

SUNDAY
December 6,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 35
Number 47

75 CENTS

Money-saving coupons inside

Local theater troupe needs your help! - B7

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Let the games begin: First
week basketball coverage
Sports, B1

CANTON CONNECTION

Toy drive

Only a few days remain to help bring Christmas joy to those in need in the community. Canton Goodfellows and Canton Leisure Services are teaming up to help brighten the holidays for Canton's neediest children this holiday season. Anyone wishing to donate, there's still time to give a new, unwrapped toy at a Canton Leisure Services location. Contributions will be accepted through Dec. 13.

The Leisure Services offices, located in the Canton Administration Building will be collecting donations of toys, as well as new clothing, shoes, and electronics. No stuffed animals, please.

Cash donations and gift cards are also welcomed and can be dropped off at the Leisure Services Department. For more information, call 734/394-5360 or visit www.cantongoodfellows.org

Send memories

The holiday season is upon us and, through the hustle and bustle, we're asking our readers to let us be a part of their celebration.

We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Observer* for the special holiday edition we're planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright?

Share those memories with your neighbors through us. Send your items — be sure to include a photo, if you can — to *Observer* editor Brad Kadrach at bkadrach@hometownlife.com

Santa letters

Santa Claus has started to make his list, although sources tell the *Observer* that, while he's far from check it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters.

The *Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole.

The letters should be sent by e-mail and include a snapshot of the child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Ol' Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have.

Send Santa correspondence to bkadrach@hometownlife.com and be sure to put "Letter to Santa" in the subject line. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrach, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.



K.J. Smith, 2½, looks to mom for help while visiting Santa Wednesday. Santa was the featured attraction at Canton Township's holiday tree-lighting ceremony at the Summit.

Greeting the season

Canton throws a party to welcome holidays

BY BRAD KADRACH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A persistent rain Wednesday may have wet the scores of locals hurrying into the Summit for Canton Township's annual tree-lighting ceremony. But the activities inside did nothing but whet their appetites for the holidays.

More coverage, With a variety of photos, page B8.

ranging from a drum circle to cookie decorating and with Santa visiting with children of all ages, the Summit ceremony helped officially kick off the holiday season despite the weather.

"Let it rain," Dan Thompson of Canton said. "You can't dampen Christmas."

Kids got the chance to watch cartoons such as *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, make eco-friendly decorations, decorate a variety of cookies and play the drums.

Two hearty souls even braved the weather to take advantage of the free carriage rides being offered.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy flipped the switch to light the official Christmas tree.

"It was really fun," Monica Thompson said. "They put on a great program. It was great for the kids."

bkadrach@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



Amelia Repp plays the drum during a drum circle event.

Canton success brings TV appearance

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After snagging Michigan's only IKEA store, luring renewable-energy industry and boasting one of the nation's lowest crime rates among communities of comparable size, Canton is ready for its television closeup. And it's apparently going to get it.

Inside Business Report, hosted by actor and Republican politico Fred Thompson on certain news networks, has contacted Canton to produce a five-minute segment titled *Hidden Gems of Economic Development*, expected to air potentially by late March.

Local officials say Canton has become the only community in economically troubled Michigan sought out for the program, part of *IBR's* Leaders in Economic Development series.

"We're very excited," Canton Economic Development Manager Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz said. "We think it's a terrific opportunity that will provide Canton with some national exposure and a tool we can utilize to promote the community in the future."

IBR's segment, which aims to address crucial topics in an ever-evolving global economy, is expected to shine a spotlight on Canton by educating viewers about topics such as the township's location, business community, workforce, lifestyles and land availability.

Local officials say the segment is expected to air one time nationally on CNBC and 10 times regionally on other news networks, possibly including CNN. The show is expected to be shown in as many as 15 markets that Canton leaders can help select.

Local officials also are expected to have input into the final script and be given unrestricted licensing rights to use the segment as a marketing tool on the township Web site, cable channel and other outlets.

"It is an opportunity for Canton to show what Canton is all about, and we'll get exposure like we've never had before," township Trustee John Anthony said. "It will greatly enhance our exposure and could help Canton grow economically."

"It's something I feel is important and vital," he added. "Any business that is looking to locate, we'd like them to look at Canton."

The segment is slated to include on-camera interviews and footage of new construction, existing businesses and other community features. The only cost to Canton is \$19,700 from the cable fund — not the general fund — for certain program scheduling fees.

