

SUNDAY
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2009

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Newspapers

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75 CENTS

Dodson students become published poets – Education, A4

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Tour homes decorated for the holidays – Neighbors, B6

CANTON CONNECTION

Light the tree

Community members are invited to attend the 31st annual tree-lighting ceremony 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Summit on the Park and Heritage Park in Canton.

The event will feature sights and sounds of the season, in addition to a variety of festive indoor and outdoor activities, including seasonal entertainment, children's crafts, refreshments, and carriage rides with hot cocoa. The event will also include a special visit from Santa and one of his trusted reindeer.

The official lighting ceremony will take place outside the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, at 7 p.m. There is no admission to this event, but some activities may require a small fee.

For more information, call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.cantonfun.org.

Stuff a bus

Staffers and volunteers for 96.3 WDV D will stuff three buses full of new toys Friday through Monday, Dec. 4-7, at several locations, including the Borders parking lot in Canton.

The 96.3 WDV D Morning Show, Blaine and Lisa with Allyson, will kick off this year's Stuff-A-Bus toy drive by broadcasting live Friday, from the bus located at Woodward and 13 Mile roads. DJs will continue to broadcast live over the weekend at all three locations, including Borders on Ford Road in Canton, Woodward and 13 Mile roads in Royal Oak and The Village of Rochester Hills.

Toys will benefit local charities including Beaumont Children's Hospital, Canton Goodfellows, Ronald McDonald House, Neighborhood Service Organization, Lighthouse, Orchards Children's Services, Volunteers of America, Bridgepoint, Detroit Rescue Mission Missionaries and others.

The event is sponsored by Beaumont Hospitals, The Village of Rochester Hills, Shop Canton and General RV. School buses are provided by: Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Rochester Community Schools and Royal Oak Neighborhood & Schools.

Special session

Because many of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education's presentations are for specific PTO and service organizations, it wanted to offer a program for the general public.

Anyone living within the PCCS district boundary is invited to attend this special session 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the E.J. McClendon Education Center, 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth. Among agenda items: swearing in of recently elected school board members.



Heather McPherson tries to load a box that's just a little too big for the back of her car. The Ypsilanti resident was shopping at Target on Michigan Avenue in Canton.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Black (Friday) gold Shoppers do post-Thanksgiving deal hunting

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Linda Robin thinks the economy tanked at about this time last year, causing people to panic and rein in their spending habits and slowing down the post-Thanksgiving Black Friday shopping season.

This year, said the owner of Showroom of Elegance in Canton, people seem to have made adjustments and are back on the shopping trail.

"Everything hit this time last year and people were too much in a panic to do anything," said Robin, whose Showroom of Elegance jewelry store showed a steady flow of customers on Black Friday. "I think people are adjusting, and they're going to have their Christmas (this year). They might be spending less money, but they're still buying."

Jessica Ponce was one of those doing some spending. The Ypsilanti woman was up and at 'em by 6 a.m. Friday and, caught outside Kohl's in Canton, she said shoppers can beat the bad economy by finding the right bargains.

"You have to start early to catch the good deals, or they're gone by 6:30," Ponce said. "The economy doesn't affect it as much if you catch the good deals."



At Showroom of Elegance in Canton, 10-year-old Nina Pascua tries on a Pandora bracelet and charm. Felicia Wroblewski helps her. Nina's mom, Kim Pascua, said they were out shopping for gifts for others "and a little something for ourselves." The Pascuas live in Plymouth.

That's why people were lined up outside Kohl's when employees started arriving at 3 a.m., then streamed through the doors an hour later. By noon, the Michigan Avenue store was still crowded.

"It's busy, better than last year," said Kohl's store manager Alice Barthelme. "I think people are tired of hearing the 'blah, blah, blah,' all the sad news, and want to do something cheery."

In the central court at Westland Shopping Center, Marilyn Best

of Canton was busy reading a Penney's holiday shopper, baby-sitting the bags of her fellow shoppers.

"My hip went out, I think I have sciatica," she said. "They gave me this at Penney's, this is all I have to read. I've seen a lot of deals, a lot for me in it. Next year, I'm bringing a book."

Best hoped her hip would stop hurting long enough to make it to

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Aviation school OK'd despite objections

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton will become home to an aviation vocational training school despite strong opposition from nearby residents who fear their property values could be eroded by noise and traffic from a facility expected to draw hundreds of students.

But local officials and representatives for the Michigan Institute of Aviation Technology sought to ease the concerns Tuesday as the Canton Township Board of Trustees gave sweeping approval to two measures — a rezoning and special land use request — to accommodate the school.

MIAT intends next year to consolidate facilities from Willow Run Airport and New

Boston inside a two-building, 124,905-square foot Canton facility that formerly housed a La-Z-Boy furniture distribution center, east of Haggerty between Palmer and Michigan Avenue.

MIAT President Charles Hawes said the site will house a vocational training school with as many as 750 students and 120 employees on the 10-acre site.

Township officials embraced MIAT's plans to occupy a vacant building, but several residents of the Woodcreek subdivision — west of Haggerty kitty-corner to the site — left Tuesday's meeting saying they felt deflated that a proposal by one business outweighed the concerns of 88 homeowners.

"Obviously we're disappointed," one homeowners association leader, Kim Michael, said.

From a technical perspective, the township board rezoned the property from Light Industrial Research to Light Industrial 2 — and approved a special land use — so that MIAT could open its school on the site and potentially create outdoor noise by having students perform tests on aircraft engines.

Woodcreek resident Diana Dowdell questioned why the township would allow additional noise near a neighborhood she said already is bothered by the loudness of I-275 traffic, overhead airplanes and nearby trains.

But Hawes said if MIAT does test aircraft engines outdoors, it will comply with township ordinances requiring noise lev-

Please see **SCHOOL, A3**

New SOS office drawing raves

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A line formed outside Canton's new Secretary of State office — one of Michigan's largest — before employees even opened the doors for business Wednesday morning.

Yet it didn't take drivers long to handle their business once they entered the 6,000-square-foot West Wayne County PLUS office, nestled in the Golden Gate shopping center on Lilley south of Joy.

"It was really quick," Canton resident Kerri Krafft said, after stopping in and getting her picture taken for her new driver's license.

Accompanied by sons Cameron, 3, Ethan, 6, and Andrew, 9, Krafft first drove to the former SOS office on Ford Road near Sheldon, only to find it had been closed and replaced recently by the newer, bigger PLUS facility, which offers a wider array of services.

"I think it's very nice," she said. "It's really clean."

Plymouth resident Alison Gumbel bought her new license plate tab just inside the front door by using a credit card at the new self-serve, ATM-style machine. She didn't miss the former long lines customers used to endure prior to their birthdays.

"It was wonderful. It was the best birthday present I could have gotten," Gumbel said, describing her visit as "excellent."

Secretary of State spokeswoman Kelly Chesney said during a telephone interview from Lansing that the new West Wayne County PLUS office is intended to get customers in and out quickly. Here's how:

- The larger facility allows the office to place more employees at the counter when business is brisk.

- Workers often greet patrons and make sure they have the documents they need even before they reach the counter.

- The self-serve station allows customers to renew their license tabs inside the front door lobby without even entering the main facility. The machine accepts Discover, MasterCard and Visa. "It's very easy to use," Chesney said.

- The office offers services such as same-day titles and on-the-spot driving records for people who may need them for prospective employers.

- The PLUS office has more senior staff members who can make what Chesney described as "complex decisions" once relegated to Lansing.

- Aside from business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, the office also has extended hours until 7 p.m. Wednesdays.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alison Gumbel of Plymouth uses the self-service station at the Secretary of State's office in Canton.

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Cherry Hill builder gets nod for 33 homes

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite a housing market slump, Canton's Cherry Hill Village will get a jump-start by a local builder who plans to construct 33 new single-family homes on the neighborhood's south end.

Livonia Builders has received the go-ahead after an earlier dispute with village residents was resolved when the two sides sat down with township officials for breakthrough talks that ended a contentious impasse.

"We're very pleased," said Steve Jaskowski, Cherry Hill Village Homeowners Association president.

Livonia Builders is expected to start the new construction

next spring or summer after a final site plan was approved Tuesday in a unanimous decision by the seven-member Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Residents southeast of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads had strongly objected to earlier plans they said strayed from the village concept by including a small community park, or green space, tucked away behind the new houses. They lobbied successfully for the homes to front the common area — a move they said maintains their neighborhood concept.

Residents continue to seek better solutions to storm-water drainage problems, possibly by pitching in money to address an issue they said

has caused some street flooding. Nonetheless, they said the major obstacle — the reconfiguration they sought for new homes and green space — has been resolved.

The new cottage- and village-style homes, with square footage roughly ranging from 1,600 to 2,400, are planned on a 5.6-acre site south of Jackson Lane between Harrison and Roosevelt, in a neighborhood that takes street names after U.S. presidents.

The new houses are expected to be placed on the market starting under \$200,000.

The new construction will follow hundreds of single-family homes and condominiums erected since construction began in 2001 in Cherry Hill Village, which also has a small

business strip along Cherry Hill Road.

Some business owners have said they would prefer the township place more emphasis on commercial growth, such as trying to lure a grocery store and restaurants to the area. Local leaders have said they are trying to pursue such interests — an effort made more difficult by an ailing economy.

Regardless, township Supervisor Phil LaJoy has held out hope that more housing in Cherry Hill could lead to more patrons for village businesses.

"I think this is great for the neighborhood," he said Tuesday, after the board's 7-0 vote.

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FRIDAY
FROM PAGE A1

Olga's Kitchen where she was meeting family members from New Jersey, New York and Indiana and the Detroit area for lunch at 11 a.m.

"It's a tradition; ah, that'll be a table for 10," she said.

Also baby-sitting bags was Colleen Myles of Canton whose sister, Eileen Veit of Bay City, was shopping in The Children's Place.

"We take turns with the stuff, we need to make a car run," she said.

The two sisters started

their day at 2 a.m. Toys R Us, and had managed to make it to Kohls J.C. Penney, Sears, Bath and Body Works and Macy's before stopping at The Children's Place. They planned to end their day at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

"We've been doing this for 13-14 years," she said. "We always go through the ads and create a plan of attack so we can get in and get out. It's a yearly tradition."

Staff writer Sue Mason contributed to this report.

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Renamed ice fest carves new course

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a new name, new features and new management, the Plymouth Ice Festival is ramping up for January.

The annual festival — no longer called the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular — will have a hometown focus and marketing and sponsorship opportunities that should help organizers raise money in a tough economy, said Sam Walton of Signature Audio, who has a one-year contract to produce the show.

"We have an excellent opportunity for us to highlight Michigan as a thriving, vibrant state, and we believe this is our responsibility as a community-based non-profit organization," Walton said.

The festival is Friday, Jan. 22, through Sunday, Jan. 24, in downtown Plymouth. Show details are still being worked out.

The festival board in September voted not to renew a deal with a longtime pro-



The northwoods tableau certainly fit the frigid temperatures at last year's ice festival. This year's event kicks off Jan. 22.

ducer Watts Up, Inc., instead awarding Walton a one-year contract, with board members saying they wanted to reinvigorate the show.

Walton said that, whenever possible, the festival will showcase Michigan ice-carvers and Michigan products (no Japanese carvers are expected), plus provide a

chance for community groups and service clubs to raise money and promote their programs.

Several features of the 2010 ice festival will be new or expanded, including:

- A "Dueling Chainsaws" speed-carving contest, which will give two sculptors just 15 minutes to carve designs that will be judged by the audience.
- A "Hot Spot" warming tent where vendors will show off their wares and offer samples, plus a larger Ice Sculpture Garden.
- A Jan. 22 opening ceremony in which a "ribbon" of ice will be cut to signal the kickoff of the show.

Walton also plans to enlist festival volunteers from local churches, schools and athletic teams. Volunteer opportunities and other information about the festival are expected to be posted on its Web site, www.plymouthicefestival.org, by the end of this month.

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SCHOOL

FROM PAGE A1

els not to exceed 70 decibels as students learn aviation maintenance and power-generating technology. He also said the school will erect a wall to deflect noise from Woodcreek.

"Our goal is to be a good corporate citizen in the community," Hawes said.

Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, among others, tried to reassure residents that township ordinances will be enforced.

"The township will protect your rights ...," she told residents.

Township officials also indicated that MIAT will install a right-turn lane on Haggerty Road to accommodate motorists entering the facility along bustling Haggerty Road, and Supervisor Phil LaJoy said local leaders will work with residents to address any traffic problems that may emerge, including students who may

drive through Woodcreek as a shortcut to other routes.

Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz, Canton's economic development manager, said she believes Hawes when he said MIAT will strive to address any issues that may arise.

"I truly believe he wants to be a good neighbor and a good corporate citizen," she said.

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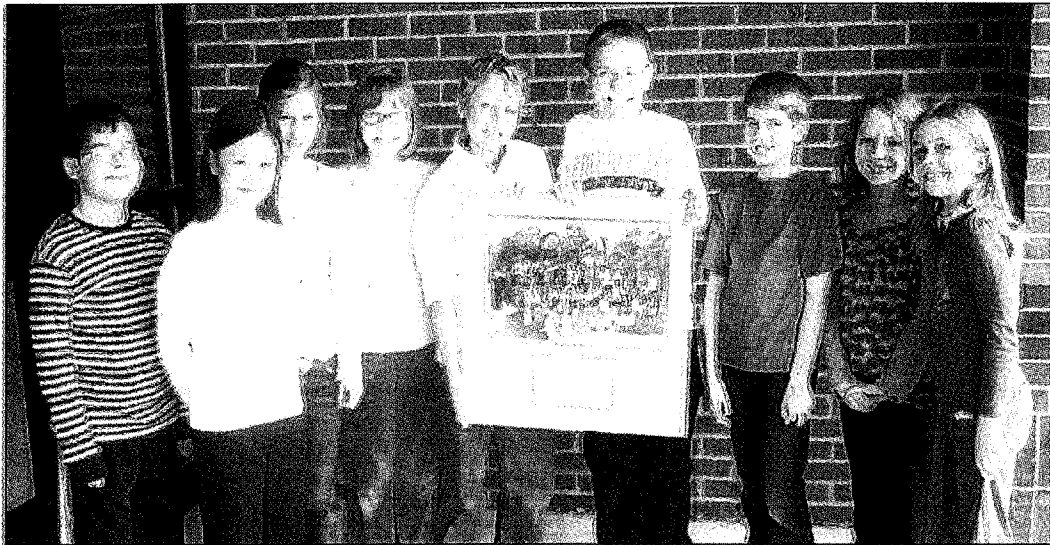
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EDUCATION



JENNIFER WILMARTH

Among poetry winners at Dodson Elementary School are (from left) Nicholas Borninski, Tatum Cho, Lauren Wood, Avery Teatsorth, Andrew Pascaris, Nathan Janice, Joshua Agius, Amelia Carey and Megan Flanigan.

