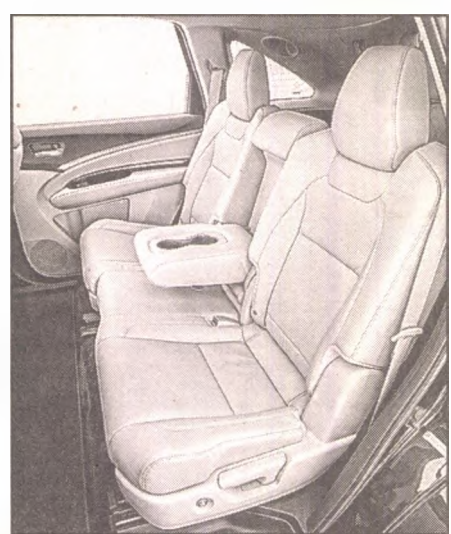
Another important evaluator, U.S. News & World Report, ranks the 2014 Acura MDX No. 2 in luxury midsize SUVs out of 19 models considered and rates it an "excellent pick" among seven-seat luxury midsize SUVs.

Acura MDX is a worthy choice because the vehicle represents the most refined effort yet by the brand to present a refined vehicle inside and out. In arguably the most important segment of the U.S. auto market, Acura has delivered in the completely redesigned new MDX a stiff competitor to rivals such as Toyota Highlander, Buick Enclave, BMW X5

and Audi Q5 and Q7. Highlights include a higher-quality and quieter interior, a new control interface and improved fuel economy.

But with this vehicle the sum is greater than those improved parts. The entire experience of driving the Acura MDX now rivals that provided by anything else in the segment, and it has become the strongest testimony yet to Honda's long-declared plans to shake up its Acura lineup and transform the brand and products into a credible rival across the board not only to Japanese competitors Infiniti and Lexus but also to European luxury brands.

Previous versions of MDX shared a platform with the big Honda Pilot SUV and previous generations of Honda Odyssey minivans. But with the new MDX, the company moved to a new platform that provides multiple benefits, including slight boost in interior room and major improvements in driving dynamics. Within the cabin are useful new features such as a second row that slides forward with the simple touch of a button to facilitate



Second-row seats slide forward easily for third-row access.



The 2014 Acura MDX is a Truck-Utility of the Year finalist.

third-row access, although the last row of seats isn't suitable for two adults for any sort of distance.

Meanwhile, a 7-inch touchscreen largely replaces the confusing array of buttons and knobs that dominated the center console of previous models. The new look of the controls also is cleaner and more modern. And in the category of creature comforts where Acura used to short-change luxury customers and undermine its brand, MDX now delivers with touches such as a steering wheel wrapped in thick leather and upgraded interior materials over previous models.

Another significant change for the 2014 Acura MDX comes under the hood. The previous version had a 3.7-liter V6; the new one comes with a 3.5-liter V6. Though the new engine provides 10 less horsepower than the old one, it makes up for that shortfall in other ways. There is more low-end torque thanks to fuel-injection technology, for one thing – Acura says the new model gets from zero to 60mph a half-second quicker due largely to a 275-pound reduction in curb weight.

Just as important is a 17-percent in combined mpg in the new ver-

sion, up to an estimated 20 mpg in the city and 28 mpg on the highway with a newly available front-wheel-drive option.

Fortunately, the new MDX has proven to be a good vehicle for Acura's biggest-ever marketing campaign that it launched last summer to support the new SUV. The multi-channel initiative comprised a \$39-million effort that would be the biggest launch in brand history in terms of scope and dollars, Acura executives said at the time.

Under the tag-line "Made for Mankind," the ads took an oblique approach to promoting the MDX by highlighting the "synergy between man and machine" with images such as people scuba-diving in underwater caves, scrambling up large trees and teaching movements to a robot. The idea was to get viewers to connect emotionally to the brand and its expression in the new vehicle.

Especially Millennial viewers who might be putting together families and have expanding wherewithal that would make MDX a good choice for them.

And with this new vehicle, Acura now has a better shot at them.

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