Local officials say *IBR* contacted Canton because the township, despite being lesser known nationally than places like Ann Arbor, still managed to lure certain companies.

"IKEA will be referenced" in the segment, Bilbrey-Honsowetz said.

Canton also has snagged businesses such as Danotek Motion Technologies, a renewable-energy company that manufactures magnetic generators for windmill turbines. In October, officials said Danotek plans to invest \$5 million in its local facility, with the potential to quadruple its workforce to as many as 200 employees within five years.

Anthony credited township Supervisor Phil LaJoy with amassing an economic development team, headed by Bilbrey-Honsowetz, that appears to be drawing attention to the township. The effort includes a catchy slogan, "Canton's Got It."

To be sure, Canton hasn't been immune to the economic recession that has plagued the nation and, in particular, Michigan. The township has had its share of business closings and vacant buildings and storefronts.

But officials say national recognition on *Hidden Gems of Economic Development* can only help as local leaders forge ahead.

Index

APARTMENTS ... C3
AUTOMOTIVE ... C6
CAREER BUILDER ... C1
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
EDUCATION ... A4
HEALTH & FITNESS ... B10
MILESTONES ... B5
NEIGHBORS ... B6
OBITUARIES ... B5
REAL ESTATE ... C2
SPORTS ... B1

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Soccer coach acquitted in assault case

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton man and Plymouth Soccer Club coach has been found not guilty of sexually assaulting a 23-year-old woman inside an apartment on Canton's northeast side, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said.

Yao Fiacre Kra, 28, was acquitted of third-degree criminal sexual conduct by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury that returned its verdict Wednesday, culminating a trial that started earlier in the week in Judge David Allen's courtroom.

"He's elated," defense attorney Lyle B. Harris said. "If he had been convicted, he would have been going to prison. I think the jury had a reasonable doubt, and he's a free man."

"He had maintained his innocence from the beginning," Harris added.

Kra could have faced penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison if he had been convicted of sexually assaulting a woman who was visiting a friend earlier this year at The Crossings, an apartment complex near I-275 and Joy Road.

Kra had severed ties with the Plymouth Soccer



Kra

Club as his trial was pending, but club President Glenn Liguori said Kra will be brought back following his acquittal.

"He will be reinstated with the club. It's just a matter of what he'll be doing in terms of training and coaching — we're not 100 percent sure yet," Liguori said. "But he will be reinstated, and we will integrate him back into the club."

According to Canton police reports, Kra's accuser and a friend had gone to a bar and returned with two men, neither of which was Kra. When the men didn't appear to want to leave, the friend had phoned Kra, a neighbor, and asked him to help usher the visitors away, police said.

After the men left, Kra had been accused of going into a bedroom and sexually assaulting the visiting woman, police have said.

The allegations led to a criminal investigation, and Kra had been ordered to stand trial during a preliminary hearing in July in 35th District Court. He had remained free on a \$5,000 personal bond as he awaited trial.

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"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Coffee with Slavens

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at a coffee hour on Monday, Dec. 7, from 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Big Boy, 45250 Ford Road, in Canton. "Meeting with residents and getting their input on the issues that matter most to them helps me to better serve our community in Lansing," Slavens said. "Times are tough right now in Michigan, and we have to do everything we can to get our economy back on track. That's why I encourage you to join me and share your

thoughts and concerns with me as I continue fighting to create jobs and move our state forward."

If your business or organization is interested in hosting an event with Slavens, please call her office toll-free at (888) 347-8021 or send an e-mail to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov.

Holiday concert

The Celebration Youth Orchestras of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras will present their Holiday Concert at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8. The Youth Orchestras consist of 3 levels of strings, the full youth symphony and the Celebration Flute Choir.

Students range in age from 8-18 and perform a variety of classical music under

the direction of Plymouth Symphony Conductor Nan Washburn and Assistant Conductor Hektor Qyteti.

Tickets for the concert are \$6 and are available at the door the night of the concert. For information contact the PSO office at (734) 451-2112.

Pizza with Santa

The Canton Rotary Club sponsors its yearly Lunch with Santa 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Roman Forum Restaurant, 41601 Ford Road in Canton.

Santa's elves will be serving pizza while children and parents enjoy a visit with Santa. Children will be able to participate in cookie decorating, and each child will receive a photo with Santa.