Dodson students become published poets

BY MAGGIE WUNDERLICH
CORRESPONDENT

Nicholas Koh, a third-grader from Dodson Elementary School, said he's "proud and excited to see my poem in the book."

And he's not the only one with a reason to be proud. Recently, 128 students won the Young American Poetry Contest. In addition to a monetary award, their poems were published in the annual Young American Poetry Digest.

Another third grader, Megan Trulock, said, "It feels really cool because the poem was good enough to be in a book."

Fifth grader Naabia Romain agreed and said, "It's exciting that my poem was in a book for the second year."

The Digest is sponsored by the National Schools Project, which was designed to promote students' interest in writing and their enjoyment of poetry. This national contest is open to students in grades 2-5, from both public and private schools, and throughout

the U.S. and Canada.

Each year, the contest has a different focus and this one was on haiku poetry.

The students' hard work paid off and now they can see their published poems.

"It's fun to have my poem published in a book," said Isabel Anderson, a third grader. "When I started writing the poem, I was just writing, and then it turned out better than I thought," said Marisa Rowland, a fifth grader.

Another fifth grader, Hunter Hall, thought it was "pretty cool because our school got the second most winning poems."

Dodson is the second school in the nation to have the most accepted poems published in the Digest. The monetary award was used to buy a large frame for a picture of the poetry contest winners.

The picture is proudly displayed in the school and "serves as a daily reminder of what students can achieve when they put forth effort," said Dodson principal Dan Carr.

According to Bonnie

Goodrich, Dodson's Reading Interventionist, several students also won the 2008 National Student Poetry Contest, sponsored by The American Library of Poetry. The poems were judged on their creativity, originality and artistic quality.

The American Library of Poetry's mission is to "continue to fan the flames of literacy in America." As an award, the poems were published in *Brilliance*. This is no small feat, since this national contest receives thousands of submissions from students, in grades 3-12, each year.

Goodrich said, "Our writers are thrilled to have their work published," said Goodrich, who said she believes this this experience promotes the students' eagerness to write.

As the school year progresses, the students continue to write for an "outside audience." In fact, the fourth graders look forward to their annual Poetry Night at Barnes & Noble in spring 2010. For more information about this upcoming event, please contact Bonnie Goodrich at Bonnie.Goodrich@pecsmail.

Marshall scholar

Austin McKinney of Canton has been named as a 2010 Marshall Scholarship winner.

McKinney, a cadet 1st class (senior) at the U.S. Air Force Academy, is the 11th Marshall Scholar for USAFA. He plans to receive two separate master's degrees, one in Latin American Studies, and another in Globalization and Latin American Development at the University of London in England.



McKinney

"It is an honor to be chosen for such an award," McKinney said. "I will be proud to represent the U.S. Air Force in the United

Kingdom for two years."

Ranked top of the 2010 class academically, McKinney is majoring in management with a minor in Spanish. He has participated in a language immersion program to Nerja, Spain, spent a semester abroad to Tecnológico de Monterrey, a university in Querétaro, Mexico, and more recently had a role in a Georgetown University Political Science and Economics Study Program in Prague, Czech Republic.

While in Mexico he collected more than 100 hours of community service teaching children mathematics and basic English. C1C McKinney's generosity doesn't end there. He has also worked as a volunteer teacher in the local agriculture markets of Quito, Ecuador,

and mentored a child in the Colorado Springs community while serving as a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"I grew up in a service oriented family - my father was an Air Force officer and my mom was a teacher," McKinney said, adding that they "taught to always give back to others when possible."

Marshall Scholarships finance up to 40 young Americans of high ability to study for a degree at a school of their choosing in the United Kingdom each year, according to the Marshall Scholarship Web site.

Sell-a-Thon

CMU senior Ben Eberlein of Plymouth earned a second-place honor in the Pro-Am Sell-a-Thon competition at Pi Sigma Epsilon's North Central Regional Conference Nov. 7 at The Ohio State University.

Eberlein was coached on conceptual sales techniques by a sales professional, after which he presented a mock sales call to a panel of judges. Eberlein, along with six of his fellow chapter members, competed against students from the University of Toledo, Indiana University, The Ohio State University, Miami University of Ohio, Purdue University and the University of Akron.

Eberlein will receive a complimentary package for the Pi Sigma Epsilon National Convention in April, where he will have the opportunity to compete for cash prizes.

A graduate of Canton High School, Eberlein is the son of George and Mary Eberlein.



Eberlein

Pi Sigma Epsilon is the nation's only professional business fraternity for men and women interested in marketing, sales man-

agement and selling. CMU began the first Pi Sigma Epsilon chapter in the state of Michigan at CMU in the fall of 2009.

For additional news from Central Michigan University visit its online newsroom at <http://www.news.cmich.edu>

Hope College

Hope College students Kevin Souby of Plymouth and Jessica Zomermaand from Canton, are studying off-campus during the 2009 fall semester.

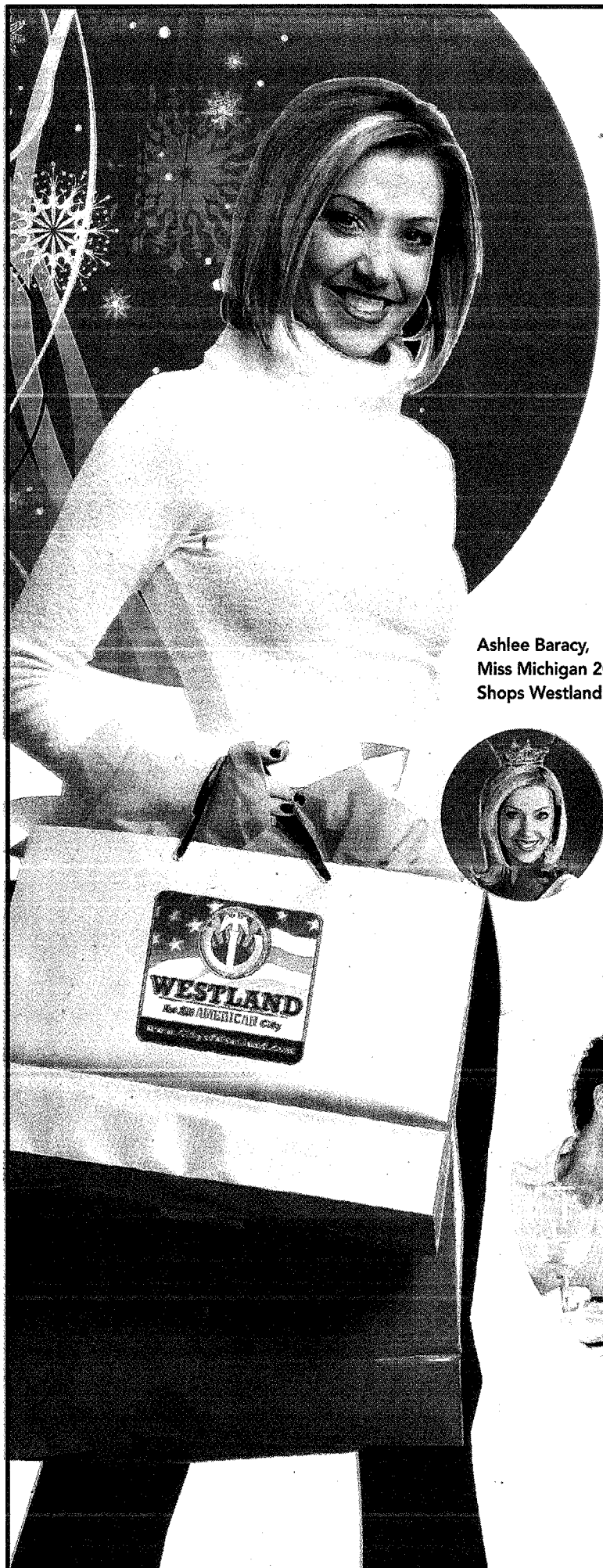
Souby, a junior, is studying in Geneva, Switzerland, through SIT Study Abroad. He is the son of David and Carol Souby of Plymouth and a 2007 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

Zomermaand, a junior, is studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina, through a CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) program. She is the daughter of Michael and Barbara Zomermaand of Canton and a 2007 graduate of Canton High School.

• Brendan Krueger of Canton graduated Cum Laude from Hope College.

Cum Laude honors are awarded to graduates who achieved a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

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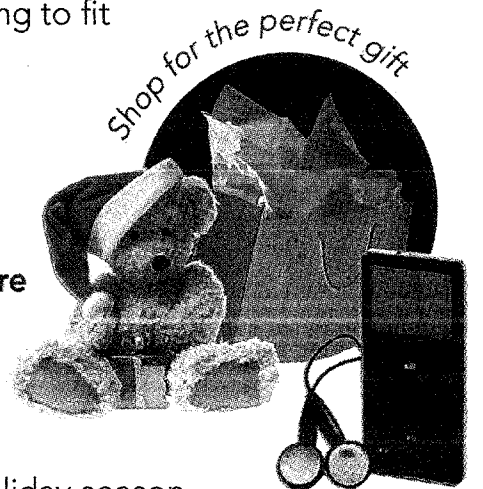
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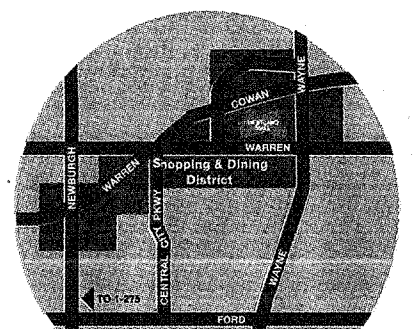
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Music an outlet for Canton songwriter

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At a recent party for his 50th birthday at his Canton home, Darrel Schwandt had friends attentive and listening as he played a song he wrote, produced and performed.

"It was a contest that TACOM conducted last summer," he said of his winning entry, "The TACOM Family."

He's a civilian contractor at the Tank Automotive and Armanents Command/Life Cycle Management Command, at the Detroit Arsenal-Garrison in Warren. That's part of the U.S. Army, with Schwandt working for NCI Information Systems Inc., based in Reston, Va.

All employees at the base in Warren and other sites in Texas, Alabama, Illinois, New York and California were eligible, including civilians like Schwandt. TACOM is a tenant at the Arsenal in Warren.

"They wanted an official song," he said. A committee did judging of songs to serve as an organizational motivator, "to kind of musically give them an identity."

Schwandt's song has a patriotic flavor, instilling pride in America and work done by the staffers. He enjoyed taking the idea and developing it.

Schwandt, married to Susan, plays the guitar and has studied music on the side for years. "For the most part, it's just my own creative outlet," he said.

The "Committed to Excellence" contest required a song of three minutes or less, with Schwandt's winning entry just over two-and-a-half minutes. He received an award and a two-star letter on official letterhead, along with recognition for others who entered.

Schwandt earned bachelor's and master's degrees in telecommunications from Michigan State University with a video production emphasis. He manages media services at the base, including graphics production, photog-

raphy, video conferencing and other areas. NCI was awarded the contract in 1998 and he's been there all that time and prior to that.

It took him over a week to write the song, which he reworked to polish it. TACOM LCMC (tacom.army.mil) LCMC, headquartered in Warren, is in partnership with the Army's Program Executive Offices. It's one of the Army's largest weapon

systems research, development, and sustainment organizations.

NCI (nciinc.com) offers information technology, engineering and professional solutions/services to federal government agencies, including the military's branches and agencies ranging from the General Accounting Office to NASA.

jbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755



Darrel Schwandt of Canton, debuting the song at Organization Day in Warren on Aug. 28. It's the annual event for employees and their families.

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VZBFS

Consider consequences when co-signing for loan

Q: Dear Rick: I have a dilemma and I would like your opinion.
I am a widower with three adult children. Five years ago, I remarried. My new wife is a widow and has two adult children from a previous marriage. We are both retired and our pensions and Social Security cover the bulk of our living expenses. Our house is paid off and we need anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 from our portfolio to maintain our lifestyle. Our combined portfolio is worth approximately \$400,000. Here's my dilemma. My



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I co-sign the loan? If I do is there anything I can do to protect myself?
A: When you co-sign a loan for someone it is important to understand what that really

entails. Basically, a co-signer situation is no different than if you were the borrower. The bank, if there is a default, can pursue you for the full amount of the debt. Even if your wife's son declares bankruptcy and is discharged from any personal liability, that does not relieve you of your obligation to repay the debt. Co-signing on a loan is no different than actually taking the loan yourself. Therefore, in dealing with your stepson, the question you have to ask is what is his ability to repay the debt?
I am making the assumption that he does not have the necessary collateral to secure

the debt. After all, he wouldn't need a co-signer if he had adequate collateral. Therefore, the issue is his ability to repay.
One thing you have to factor into the equation is that you are putting half of your investment assets at risk. To me, that is not prudent. Even if your stepson had a good track record of repaying debt and if the business venture was viable, I would not recommend co-signing the loan. After all, if something were to go wrong, your finances would be devastated. It is highly unlikely that you and your wife would be able to maintain your lifestyle if you were forced to make good on the loan.
The question you must ask yourself is, what if the loan is not repaid. If you can say to yourself, I will not be happy if the loan is not repaid, but it will not hurt me financially, that is one thing. However, that is not the case in this situation. If there was a default

on the loan and the guarantor was required to make the loan good, there would be severe financial distress for you. It is based upon this financial distress that I recommend you do not co-sign the loan.
Just because I recommend that you do not co-sign the loan does not mean that you can't offer some assistance. If nothing more, you should suggest to your stepson that he contact the U.S. Small Business Administration. The agency has a variety of loan programs available.
In today's difficult economic times, there is still a credit crunch, finding financing is difficult, however it is not impossible.
Another alternative may be to get a group together who could collectively co-sign the loan. If that is a possibility, you can work with the bank to put limits on each co-signer's potential liability. Obviously,

the main benefit to you is the fact that you would not have a substantial portion of your assets at risk.
It is difficult to say no to a loved one. However, there comes a time when you must look at your individual situation and be a little selfish. I believe whenever you loan money, co-sign a loan or provide other types of financial assistance to a loved one, you must consider the consequences if things go bad. In this situation, if things went bad, there would be severe consequences. Your lifestyle would be jeopardized. Therefore, before you get involved sit down and realistically look at the consequences.
Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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W-W parents plan to speak about school closings

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board knows there will be plenty said about a 21st Century Schools Committee recommendation to close seven elementary schools and switch to a four-tier grade configuration.

Lisa Grondy and her husband Jim say they plan to be there to speak.

The Grondys live in the Norwayne community, which could see both of its elementary schools — Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln — closed, if the plan is approved.

"It's a shame to see both go. They do so many things for our community," Lisa Grondy said.

The school board has scheduled a public forum for 6 p.m. Monday in the Stockmeyer Auditorium on the Wayne Memorial High School campus in Wayne.

The board, which has observed the work of the committee since it started in late June, will officially receive the committee's recommendation and then hear the comments and recommendations of

PUBLIC FORUM
What: Wayne-Westland school board public forum
Why: To receive the recommendations of the 21st Century Schools Committee and to hear comment and recommendations from the public regarding proposed school closings and boundary realignments.
When: 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30
Where: Stockmeyer Auditorium, Glenwood east of Fourth Street, on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School campus
Information: Online at www.wwcsd.net, click on the 21st Century Schools Committee logo

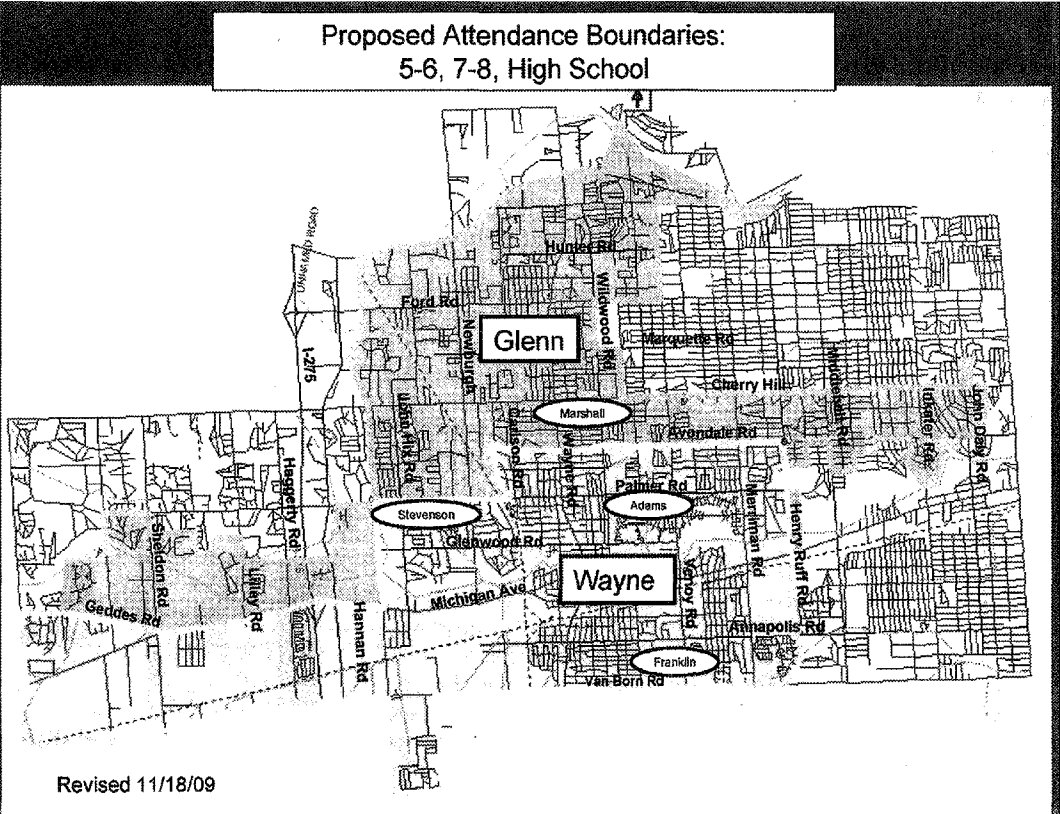
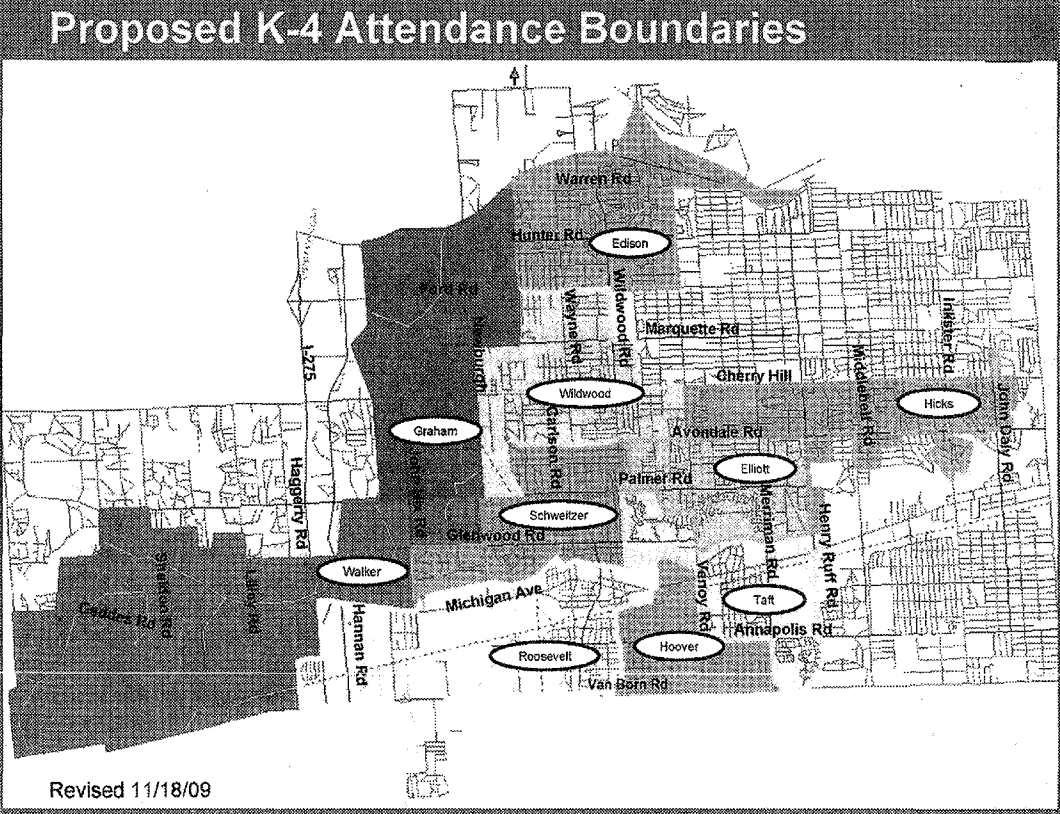
residents. It will take formal action on the plan at its Dec. 7 board meeting, also planned for 6 p.m. at the Stockmeyer Auditorium.

"The meeting will be structured on an informational basis," school board President Skip Monit said. "We won't be in a position to answer questions. In fact, we'll be asking our own questions."

The committee is recommending closing seven elementaries (Madison, Patchin, Lincoln, Jefferson-Barns, Hamilton, Kettering and Vandenburg), turning the remaining elementaries into K-4 buildings, turning Adams and Marshall middle schools into 5/6 buildings, with Stevenson and Franklin as the remaining middle schools.

The Grondys were among a group of parents that met last week at Jefferson-Barns school to talk about what needs to be done to convince the school board that one of the Norwayne schools needs to stay open.

The meeting was organized by Susan Nagy and Kristi Hicks, parent representatives for the two schools on the 21st Century Committee. Both live in the Norwayne community, attended either Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns schools and have children attending the schools.



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"I come from this community. One of my missions is to focus on a decision that's best for our children," Hicks said.

"Our main objective is to keep one school. We hope they say, 'Let's keep one open.' Both schools were built in

1943 to serve the children of workers who worked at Willow Run Airport building bombers for the war effort. Made of block and wood, they were renovated as part of the 1998 bond issue. However, information provided to the facilities committee indicates that both schools still need more than \$4 million in renovations.

Current enrollment at Jefferson-Barns is about 140 students, while Lincoln has 280 students.

"We need to make our voices heard," Nagy said. "We all have biases about what schools should be kept open. Ours is that one of the schools in Norwayne needs to be kept open."

Nagy initially questioned the decision to close both schools at the committee meeting Nov. 17, saying that it would have a negative impact on the community.

Nagy and Hicks have been meeting with residents of the Norwayne community since the meeting to "just try and get the word out" about what is proposed. They're concerned some of their neighbors consider the proposal a done deal.

"We just trying to spread the word that the school board's mind isn't made up," Nagy said.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:25

FANTASTIC MR. FOX (PG)
11:05, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:15, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:20

NINJA ASSASSIN (R)
12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

DEC 3 THUR 12:30, 2:45, 5:05

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13)
11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:50, 4:20, 5:45, 7:00, 8:45, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)
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3D DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG)
11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 6:50, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

'Tis the (shopping) season

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While the retail district in downtown Plymouth and more established retail stores in Canton raked in the Black Friday bucks amid expectations based on past performance, other outlets were still figuring out the post-Thanksgiving shopping atmosphere.

Take Hobby Lobby, the craft and home decorating store that opened in March on Ford Road in Canton.

The store welcomed Black Friday as part of a two-day sale. It opened on the biggest shopping day of the year at 8 a.m.

With no previous holiday shopping experience on which to draw, store officials were simply waiting to see how it went.

"This is our first Black Friday in Canton, in metro Detroit, really," said Nicole Raftery, the store's co-manager. "It's been fairly steady, but

we don't really have any expectations. It's our first Christmas (season) here, so we're just waiting to see what happens."

Hobby Lobby opened some six hours after sisters Colleen Myles of Canton and Eileen Veit of Bay City got started. The siblings were shopping at Westland Mall, where Colleen was babysitting bags while Eileen shopped.

"We take turns with the stuff, we need to make a car run," she said.

The two sisters started their day at 2 a.m. at Toys R Us, and had managed to make it to Kohls, JC Penney, Sears, Bath and Body Works and Macy's before stopping at The Children's Place. They planned to end their day at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

"We've been doing this for 13-14 years," she said. "We always go through the ads and create a plan of attack so we can get in and get out. It's a yearly tradition."

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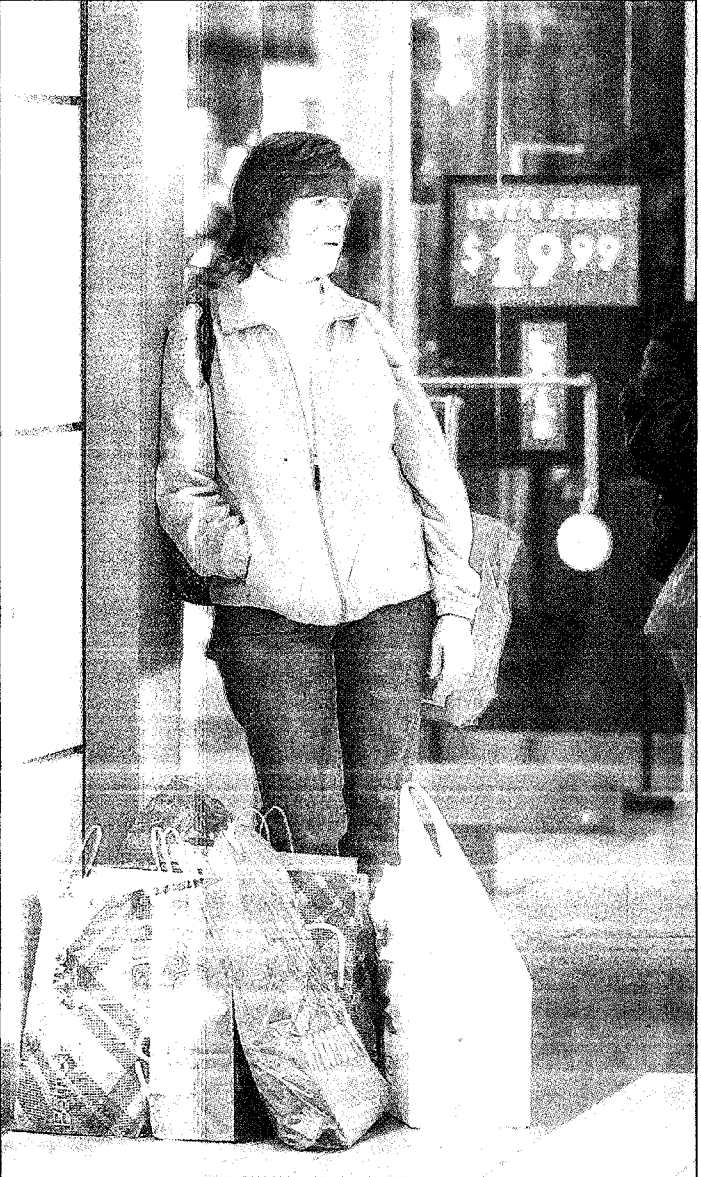


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Linda Archambeau, of Canton, Dawn Davenport, of Ypsilanti Township, and Tracy Archambeau, of Belleville, stopped for a bite to eat at the Westland A and W after hitting the sales.



Marilyn Best, of Canton, takes a break at Westland Mall.



Taking a break at Westland Mall is Colleen Miles of Canton.



Carina Berg and daughter Charlotte, 4, look at the trees in Kellogg Park. Not pictured is Dad, Falko Berg, who is looking at a different tree.



Deea Coleman and daughter Anzenique Rogers of Canton started shopping at 4 a.m. At 8 a.m. they were at Westland Mall.



Carol McKinley, at right, brought daughters Jessica Sheila and Tasha for early morning shopping at Westland Mall.



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20 9am-9pm 9pm-8pm	21 8am-11pm 9am-8pm	22 8am-11pm 9am-8pm	23 8am-11pm 9am-8pm	24 Santa's Last Day! 7am-6pm 9am-5pm	25 Christmas Day Mall & Office CLOSED	26 8am-9pm
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SECTION **B**
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Tim Smith, editor: (313) 222-2637
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HOMETOWN LIFE



2009-10 GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mainstays for the 2009-10 Salem varsity girls basketball team will be Brett deBear (left) and Sara Stone. Both players look to help the Rocks continue last year's success.

Rocks return intact, ready to roll

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fred Thomann loves the way his Salem girls basketball team finished the 2008-09 season — 12 wins in 14 games. This time around, a nice start would be nice, too.

"Every season is a work in progress," said Thomann, beginning his 26th season coaching the Salem girls varsity. "Last year, we started 1-6 and ended up winning the (KLAA) championship and had a great finish to our season and really should have won the districts."

Salem opens 7 p.m. Tuesday at home against Brighton.

Virtually the entire roster played last season (Salem's overall record was 13-8). That means the Rocks have a good chance to continue that winning feeling from the '08-09 stretch run.

Despite the graduation of

key players Chelsea Davis (starting at Wayne State), Victoria Brotz and Tracy Whalen, the defending KLAA Central Division, Kensington Conference and association champs do have some outstanding returnees.

At the top of the list are senior forward-guards Sara Stone and Brett deBear (both seniors) along with last year's solid sixth player, Rachel Norman, who will start this season.

"Sara Stone is as good a player as there is in the area, in the league," Thomann said. "She's outstanding and has a chance to be recruited by Division 1 schools."

"Brett deBear is extremely talented and is going to go somewhere to play basketball, we just don't know where."

In addition to the 5-10 Stone and 5-9 deBear, the Rocks will be banking on Norman (5-9). All three are considered

"perimeter players" who can hit the glass hard.

"Norman has had a fantastic camp," he said. "So we have three key players that have really stepped up. Now we have to get the rest of the group to step up."

Two of those players include 6-0 senior Tabitha Mann and promising 5-9 freshman Breanne Beaver, expected to share low-post responsibilities.

In the mix for the fifth spot are Heidi Schmidt, Katelynn Krause, Alyssa Garbarino and Lily Burnstein. Those players also bring versatility, one of the Salem hallmarks.

Rounding out the varsity is Alyssa Silletti.

MIX AND MATCH

Thomann emphasized that there is no point guard, per se, with most of his roster schooled in running an offense.

"Our guards are kind of

interchangeable," he said.

"They're all perimeter players, but they all can play inside. ... Whoever has the ball is the one running the offense."

To that end, the Rocks will bring a hybrid style, with players able to either shoot from the outside or play smash-mouth basketball in the paint depending on the opponent and situation.

Brighton will soon find out which Salem team they'll have to face.

"We had a really good pre-season scrimmage against some very good teams," he said, "and we have a tremendously competitive early season schedule and then we're going to get into our division. "Hopefully we can do well there and get ourselves lined up for the conference tournament and then the association (tourney)."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Young guns

Plymouth kids could be all right

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There is no crystal ball for Plymouth varsity girls basketball coach Ted Sturdivant to peer into as the 2009-10 season opens.

Sturdivant lost current Division 1 player and defensive standout Shaakira Haywood among nine graduated players from the 2008-09 team that went 9-13 yet won a state play-off game for the first time in school history.

On the other hand, he still has senior co-captains Stacey Klonowski (5-9 forward, 8 points, 7 rebounds), Troi Davis (point guard) and 5-8 forward Danielle Deslilets, now a starter after being a key backup for last season's team.

But the second-year Plymouth coach is optimistic the Wildcats can compete in the KLAA South, with a roster of high-intensity, high-speed players who he promises will push the envelope at both ends of the floor.

"We're a young team," Sturdivant said. "But we'll bring enthusiasm and nonstop action to our approach to basketball."

Those wanting a glimpse of that exciting style might want to catch the season opener, 7 p.m. Tuesday against visiting West Bloomfield.

Setting a pretty high standard for those youngsters are his go-to group of seniors, led by Klonowski.

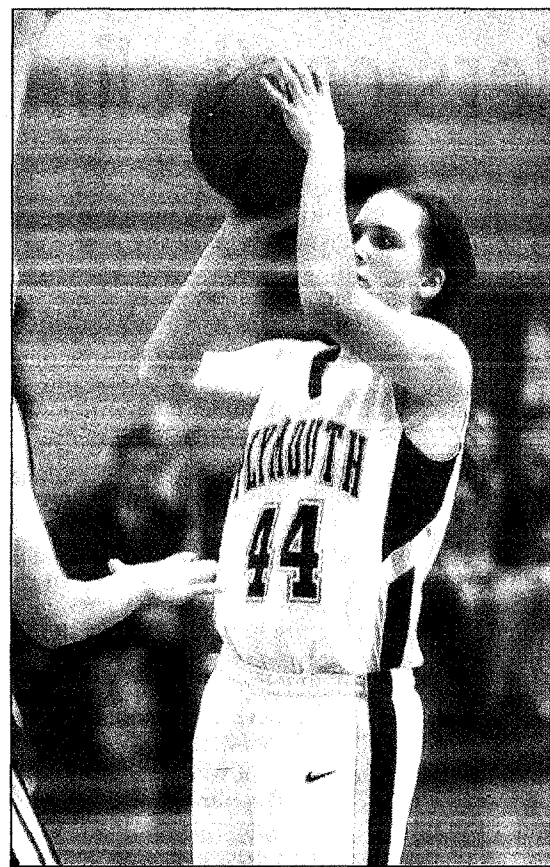
"We'll go as Stacey goes," Sturdivant said. "She was a player that worked hard under the basket and she had a ton of offensive rebounds and putbacks (last year). She is our best player."

PRIME POTENTIAL

Among other big piece of the puzzle are Davis, who the coach looks "to keep us in an uptempo game," and Deslilets — "a tough, tough player."

That doesn't diminish what 5-8 junior small forward Alex

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



One of Plymouth's go-to players this season will be senior forward Stacey Klonowski, shown during a game last year.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton returnees ready for encore in KLAA South

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Yes, Canton's varsity girls basketball team went 20-3 last season. Yes, the Chiefs have all their players returning. But don't expect head coach Brian Samulski or his players to take anything for granted during the 2009-10 season, which opens 7 p.m. Tuesday at Saline.

"The girls have high expectations for the season," stressed the fifth-year coach. "But they understand that nothing comes easy, and even though everyone is back this is a new season."

Having a strong returning cast should be enough for KLAA South opponents to worry about, let alone a team that doesn't mind a good sweat.

"We will continue to work hard, compete, play the right way," said Samulski, "and challenge ourselves to become better

players and a better team."

Four players from last year's All-Observer team will again be in the forefront.

Junior forwards Kari Schmitt (an average of 10 points, 8 boards last year), Sara Schmitt (7.8 points, 6 boards), CarolAnn Sexauer (9 points) and junior guard Melanie Pickert will be tough for opponents to shut down.

Pickert is a solid defender, last season averaging 2.5 steals per contest (along with 4 points, 2 assists).

Also chipping in up front will be junior forward Kayla Bridges (5.1 points, 4 boards) who "has a great feel around the rim."

DEPTH AT GUARD

The Chiefs have a bevy of guards to work in tandem with Pickert in the backcourt.

Samulski said senior guard-forward Alyssa Cottrell "brings outstanding energy and (is a) good defender." Last year, she averaged three points and three rebounds.

Senior guard Lindsey Winters is a perimeter player who can score from outside and should be able to improve on her 2008-09 average of just under three points per contest.

Yuki Krolicki and Kelly Larimore, both senior guards, will help the cause on defense and offense, respectively while sophomore guard Robyn Mack (3.5 points, 2.2 assists) has "outstanding vision on the court."

Sophomore guard Jesse Lerner likely will split time between the varsity and junior varsity this season.

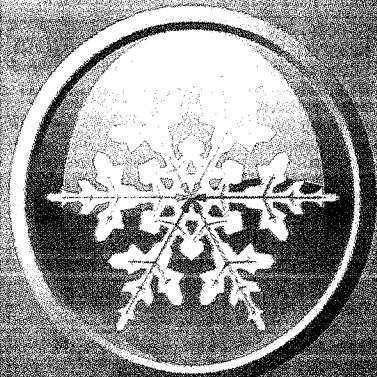
"It should be a solid, fun, and challenging season," Samulski added.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Canton's Melanie Pickert (No. 15) is one of several key returnees for the Chiefs this season.

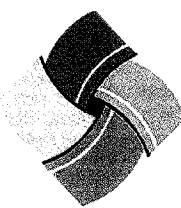
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Plymouth High School's Saberettes were sharp Nov. 8 at the 2009 Mid American Pompon Dance and High Kick Championships held at Eastern Michigan University.

The varsity Saberettes, coached by Maria Hernandez, took first place after presenting a routine themed around Russia. Plymouth tallied 374 points, just ahead of Canton (370.5) and Garden City (364).

Meanwhile, the junior varsity Saberettes were almost as just as successful. The JV team,

coached by Erica Caudillo and Trisha Ward, finished in second place with a high kick routine based on a Jungle Book theme. Novi's junior varsity won that division with 360.5 points, followed by Plymouth (352.5). Placing fourth with 342 points was Canton.

Next up for both Plymouth High School teams is February's state competition.

Members of the varsity Saberettes, listed alphabetically, include: Emma Buechele, Kimberlin Butler, Kellie

Connelly, Dominica Covertino,
Jillian Covault, Christina Dryer,
Kirsten Engstrom, Nichole
Finch, Danielle Gomrick,
Tiffany Granowicz, Anjelica
Janevski, Katie Justice,
Madison Kinsella, Laura
Krahel, Megan LaPorte, Kirstie
Liakos, Lindsey Martin, Holin
Pardikes, Holly Runyan, Allison
Santori, Chelsea Schroeder,
Katie Shelton, Kendall Torp,
Jennifer Turner, Lauren
Turner, Lauren Uhlian, Hayley
Wakefield and Christina
Winkler.

Members of the JV Saberettes, also listed alphabetically, include: Joslyn Covault, Rachael Currier, Alanna Farrugia, Lauren Fisher, Brittany Guajardo, Jessica Hackman, Stephanie Hall, Callie Lehr, Luiza Lica, Megan Pahl Nalanie Puckett, Alexa Rosochacki, Jen Sochocki, Leah Sheffield, Jessica Swartz, Siera Tyl Chloe Verkerke, Courtney Viadu, Paige Wright, Amenda Zaborowski and Lyndsay Zelenak.

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

True hockey fans had something to be thankful for Wednesday night at Compuware Arena.

Host Plymouth and Windsor hooked up for a highly competitive, entertaining Thanksgiving Eve clash before an enthusiastic crowd.

For those Plymouth rooters among 2,983 spectators, the only bad thing was the final score — the Spitfires scored two quick goals and held on for a 2-1 victory.

"They had more shots (45-38) but I think we had more Grade A scoring chances," said Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci. "I thought we played really well. I thought we gave them two goals when we sat back early, but once we got our legs going I thought it was a real good game."

Windsor (22-3-0-3) took a 1-0 lead just 6:22 into the

contest. Winger Richard Panik took advantage of a Plymouth giveaway, scoring unassisted on a wrist shot that beat goalie Matt Hackett.

At 10:07, a long shot by the Spits Ryan Ellis was tipped in front by Scott Timmins for Windsor's second goal.

Plymouth needed just 50 seconds to get that one back.

Forward Josh Brittain jabbed in the rebound of a shot by center Tyler Seguin past Windsor goalie Troy Passingham. Collecting the second assist was forward Robbie Czarnik, playing his first game for the Whalers and in the OHL.

But that was all the scoring, with Hackett and Passingham thwarting every opportunity although both squads put on plenty of pressure.

Plymouth dropped to 14-12-0-0 with the defeat, entering games Friday and



Plymouth Whalers newcomer Robbie Czarnik looks to make a play Wednesday night against Windsor at Compuware Arena. It was the Michigan native's Plymouth debut.

Saturday.

DECENT DEBUT

Czarnik, a draft pick of the NHL Los Angeles Kings, had been playing college hockey at the University of Michigan. The Washington, Mich. native was acquired Monday in a trade with the Oshawa Generals and skated on a line

with Seguin and Brittann.

"I think he was pretty good," Vellucci said. "I think he was tired and wasn't used to that much ice time.

"But I thought he played very well and he's going to do really good for us, ... his speed is outstanding."

According to Czarnik, it will take a little while to get used to the "pro style game" of the OHL and mesh with his linemates.

"It's just the second time I skated with this team, so I think it will be a little hard at first," Czarnik said. "But I think we'll adjust to each other pretty well."

He added that the major junior circuit is "really different than college, but I really enjoyed it out there tonight. It seemed a little faster."

Czarnik will have back-to-back games Friday at Sault Ste Marie and 7 p.m. Saturday at Compuware against Kingston to get more acclimated.

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Roberts and 5-6 sophomore guard Katelyn Watson will contribute to the starting lineup.

"She (Roberts) is our most athletic player," Sturdivant

said. "She's a tremendous athlete. .. I'm looking for great things from Alex, I'm looking for her to have a breakout season."

Varsity newcomer Watson is as aggressive as any diminutive guard might be.

"She goes to the basket well for a first-year player," he said. "I'm looking for her to

make a transition from JV to 'big-time' varsity basketball." In the mix for regular playing time is 5-11 sophomore center Isis Haywood, younger sister of Shaakira. "I'm looking for her to grow and mature into a defensive stopper." Leading other reserves are 5-7 sophomore guard-forward

Alyssa Burris, who "has the potential to have a tremendous offensive game" and 5-8 first-year forward Taylor Birman, a junior.

"She (Birman) is as strong as strong can be," the coach said.

Juniors Mariah Tesarz, Jackie Godin and sophomore Lejla Kulagic, all guards,

will push for playing time with their hard work and tenacity.

Sturdivant, who has former Redford Union head girls basketball coach Alan Kruck on his staff, is anxious to start the season to find out what his younger players will do when it matters.

"This should be an inter-

esting year," he said. "We're always looking to run and use our athleticism to score easy baskets. ... I have the personnel that will be able to get out and go rim to rim.

"But we have to have defensive stops. That's the area we'll be challenged in."

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Early surge lifts Penguins to 1st win

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With most of the team finally together, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem varsity girls hockey team exploded for four first period goals on the way to an 8-3 win over Walled Lake United in the Penguins conference opener.

Senior defenseman Jordyn Moore was the big gun, scoring a three goal hat trick and assisting on another. Scoring two goals was senior defenseman Shauna Siebert.

The victory at Arctic Edge in Canton followed two one-sided defeats to open the season, in which the Penguins (1-2-0, 1-0-0) were outscored by a total of 14-1.

"The girls played great," said PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson. "I just wish we would have played this way on Saturday (7-0 at Port Huron). "It would have been a completely different outcome."

PCS got on the board at 3:47 when junior defenseman Sarah



JOHN KEMSKI

Sarah Coleman (foreground) leads a rush for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team Tuesday night with teammate Ellexus Montoya trailing. The Penguins defeated Walled Lake United, 8-3 for their first regular season victory.

Coleman scored, taking a pass from freshman forward Beth

Johnson. Less than two minutes later,

Moore assisted on senior forward Kara Bongiovanni's goal and it was 3-0 at 7:38 when Moore scored her first of the night (from junior forward Tory Campbell).

Walled Lake finally got one past PCS freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo when Katie Acheson scored with 43 seconds to go in the period.

The Penguins expanded the edge to 6-1 after two, with goals by Moore (from Coleman) and junior forward Jennifer Fedon, who beat Wild goaltender Christina Karagozian. Drawing assists were Moore and Siebert.

In the final frame, Siebert got it going with a marker at 4:11, from Campbell. But Walled Lake chipped in a goal at 6:37, with Emma Crone scoring.

The teams traded goals after that.

PCS made it 8-2 when Moore capped off her hat trick, with the helper going to Bongiovanni.

A half-minute later, Walled Lake's Melissa Phalin finished the scoring for the evening.

IN BRIEF

Precision Baseball clinic

Baseball players take note: Precision Baseball in Canton recently announced an eight-week Progression Clinic on pitching, catching and hitting — to feature members of Eastern Michigan University's coaching staff.

Those coaches include assistant coach Aaron Hepner and assistant coach/recruiting coordinator Andrew Maki.

Areas where pitchers can expect improvement include: increasing velocity and arm strength; changing speeds; improving control and learning proper warm-up techniques. Batters can increase power, hit to all fields, reduce strikeouts,

make good contact and recognize a fastball instead of a changeup or curve.

Meanwhile, in the catching department, instructors will focus on blocking, receiving, throwing, calling a game and being quick behind the dish.

All ages are welcome to sign up for the clinic, which begins Monday, Nov. 16 (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) Sessions are every Monday and Friday and are \$15 per session, per player and \$225 for all 16 sessions if paid up front.

For more information, send an e-mail to info@precision-baseballone.com or call (734) 459-5921. Precision Baseball is located at 7835 Market Street in Canton.

Tournament win for '96 Crush

Literally 'Crush-ing' the tournament title hopes and dreams of their opponents, the '96 Canton Crush Bantam A hockey team Nov. 15 claimed the Motown Cup Series tournament.

The Crush, led by head coach Dave DiRezze and assistant coaches John Megdan, Tony DesJardin and Dave Cramer, went 3-0-1 in the tourney, defeating the Waterloo Wolves 5-3 in the championship game.

Earlier in the tourney, the Crush pounded Waterloo 7-2. Canton's squad was the first to defeat the Wolves this season. Waterloo left with a 14-2-3 record.

In their first game of the three-day tournament (Nov.



Members of the tournament-winning '96 Canton Crush Bantam A hockey team include: (first row, from left) goalies Eric VandenBosch, Jacob Ponder; (second row, from left) Mike Scarpello, Dylan Glenday, Jon Clark, Brendan DiRezze, Ryan DesJardin, Matt Goldin, Nick Heffron; (third row, from left) coach John Megdan, coach Tony DesJardin, Cameron Clark, CJ Myers, Taylor Turner, James Sheridan, John Megdan, Cameron O'Donnell, Josh Kramer, coach Dave Kramer and head coach Dave DiRezze. Not pictured is Bryan Eastman.

13-15), the Crush tied Belle Tire

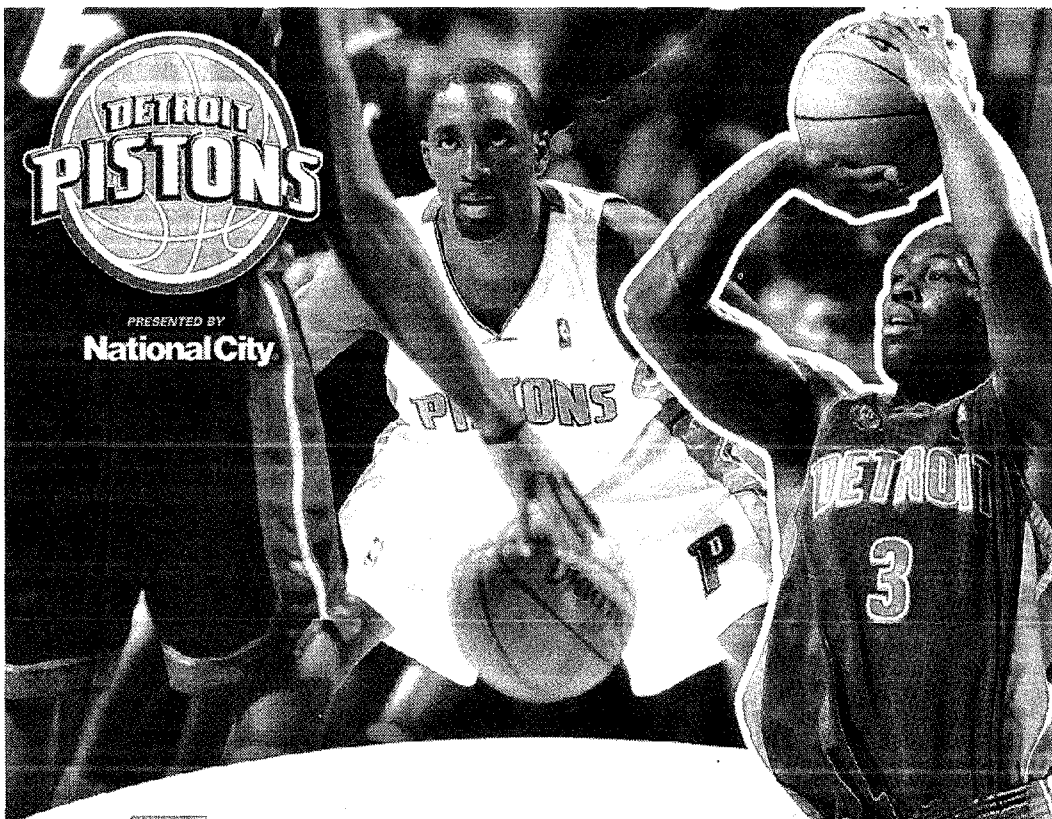
Panthers, 6-1.

South, 5-5. Later in the weekend, Canton defeated the Pickering

Tournament games were played in Brownstown, Southgate and Joe Louis Arena

in Detroit.

Canton's home rink is the Arctic Edge on Michigan Avenue.



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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

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Rowe's penchant to teach impacts gymnastics

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At age 67, Douglas Rowe admits he's not quite as limber as his football playing days at Wayne State University.

"I've had both hips replaced, they don't let me demonstrate," said Rowe, owner and operator the past 28 years of Michigan Academy of Gymnastics in Westland.

Rowe's devotion and his love for gymnastics, however, isn't going on the disabled list anytime soon.

"He's a true teacher as I've ever seen," said Leon Bekker, boys and girls program director at MAG. "He loves kids, and will do anything for the kids. He's a true example for not only the kids, but for the staff."

Rowe, who resides in Westland, was paid the ultimate compliment last month at a banquet in Kalamazoo when he earned USA Gymnastics of Michigan Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rowe currently is on his second 12-year lease at the 22,000-square foot facility, located on 5870 N. Hix Road (between Ford and Warren roads).

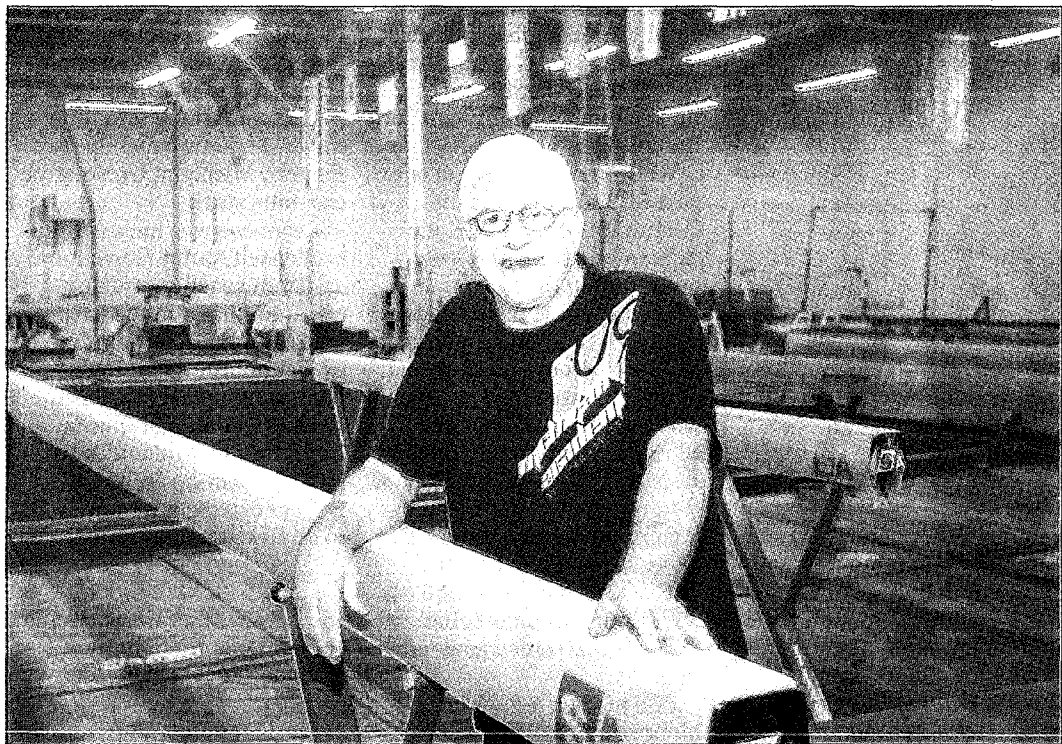
Michigan Academy of Gymnastics also has two satellite facilities, including a 14,000-square foot building in Ann Arbor, along with another site working in conjunction with the Canfield Recreation Center in Dearborn Heights.

His various programs include preschool training, which offers kinder classes, as well as classes for all levels and ages. MAG also features competitive teams for boys and girls.

"Kids can come out of here and be talented in other things," Rowe said. "They can go into other areas and excel."

After graduating from Wayne State where he was exposed to a variety of individual sports, Rowe taught physical education, social science and physical sciences, as well as coaching football, baseball and gymnastics at Riverside High School in Dearborn Heights.

"I learned real good basics with kinesiology, humanities, dance," Rowe said. "I took anatomy and exercise physiology. Gymnastics



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michigan Academy of Gymnastics owner and operator Douglas Rowe has been a fixture in Westland for 28 years.

is applied P.E., kinesiology and exercise physiology. That's what it is in the rest of the world, but here it's a sport."

Rowe launched the Rebel Gymnastics Club at Riverside during the summer of 1976 and quickly moved his high school team up to No. 2 in the state within the next year.

Rowe remembers those humble beginnings.

"The first meet I ever coached was against (Livonia) Clarenceville on those flimsy mats with no padding," he said. "There was really nothing underneath other the bare floor."

In 1978, Rowe opened his first gym in Garden City. His second gym was opened in 1986 at an adjacent building, which is now a dance studio, on Hix Road. Then in 1989, Rowe purchased Not Just Gymnastics, which is located on 3900 Jackson Road (Suite No. 4), in Ann Arbor.

Meanwhile, his Westland gym has mushroomed into a complete modern training center for boys and girls gymnastics with the ability to host high level regional training camps and clinics.

The competitive ter as of Michigan Academy of

Gymnastics have won numerous team and individual awards over the years. And many of MAG alums have competed in the collegiate ranks and at national level meets.

Rowe employs a full-time staff of 14 instructors and 20 part-timers, including those with Olympic level and sport educational credentials.

His younger brother Ken, 63, an avid runner, has taught beginner boys classes since 1995.

"He's worked with me for years, he's my maintenance crew, and he's my best friend," Doug said.

The MAG owner estimates over 2,500 kids will participate in his various programs this year.

"Even in a down economy, in 2009 we'll have more girls compete at level state meets," Rowe said. "I think in the four-county area, there are over 11,500 involved in gymnastics, whether it's through the YMCA, recreation or private clubs. That's a lot involved - even in these times."

When asked how much time Rowe spends a week bouncing between his three gyms, he defers the answer.

"You'll have to ask my wife Debby, it depends what she says,"

Doug said. "It's probably somewhere between 70 to 50 hours."

MAG has trained some of the highest level gymnasts to come out of Michigan including the late Jason Whitfield, Adrian and John Besancon, Monica Stavros, Gayle Quashnie, Nicole Argiros and Conan Parczuchowski. He's had others move on to West Point and the Air Force Academy.

He is currently working with Canton gymnast Samantha King, a 16-year-old from Salem High, who was a Level 9 all-around national champ. King, trying to bounce back from an elbow injury, is now competing at Level 10.

But despite all the talent that surrounds him, Rowe sticks to his roots and his core values.

"My mission statement has not changed since I first wrote it," he said. "It sets the tone for what I believe."

And that means Rowe is there for everybody. He's just not a figurehead, a teacher first and a businessman second.

"Very few people have maintained continuous activity with children's sports," he said. "My job is to make things better for kids. And if they want to learn, I'm happy to help them."

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 1
Brighton at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton at Saline, 7 p.m.
West Bloomfield at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 3
A.A. Huron at Salem, 7 p.m.
A.A. Greenhills at Ply. Christian, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
Ladywood at Flint Powers, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Dec. 1
Plymouth at South Lyon, 6 p.m.
Country Day vs. PCS Penguins, 6:30 p.m. at Arctic Edge
Farmington United vs. Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Canton at Southgate Anderson, 7:20 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
Salem vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
PCS Penguins vs. Bloomfield Hills, 3:15 p.m. at Royal Oak Lindell Arena
Plymouth at Lake Orion, 6 p.m.
Canton vs. Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8 p.m.
Ladywood at Port Huron, 4 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Plymouth at Dexter Quad Meet, TBA
Stevenson at Avondale Quad, 5 p.m.
Wayne Quad Meet, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin, John Glenn at N.B. Huron Tri-Meet, 5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 3
Canton at Riverview, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Lake Orion Invite, 8 a.m.
Rocket Duals at John Glenn, 9 a.m.
Clarenceville Quintet Meet, 9 a.m.
Columbia Central Invite, 9 a.m.
Grand Blanc Invitational, 9 a.m.
Blissfield Invitational, TBA.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Saginaw vs. Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
Plymouth at Saginaw, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Sault Ste. Marie vs. Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
(WHAC/MIAA Challenge)
Olivet College at Madonna, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m.
(WHAC/MIAA Challenge)
Alma College at Madonna, 2 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Sunday, Nov. 29
Madonna at Alma College, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
(Schoolcraft College Invitational)
K'zoo Valley vs. Kennedy-King (Ill.), 5:30 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Schoolcraft Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Holiday hoops camp

The Plymouth High School Basketball Booster Club announced it will be hosting its Holiday Basketball Camp, 1-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Dec. 30 at the PHS gymnasium.

Up to 50 boys in grades 5-8 are eligible to sign up. The cost of the camp is \$50. For more information and to register, contact booster club president John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

Coaches, please call

It's getting close to the winter season of high school sports, believe it or not.

Coaches or their assistants are asked to supply recaps of games, meets and matches (win or lose, home or away) to help spotlight the accomplishments of deserving student-athletes at Canton, Plymouth, Salem and Plymouth Christian Academy.

To do so, please e-mail Observer sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife.com) or leave him detailed

messages at (313) 222-2637. Deadlines are Tuesday nights for the Thursday paper and Friday nights for the Sunday edition.

Give 'Pickleball' a try

Plymouth and Canton residents are welcome to sign up for a unique recreational sport being offered by Northville Parks and Recreation — pickleball.

The sport combines ping pong and badminton, with a hard paddle used to send the ball over the net. Open pickleball sessions are held at the Northville Recreation Center based out of Hillside Middle School.

Beginner to intermediate play is 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$2 per person) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesdays and Thursdays (\$2). Three courts are available.

Intermediate to advanced play is 12 noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays (\$3) and 6-8 p.m. Saturdays (\$4).

Paddles and pickleballs are provided at the center. Call (248) 349-0203 for more information.



Santa

is Coming to Our Livonia Branch

Saturday, December 5th!

10:00 a.m. ~ 12:30 p.m.

37401 Plymouth Road
(Corner of Newburgh)

- Free Pictures With Santa
- Free Stocking Filled With Candy & Surprises
- Free Snacks & Refreshments
- Bring in this ad and receive the first \$5.00 to open your account (not redeemable for cash)

To open an account, bring in the child's Social Security card.

Open 7 Days in Livonia



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734.464.8079
communityalliancecu.org



On keeping your appliances clean: Refrigerator has halitosis

Bob writes: "My nephew bought a used Sub Zero refrigerator and decided to clean the fridge and freezer with Soft Scrub. He didn't realize that the strong ingredient of bleach in this popular cleaner is not going away. I called the manufacturer and they told us to turn the fridge off and scrub the entire unit with water and then air it out a day or two. He did that twice and it still has that odor. I suggested a third cleaning



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

but my nephew tells me that after twice cleaning it hardly changed the smell. Note, it never smelled before he started this whole cleaning process. I've heard suggestions to use charcoal or a product called Frig It. The Soft Scrub people said simple water should dissipate the odor. Thanks for any suggestions."

Well Bob, You, your nephew and I now know that Soft Scrub is not an odor remover, which makes your e-mail all worthwhile and I thank you. I would try letting the product warm up to room temperature and washing the inside of both sections using pure tomato juice. Let it stand for an hour or so and then rinse it out using warm water. Use only

pure tomato juice, not any blend such as V8.

After cleaning and rinsing, fill a bowl of tomato juice and let it sit on a refrigerator shelf for three days. The refrigerator should be operating while the juice sits on the shelf. This is the time proven method used by farmers who used to wash the dog or cat with tomato juice after they got lovey dovey with a skunk. There are several commercial products sold today to get rid of odors and I'm sure they can do the job but I've heard many success stories related to tomato juice.

DONATING A WASHER
Michele writes: "A year ago I got a great deal on a front

load washer and retired my top-loading Kenmore 70 series to my garage. I thought surely I would come across someone who would need it but no luck. So now, I'm concerned to offer it to anyone or any non-profit organization because it has been sitting. Need I be concerned? If it is safe to give away, would you suggest a tune-up? What organization could I contact about donating the washer?"

My dear Michele, I trust that when you placed your old washer in the garage a year ago, you made sure the water valve was dry along with the pump or you poured in some sort of Anti-freeze. If not, these components may have frozen and will need replac-

ing. As for being so kind as to want to donate the product I might suggest you contact Habitat for Humanity at 170 April Drive in Ann Arbor. They will pick it up and with help from a service technician who donates his time, it will be tuned up and sold to a wanting person.

DISHWASHER CLEANING
Connie writes: "I was taking the dishes out of my machine and I noticed small black spots on the bottom of the dishwasher and I reached my hand down to see what it was, and to my surprise the metal is coming off the bottom of the washer. Should I continue to use it to wash dishes? I have had it for 17

years and had no trouble with it."

Connie, let me give you a fact that I have proven a million times. If I ran my fingertips across the bottom inside edge of a person's dishwasher, five out of 10 times they would come out stained with a black substance and that is undissolved detergent. Before you go getting rid of the dishwasher, I suggest you give it a cleaning treatment using Tang orange powdered breakfast drink. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm.rr.com

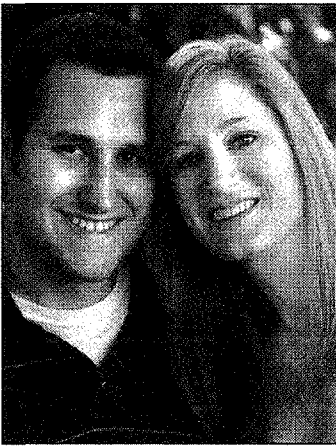
MILESTONES

NEDOCK-GINN

Kassandra Catherine (Kasey) Nedock, and Jeffrey Lee Ginn of Royal Oak announce their engagement.

Kasey is the daughter of Kathryn Williams of Farmington Hills and David Nedock of Southfield. Jeff is the son of Mickey and Ted Ginn of Clarkston. Kasey is a 2000 graduate of Farmington Hills Harrison High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College and also a recent graduate of Madonna University's paralegal program. She is employed as a paralegal for the firm of Kirsch and Satawa in Southfield.

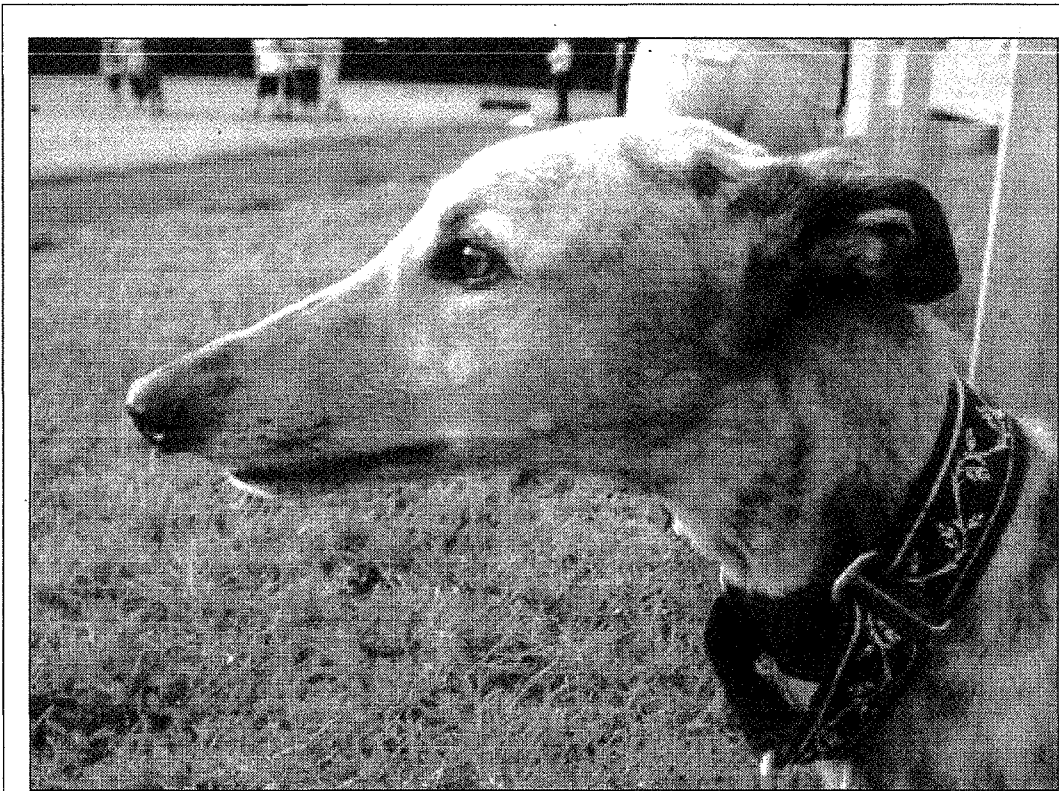
Jeff graduated in 2000 from



Nedock-Ginn

Clarkston High School and in 2004 from Central Michigan University. He is employed as a senior software engineer for Metastorm in Southfield.

They plan a May 2010 wedding.



Haley needs a home

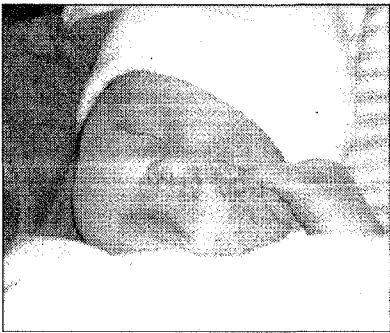
Haley is the featured greyhound this week from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption: She's a 6 1/2-year-old greyhound with light brindle coloring. She loves to run and play, likes squeaky toys and is good-natured. If you would like to meet Haley, please call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Please visit the Web site, www.greyheart.org.

ALEXANDER RYAN BARR

Alexandar Ryan Barr was born Oct. 27 in Garden City Hospital.

Proud parents are Daniel and Dori Barr of Livonia. His sister is Samantha Rivera, 13.

Grandparents are Darcy Gray of Livonia, Finula Barr of Westland, Rick and Sherry Mandler of Taylor and John Barr and Donna Werner of Rochester Hills.



Alexander Ryan Barr

Metroparks card perfect holiday gift

Looking for a gift that's always a perfect fit? Golfers, nature lovers, teachers and busy moms are just some of the people who will love receiving a Huron-Clinton Metroparks gift card or annual permit this holiday season.

The cards can be bought for any amount can be used just about anywhere at 11 Huron-Clinton Metroparks

in the five-county Southeast Michigan region. Good at golf courses, park offices, marinas and interpretive centers, the cards can pay for a variety of services, including greens fees, vehicle or boat annual permits, picnic shelter rentals, marina fees, interpretive program fees or cross-country ski rentals. The cards can also be at Turtle Cove

Family Aquatic Center at Lower Huron Metropark, or the pool and adventure golf course at Metro Beach Metropark.

A vehicle entry permit is required to enter any Metropark and for 2010 is \$25 annually for regular admission, \$15 annually for seniors. General information can be found at www.metroparks.com or by calling (800) 47-PARKS.

Barefoot Productions holiday celebration fundraiser!

A Christmas Carol

A Narrative

December 11
7:30 pm
240 N. Main
Plymouth
(Walker/
Buzenberg
Bldg)

Suggested Donation:
\$50 advance/\$65 at the door
www.justgobarefoot.com
or 734-360-1493

Vintner's Canton Winery
Winner of 7 medals
at the 2009 Winemaker
Magazine Awards

Enjoy an evening of wine, holiday desserts, tea, and a narrative reading of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*

Barefoot Productions, Plymouth's only theatre for the community, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization.
All donations are tax-deductible.

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RUTH ANN SCHADE
(nee: Edwards)
Of Dearborn Hts., MI, November 24, 2009; Age 50. Wife of Kirk, Mother of Kathryn & Christopher. Arrangements by Simple Funerals 313-382-1181. www.SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

MARILYN A. SIMMONS
November 23, 2009. Beloved wife of George C.; mother of Craig B. & Judy C. (Merlyn) Smith; dear grandmother of Joshua, Kalen & Erin Barnhart. A memorial service was held on November 28, 2009 at Christ The King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI, Pastor James Fogle officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to the Church.

JUNE P. L. RANDALL
June P. L. Randall, age 84, a longtime resident of Livonia, passed away on November 22, 2009. She was born June 12, 1925 in Kennington, London, England to Gilbert and Lillian (Arnold) Parma. As a teenager June served as a Civil Defense Telephonist during the London blitz. She became a "GI" bride on October 23, 1945 when she married Leonard Randall a member of the US Army. They were happily married for 60 years until his death in 2006. She worked at the Detroit Public Library; June helped inaugurate an audio-visual department and pioneered record cataloging rules. June worked to establish library service in Livonia; she formed the first Friends of the Library group and served on the Library Commission for 10 years. She was very active in the PTA from local to state level; she received the Michigan Life and National Life Awards. June also received the key to the city of Livonia for all of her help and hard work. She was an avid reader, loved music, and had a passion for cooking. She is survived by her children Paul (Jennifer) Randall and Celia "Rose" (Stephen Warner) Randall-Warner; and her grandchildren Grace, Nichole, and Mallory. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. A memorial service was held last Wednesday at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Rev. Peter C. Smith officiated the service. Contributions would be appreciated to the Leelanau Conservancy, PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654 or CARE, PO Box 1871, Merrifield, VA 22116. Arrangements by: Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

FRANK W. VAIL
Nov. 26, 2009 age 86 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Mamie. Dear father of Frank Jr. (Darella), Sandra (John) Kowalski, Carol (Timothy) Bell, Ronald Conrad, and the late (Joseph (the late Margaret) Vail. Brother of Albert, Bonnie Riley, Jeannie McCoy & the late Levi, Alfred. Predeceased by grandson Kevin Ball and survived by 13 grandchildren & 13 great grandchildren. Funeral at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland Tue. 1 PM. Family will receive friends Mon. 12-9 PM. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com

In Memory Of

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD KENT EBERT II
12-1-2006

Taken from us in the prime of his life. We cherish each and every day and ever moment we spent with you. We miss your infinite knowledge, guidance, your laughter and jokes, discussion and advice. If tears could build a stairway to Heaven and memories a road, we would walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. It will never be the same, we will never be the same, we will forever love you and never forget you. Love always and forever, your loving wife Connie and son Walt, Bev and Jeff.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

NEIGHBORS

0 Christmas trees!

Decking the halls starts at Halloween in this house

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ralph Pesys may be the only dog in Livonia with his own Christmas tree.

Janina and Tomas Pesys, sister and brother, consider it — and every other tree in their parents' home — normal as far as Christmas decorating goes.

Even their dad, Edmund, doesn't think twice when he considers the 900 glass ornaments carefully hung from a 9-foot tree in the family room.

"It evolved," said Toni Pesys, explaining her passion for Christmas decorations. "We put an addition on the house and then I couldn't have a tree in just one room. Next there was a tree in another room and then it kind of grew."

With 2,000 ornaments, Toni easily decorates a tree in every room. When guests walk through the Rosedale Gardens home during the Livonia 21st annual Christmas House Walk on Dec. 5, they'll even find two trees displayed in some rooms, along with roping, lights, nativity scenes, candles, figurines, ceramic villages and more.

"I love our front room at Christmas. I just think it's really pretty, especially when there's a fire," said Janina, a college student who helped decorate the tree in her bedroom when she was growing up. "I really do find myself looking for a second tree at my friends' homes. It's odd when there's only one."

Both she and her brother say they'll decorate for Christmas when they have their own homes, but probably won't put in quite as much effort as their mom.

"Yes, it's bordering on an obsession," said Toni, with a laugh. The Redford native said she is attracted to "old



PHOTOS BY BILL BRÉSLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Edmund, Toni, Tomas, Janina and Ralph Pesys with the 9-foot Christmas tree that sports 900 glass ornaments, many of them from the 1950s and '60s.

LIVONIA 21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOUSE WALK

What: Tour six decorated homes
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5

Tickets: \$9 in advance; \$10 day of the walk; available at all three Livonia libraries, city hall and the Greenmead gift shop

Details: Sponsored by Friends of Greenmead, the event raises money for the structures and grounds of Historical Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. Program books, including a map, will be available at the walk. Christmas cookies will be served at the Hill House at Greenmead.
Contact: (248) 477-7375

and dirty" ornaments found at garage sales and thrift stores. "Some are so tattered, I just feel sorry for them."

TREES EVERYWHERE

Bulbs from the '40s, '50s and '60s adorn trees in the family room and basement. Straw ornaments, reflecting Edmund's Lithuanian heritage, decorate a tree in Tomas' old bedroom, which also displays amber glass, another



Edmund Pesys holds Ralph for a photograph of Ralph's very own Christmas tree. It's adorned with a 'World's Best Dog' ornament and representations of his favorite animals, including mice, rabbits and squirrels.

hallmark of the Eastern European culture. A religious themed tree in the living room shows off angels and stars and the evergreen in the dining room sports patriotic colors.

Tomas will set up a Christmas village in the outdoor potting shed that's furnished with quirky lights, salvaged furniture and a tree decorated in tiny watering

cans and seed packets.

In addition to Ralph's tree, decorated in his favorite animals and displayed near his food and water bowls, the kitchen includes a cooking themed tree that stays up year-round. Toni uses it as a night light.

The master bedroom, with its view of backyard pines, is the perfect spot for a wildlife themed tree. And the 9-foot tree with 900 glass balls takes center stage in the family room, part of the home's 900-square-foot addition.

Toni envisioned 1,000 ornaments on the tree's boughs, but couldn't fit them all and settled for 900. She tells a story about the tree's origin that Edmund jokingly claims he has "blotted out" of his memory.

"For Christmas one year he (Edmund) gave me a watch and I did a really bad thing. I took it back to the store and I exchanged it for the 9-foot Christmas tree," Toni said. "I had so many ornaments that one tree wasn't enough."

LIGHTING TECHNIQUE

Edmund, who grew up in Dearborn Heights and is

Please see **CHRISTMAS, B7**

Zonta members reach out to women, girls, mark milestones

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sally Randall of Livonia is glad she joined the Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County some 13 years ago.

"Actually, I joined for the networking and the mentoring," said the retired Botsford Hospital registered nurse. She spent 23 years on Botsford's staff in Farmington Hills.

She's now Zonta Area 3 director, including two Ontario clubs and seven in southeast Michigan. She earned both nursing and business degrees.

"I think Zonta's a wonderful organization," said Randall, who learned about scholarship opportunities through the group. "We do a lot of good."

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County recently awarded scholarships to two local women, Stephanie Bagwell of Livonia and Jamie Berlin of Canton. The Michigan State University students received \$500 scholarships which are renewable for the winter semester.

Zonta International is an international women's organization that works to improve the status of women locally and globally. The club meets the fourth Monday of most months at Papa Vito's. For more information about Zonta or to attend a meeting, call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728. You can also visit www.zonta.org or www.zonta15.org/northwest-wayne.

INTERNATIONAL HELP

Randall's background in health care makes Zonta's international component a natural. It includes efforts to prevent HIV transmission at birth to infants in Rwanda. Zonta has consultative status with the United Nations, and 2008-10 biennium efforts include ending violence against

women and children.

There's the issue of obstetric fistulas which result when young girls give birth. Zonta funds a hospital in Libya for treatment of obstetric fistulas, which cause leakage of urine and feces in young mothers, resulting in their being ostracized. Girls gain self-respect and begin to teach each other, Randall said.

When Zonta International started 90 years ago, it was more behind the scenes with women asked to join. "Now we're realizing that has shot us in the foot," Randall said. "We are not known." She sees her group as having a lot to shout about.

Randall has two daughters-in-law and a daughter who help out, although they're busy with young families. "I would love to see them join," she said, especially of the couple's daughter. Randall said attracting younger members is an issue.

"Life's been good to me," Randall said. "I have to pay back." The organization has begun to accommodate those who can't always attend meetings, such as a busy tax professional who can't help during tax season. The club has a Web presence now as well.

"I think we're making a lot of progress," Randall said, noting young women today often have a strong service ethic.

Barbara Mansfield of Livonia's a 30-year member of the Zonta Club. "I was a charter president," said Mansfield, who retired in 2001 as an elementary school principal in the Southfield school district.

Mansfield liked Zonta's ideals and purpose of opportunities for women worldwide. She's traveled internationally to conventions in Paris, Singapore, Sydney, Australia, and

Please see **ZONTA, B7**

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



STIFFNESS ON STANDING

Persons who note stiffness on standing usually assume that arthritis is the cause of their discomfort. Certainly, one of the features of arthritis of the hips or knees is difficulty that makes one feel like the joints need oil more than aspirin.

The cause of the joint stiffness on arising from a chair or getting out of a car is similar to the stiffness the same individual feels on arising from bed in the morning. The reason for the stiffness is because of the effort needed to undertake movement after rest. In arthritis, when the joints are at rest, they act not as if they were at ease, but rather that they are exhausted.

A person without arthritis, both in bed and in a chair moves frequently, the joints though resting are moving sufficiently to make standing and walking possible without hesitation. In contrast, a patient with arthritis sinks into the bed or chair; joints want to remain still in an effort to overcome the strain activity places on them. As a result, when the need to move comes, the inert joints find it difficult to return to activity.

However, this explanation does not fit the majority of people, particularly the elderly, who feel stiff on standing. The main cause is being in poor physical condition. Standing and walking takes strength and stamina. Lack of exercise means that the individual loses the reserves needed to undertake unimpeded motion. The main treatment for joint stiffness is not medicine but exercise.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

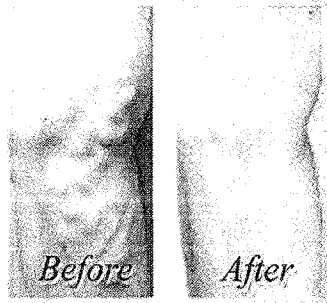
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Healthy Legs, Healthy You!

"I thought it was normal for my legs to ache at the end of the day."

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- Non-healing ulcers



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THE ARENA SPECTACULAR
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Baby's First Christmas!



A perfect addition to baby's scrapbook! Place your baby's photo in the Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers for Christmas and let our 912,950* weekly readers "Oooh and Haaa" over them too! This special page of "cuties" will run December 20/24.

Just \$20*

Deadline to receive ads: December 10th
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Or email to: oads@hometownlife.com

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*6 lines maximum. Must be prepaid. We accept all major credit cards. Photos may be mailed or emailed but must be received by 12-10-2009. No photos will be returned.

OE0681729

ZONTA

FROM PAGE B6

Helsinki, Finland, as well as gatherings closer to home.

"I think it would be a great opportunity for them to join and to reach out to women," Mansfield said of young women joining Zonta. She noted two-thirds of money raised stays here.

Over the years, Zonta's helped the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College with women returning to school. Seniors have received help with prescriptions, Mansfield said, and visually impaired children have received books through the Seedlings organization.

Zonta's helped First Step for domestic violence victims and women and children at the Wayne County Family Shelter in Westland. That includes gifts and books, along with cleaning supplies for women going out into their own homes and apartments.

"I have had some friends who have joined," said Mansfield, who's unmarried. "I've been very happy to be a Zontian." She cites "lasting friendships, many of them."

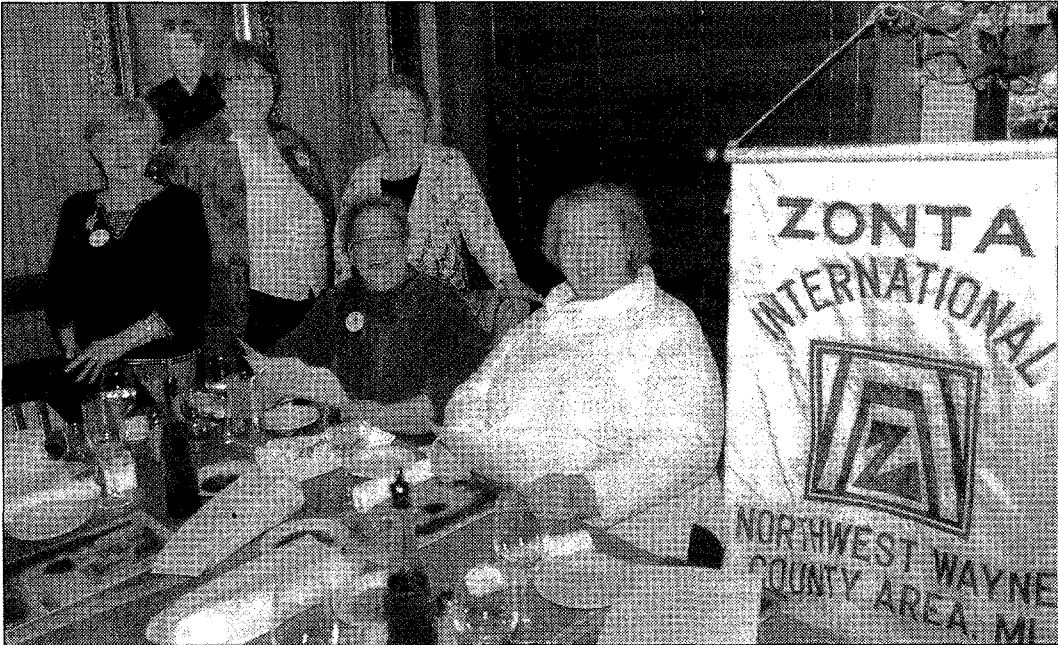
PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

Karen Milton of Farmington Hills has been in Zonta since 1981, having joined when she was a school principal in Perry, Mich., and joined in Owosso. She transferred to the Northwest Wayne club in 1994 with her job, and retired as a Livonia elementary school principal in 2005.

"When I joined, you were invited to join" as a community leader, Milton said. She liked the focus on improving status of women, ranging from wells in Sri Lanka to immunizing children in Nepal. Overseas, women are given tools, such as a farm animal, to help them become economically independent.

"That kind of thing gives them power then to be more independent," the club president said.

"It's not a male-bashing thing, it's just a matter of



Betteann Casemore, Karen Milton, Sally Randall, Barbara Mansfield and Helen Jeter are among Zontians marking the 30th anniversary of the local group.

PART OF HISTORY

Amelia Earhart was a member of Zonta International. Earhart was lost in 1937 and in 1938 Zonta International set up grants for women in graduate-level study in aerospace-related subjects in her honor. Since the inception in 1938, there have been 1,262 Fellowships totaling U.S. \$7 million given to 880 Fellows from 59 countries.

The Amelia Earhart Fellowships focus on eliminating the gender bias that women face in pursuing doctoral degrees in the sciences. Women are beginning to demonstrate a progression from limited representation in aerospace-related sciences to being leaders in the field. During the start of the program, the awards committee had trouble finding qualified applicants, and worked as mentors with potential applicants to help them become qualified.

Today, as evidence of the increasing numbers of women in aerospace-related sciences and engineering, the challenge is choosing the most promising women from among the many qualified applicants. In 2009, Zonta International provided 35 grants of \$10,000 each to women from 12 countries. Applications and more information are available at www.zonta.org.

Anoosheh Niavarani, a doctoral student in the mechanical engineering and Fluid Mechanics program at Michigan State University, has been awarded a 2009 Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship. This is her second award which she will use to continue her research of flow behavior in micro-fluid devices for aerospace application.

helping women to become independent." Milton lives with her mom, a former "Rosie the Riveter" now in her 80s. "We kind of take care of each other," said Milton, who completed her doctorate at Oakland University the same year as retirement. That had been a longtime goal.

Milton appreciates the work

against violence aimed at women. The Northwest Wayne club has been dynamic, generating District 15 governors who oversee Michigan and part of Canada.

Milton agreed signing up younger women is a challenge for organizations like hers. "It's difficult to get people to commit," she said, adding the once

a month meeting schedule helps.

Milton was a Fulbright scholar who taught overseas, and has a world view; she took a leave from Zonta for doctoral work and missed the club.

"It's fantastic," she said of the conventions, of which she's attended U.S. gatherings. "You meet people from all over the world."

Women from Third World countries bring fabric and clothing to help pay their way. "It's really interesting to find out about people from throughout the world," Milton said of conventions.

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Friday, Dec. 4, at the Embassy Suites, Seven Mile and I-275 in Livonia. The meeting begins 6 p.m. and will feature comedian/Zontian Meghan Meyer.

For tickets or more information, call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728 or e-mail her at rsrand521@sbcglobal.net.

Regular business meetings are held the fourth Monday of most months (some changes due to holidays) at Papa Vito's at Haggerty and Six Mile roads (northwest corner). You are asked to R.S.V.P. to the above number if you wish to attend.

CHRISTMAS

FROM PAGE B6

retired from GM, said he has "a minimal amount of input" in the annual decorating scheme. He proudly pointed out that Toni strings the lights on each branch as she puts the trees together.

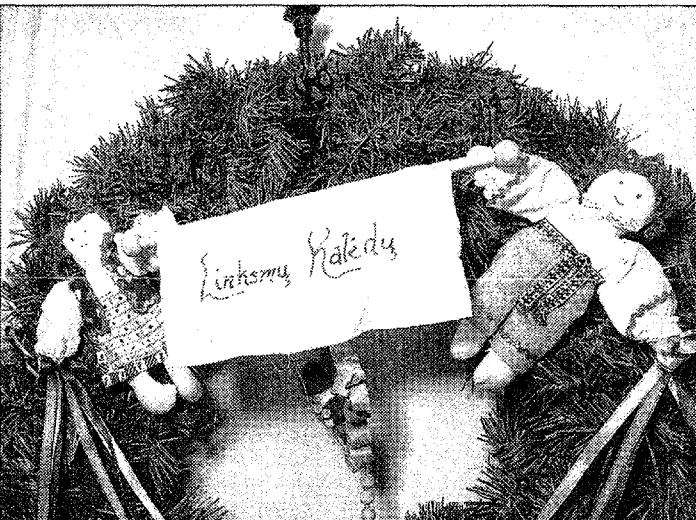
"It's build up. It's not putting up the tree and trying to put the lights around it," he said.

The 9-foot, ornament-packed tree is her favorite. "My favorite thing down here is the cardboard fireplace," she said, pointing to the simulated fire and mantle in

the basement. She bought the piece for a few dollars from a thrift store.

"I was just thrilled," she said.

The couple has lived in the house 22 years and participated in the homeowner association's annual Christmas house walk. This is the first time they've opened their doors to the Livonia Christmas tour, which raises funds for Historic Greenmead. "My friends and I have been going on the tour for probably 10 years," Toni said, "and I loved the houses and I'd think maybe some day I'd love to do that."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The message on the wreath is 'Happy Christmas' in Lithuanian.

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Account Type	Interest Rate (APY)
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MMA market rate comparison source: Informa Research Service, Inc., Calabasas, CA. www.informars.com. Although the information has been obtained from the various institutions themselves, the accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

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Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette—2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

NOV. 29-DEC. 2**Advent service**

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people pre-

pare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Christmas ornament

The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442.

Lessons and Carols

Candlelight service, 7 p.m., Nov. 29, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Join the chancel choir, ensembles, instrumentalists for this time of calm reflection, of hearing and sing-

ing the carols of Advent. Childcare provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

Toy collection

Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia, is collecting gently-used toys including complete games and puzzles and books, through Dec. 13. The toys will benefit needy children at Webster Elementary School. If a toy has multiple parts, all pieces should be placed in a baggie or sealed bag. Toys may be placed in the donation box under the canopy at the front of the church. (248) 476-8222

DEC. 3-9**Advent service**

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Breakfast

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, presents Breakfast with Angels, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 5. The special event for families with children age 3-7, will include breakfast, crafts, singing and a special visit from the angels. Contact the church office at (734) 464-0211 for more information.

Clothing closet

Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank will be open to people in need 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 9, and noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty. Donations of winter coats, gloves, boots accepted. The church also can schedule appointments to shop if your need is urgent. For more information, call (734) 927-6686

Concert

■ Christmas concert featuring the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. A reception will follow. Tickets \$12 each in advance; \$14 each at the door; \$10 each for groups of 10 or more. Go to SeatYourself.biz/stmatthewslivonia or call (734) 422-6038 to purchase tickets or for more information.

■ First Presbyterian Church of Farmington presents the men's choral society Measure for Measure in a special joint concert with the Wayne State University Concert Chorale at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile. There is no admission fee for this event, open to the general public, but donations of \$10 per person or \$25 per family are suggested. (248) 474-6170, Ext. 208

Drop and shop

6-8 p.m., Dec. 8 and 15 at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Mothers and Grandmothers will take care of children while their parents are out doing last minute errands for Christmas. No charge for the service. For information call (734) 421-5406.

Gift shop

Congregation B'nai Moshe Sisterhood of West Bloomfield presents a Holiday Gift Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6. Discover gifts for all ages, including items such as handbags, clothing, toys, jewelry, works of art, Judaica and more. Congregation B'nai Moshe is located at 6800 Drake, between Maple and 14 Mile Roads in West Bloomfield. For more information, call Linda Mondrow at (248) 682-0471 or e-mail to lmondrow@aol.com

Special needs event

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and their caretakers to attend a Christmas "Sing & Ring" event 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Participants will sing carols, ring bells, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy dessert and beverages. RSVP to Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to judy@emmanuel-livonia.org no later than Friday, Nov. 27. If local schools are closed because of heavy snow or inclement weather, the event will be

cancelled.

Swedish Christmas Shop

5-8 p.m. Friday Dec. 4 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat. Dec. 5 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, corner of Drake, in Farmington Hills. Swedish Christmas ornaments and decorations, along with homemade card-mom bread and crafts from Thailand and South Africa.

DEC. 10-16**Advent celebration**

Traditions of Christmas will be presented at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church will present "Traditions of Christmas," 4:30-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 9601 W. Hubbard, Livonia. The evening will be an all ages Advent celebration including family keepsake craft stations, Christmas and Dickens Village displays and formal family pictures by the family Christmas tree. There will be storytelling by members of the Detroit Storytelling League and the Northville High School Singers will perform. A family-style dinner will be served at 6 p.m. An Advent musical, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," will be presented by the RGPC Chancel Choir at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Dec. 5. Adult tickets are \$7; children under 12 pay \$5. Advance tickets only. Call the church office at (734) 422-0494.

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. The service is 45 minutes long. For information, call (313) 532-8655.

Advent speaker

Sister Mary Finn, faculty member from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will speak at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Her topic is "So Gifted, So Responsible." RSVP via e-mail or phone to David Conrad at davidjconrad@staidanlivonia.org or (734) 425-5950.

Christmas craft

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia will host a Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12 for grades kindergarten through 6th. Kids will enjoy a morning of creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. The event is free. To sign up, call (734) 422-1470 by Thursday, Dec. 10. St. Paul's is located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road.

Christmas musical

"The Name Jesus," a Christmas musical, runs at 7 p.m., Dec. 11; 10:45 a.m., Dec. 13; 7 p.m., Dec. 18 and 6 p.m., Dec. 20, at First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill, Canton. (734) 981-6460

Christmas open house

2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. See Christmas decorations, enjoy Christmas carols and refreshments. (313) 534-7730

Concert

■ The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Mr. Ray Schmidt, will present its 28th Annual Christmas Concert, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, in Livonia. Admission cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission in its efforts to aid those in need during the Holiday Season. (734) 425-5950.

■ Christmas Cantata, "Only Love," 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12 and 3

p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main, Milford. (248) 684-2805.

Cookie walk

10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 12, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia. Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound, along with various baked goods. (734) 427-2290

Readings and carols

Kneeling in Bethlehem - A Festival of Readings and Carols will be presented at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. The combined Adult, Children's and Handbell Choirs of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Lutheran church along with strings, flutes, percussion, organ and narration will tell the Christmas story through the music of composer Michael Burkhardt and the poetry of Ann Weems. Christmas cookie reception will follow the concert. For information call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at (734) 464-0211.

ONGOING**AWANA**

Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays, at the church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study

■ Antioch Preschool, an academic program complemented by Christian education, is enrolling 3- and 4-year-old children for the 2009-2010 school year. A new toddler class is offered Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Extended stay enrichment for 3's and 4's is offered Wednesdays - children bring their lunch and enjoy literacy activities until 3 p.m. Antioch Lutheran Church is at 13 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For information contact Sharon Detter, preschool director, at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antiochpreschool@sbcglobal.net.

■ New Life Community Church, 42200 Tyler, Belleville, offers a jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays, a reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays. (734) 846-4615

■ Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is designed to reduce stress and is great for overall health memory and balance.

Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

■ Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472.

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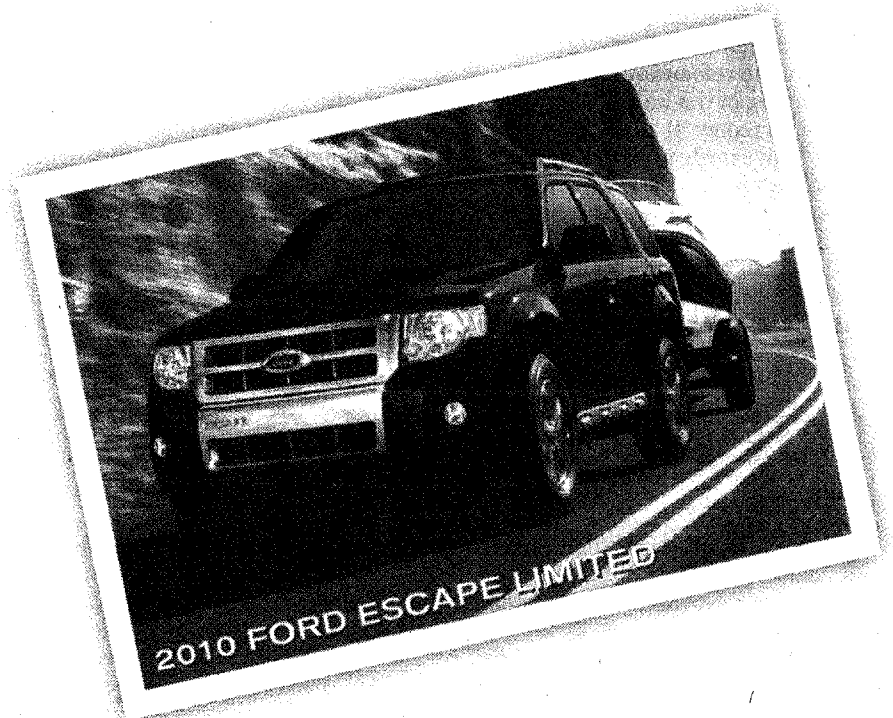
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Holidays can be tough time to cope with grief, loss, change

More than 40 events in people's lives can create feelings of grief: the death of a loved one, a divorce, an estrangement, financial changes and health issues are at the top of the list. The holidays are often a time where grief can start or for someone who already is grieving this time often increases their grief.

In-House Hospice offers solutions on coping with grief during the holidays:

Q: I have lost my job and am unable to find work. Now what?

A: The loss of a job is just as devastating as the loss of a close family member. Feelings of loss, sadness, anger and fear are very common. Embrace your feelings, realize that they are just feelings, and share them with a friend or loved one. Writing in a journal also helps deal with feelings, but be honest. Remember the old saying, "when one door closes, another one opens." Know that when you expect good things, good things happen. A positive attitude can make all the difference in the world.

Q: With the holidays arriving soon how can I cope with not being able to give my children the gifts that they have been accustomed to?

A: Holidays are the time many of us are extravagant and extend our budgets. This year, maybe it's time to refocus our attention on the actual meaning of the holiday, instead of what I can buy someone. It may mean changing rituals your family may have, but making new ones can be fun. Maybe just a family get together with everyone bringing a covered dish instead of the huge meal. Making homemade gifts is also fun, and children really enjoy helping. Enjoy your family and friends, and the time you have together, focus



Teresa Ridley is a bereavement coordinator for In-House Hospice, working with patients in Western Wayne County.

on the spiritual side of the holiday, and fill your home with love.

Q: My spouse and I divorced. Why do I feel grief this first holiday without him/her?

A: In a divorce, the same feelings arise as if the person had died because essentially it is a death; the death of a relationship that had started with so much promise and love. Now you are faced with creating a new "normal" and the holidays can be stressful. Understand the anticipation is probably a lot worse the reality of the day. Perhaps you can find friends in a similar situation and make plans to celebrate with them, rent your favorite films and make it a movie day, if expenses allow, plan a trip somewhere and if you feel like

being alone and sad, that's okay too. Maybe you can look upon this as an opportunity to abandon what you hated about the holidays and create new traditions.

Q: I've lost a pet. What can I do to alleviate the grief?

A: Pet owners have very close relationships with their animals, and the loss of a pet can be very painful. Feelings of overwhelming grief and sadness may be triggered, plus trouble sleeping, weight loss, feeling tired, or having difficulty focusing may occur. These feelings are much the same as losing a family member. Like grief for humans, grief for our animals can only be dealt with over time and in stages. Realize that your best support may come from outside your circle of friends and family. Seek out others who have lost a pet, they will appreciate the loss you are feeling and may suggest ways of getting through your grieving process.

Q: How can I cope with my first year of disability or chronic sickness?

A: Dealing with a chronic illness or disability often makes traveling or visiting people in their homes much more difficult, and may limit your chances of meeting up with friends and family for the holidays. You may be physically unable to host the holidays at your place this year as well. Feelings of loneliness and isolation often accompany the holidays for those of us who are unable to function at our usual capacity. However, giving people a chance to spend time with you individually and at their own convenience may be the way to have the holidays come to you. You may not be able to get out to the festivities on Christmas day but your friends and family can come to see you throughout the season,

stopping by after work or when they're out shopping. Let them know it is okay to drop in, make themselves a cup of tea, and have a chat, bringing some holiday cheer to your door.

Q: What can I do to alleviate grief from home foreclosure?

A: For those who lose their homes to foreclosure it can be a time of uncertainty and change. Not knowing what the future holds and how your life is going to change can be very sad and frightening. These feelings are normal when experiencing such a big loss in your life. At times like these it is helpful to lean on people you trust or get community support. It can also be helpful to learn as much as you can about the process of foreclosure, your rights, and any options or organizational help you may utilize. Getting as much knowledge about your situation and your options can help you gain a sense of control, relieve some of the stress and fear you may have and help cope with the upcoming changes you have to make. Keep in mind that the most pressing issue is to make sure you and your family has a safe and adequate place to stay. There are potential housing options you may be eligible for until you are able to get back on your feet.

In-House Hospice provides nearly 90 percent of hospice care to patients in their homes. When hospice care is provided in the home, a registered nurse visits regularly, coordinates care and stays in contact with the patient's own doctor. Other team members visit as needed and as the patient desires. Most patients and families choose to receive care from several team members, who include social workers, home health aides, chaplains, volunteers, music and massage therapists. www.in-househospice.com

New breast care center at Botsford offers digital mammography

Botsford Hospital opened its new Dr. Louis and Lucille Spagnuolo Breast Center on Friday, Nov. 27, offering patients digital mammography and other of the latest technologies for breast care, screening and diagnosis.

Digital mammography allows radiologists to review electronic images

of the breast using high-resolution monitors. The digital images can be stored easily, copied without loss of any information, transmitted easily without relying on one set of original films, and highlight specific areas of interest by manipulating brightness, contrast and zoom.

In addition to digital mammog-

raphy, the center offers stereotactic biopsy — which uses a computer to guide a needle to an abnormality seen on a mammogram — and high-resolution breast ultrasound with 3D reformat capability, which can show all areas of the breast including the area closest to the chest wall, which is harder to study with a mammogram.

The hospital campus also offers breast MRI for detection of breast cancer as well as to evaluate the integrity of breast implants.

The Botsford Breast Center is located on the Botsford Hospital campus at 27900 Grand River Ave, in Farmington Hills. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday

and Thursday-Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday; and 7:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Early morning appointments also will be available for men.

For questions about the Botsford Breast Center, call (248) 442-7986.

For appointments, contact Botsford Hospital's Central Scheduling at (248) 471-8100.

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