Cost is \$8 per person; children under 3 are free.

Happy meals

Since 1979, McDonald's Happy Meals have changed the way families enjoy lunch and dinner out together. To celebrate the 30th birthday of the Happy Meal, the Southeast Michigan McDonald's Operators Association brings its traveling exhibit to the Canton Public Library through Jan. 4.

The exhibit contains many of the different specialty toys and artifacts that have been included in the Happy Meal since its introduction.

"The response to this exhibit has been tremendous," said Willie Blue, marketing supervisor for McDonald's Michigan Region. "People from all over metro Detroit have enjoyed reliving their Happy Meal memories with their children."

The Canton Public Library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center. In addition, Ronald McDonald, McDonald's Chief Happiness Officer, will make a special appearance 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, for a special children's show.

Business women meet

The Canton Business & Professional Women meet 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Canton Center Road.

Guest speaker is Judy Ellis, executive director of First Step.

RSVP for this meeting by Friday, Dec. 11.

St. Nick frolic

The Canton Senior Center



MARY HOLAY

Get to work

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education members Barry Simescu (from left), Judy Mardigian, Adrienne Davis and John Jackson are sworn in by Wayne County Circuit Judge Mark Slavens, himself a former PCCS board member. Simescu, Mardigian and Jackson were re-elected last month; Davis earned her first term.

is inviting all seniors to enjoy great food, great music, and great fun at this year's St. Nick Frolic noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9. The event will take place in the Summit Grand Ballroom located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Guests will enjoy a turkey dinner with all the fixings, salad, beverages including an eggnog station, and dessert. A cash bar will also be available. Door prizes will be handed out and festive holiday entertainment will be provided by Jerry Robotka, and the Madrigal and Chamber singers of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools.

Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$23 for non-residents and can be purchased at the Summit on the Park Front Desk.

For more information on the St. Nick Frolic and all Summit Senior Activities, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5485.

Toy drive

The Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Club is collecting toys for the Salvation Army through Dec. 8.

Bring new unwrapped toys to Citizen's Bank at 6549 Canton Center Road or Help-U-Sell Real Estate at 7120 Haggerty Road.

The greatest need is for toys or games for 10-18 year olds. If you have any questions, please contact Kiwanis at (734) 981-0460.

Historical Hold 'em

The Canton Historical Society hosts a "Texas Hold 'Em" event at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Canton Center Road, Dec. 10-12, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The event will feature sit-and-go tournaments, cash games, Omaha, a smoke-free environment, professional dealers, full-service bar, a late-night menu and a midnight pizza buffet.

For more information, call Rose's at (734) 981-9904.

Toys for Tots

The Goddard School began collecting new, unwrapped Toys for Tots on Monday, Nov. 23. The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program distributes the donated toys as holiday gifts to needy children in the community.

The goal of the Toys for Tots program is to not only deliver a new toy during the holidays, but also a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters throughout the United States. The Goddard School uses cause-related opportunities like Toys for Tots to teach their little students the importance of helping others.

A Toys for Tots collection box will be located in the lobby of the school through Dec. 16 for donations. The Goddard School is located at 6697 N. Canton Center Road. For more information, call (734) 454-4737.

Art exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will showcase the art works of Robert Thorne through Jan. 3 in the Gallery@VT. Thorne's latest exhibit features recent print and pastel works.

Thorne's artwork is a mix of process and theme. As noted in his artist statement, Thorne states that his work is a comment on the passage of time and the elements of nature, which affect our technological environment. "Process is an important component of my

work; it is never hidden, but is part of the experience of looking."

This multi-media art exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and during public performances at the theater.

For more information about this latest exhibition, call (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillageattheater.org.

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestras will be selling Luminaria kits for the holiday season. Each kit will consist of 10 white paper bags as well as 10 candles. The kits can be purchased for \$5 in Plymouth at Gabriela's, Saxton's, Sideways, and The Plymouth Canton Symphony office located at 774 N. Sheldon Road.

The Luminaria kits will also be for sale in between the 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Plymouth Symphony "Home for the Holidays" POPS concert that will be taking place in the historic Penn Theatre located downtown Plymouth on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The Luminaria kits are available through Dec. 24. For further information contact the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society at (734) 451-2112.

Canton Goodfellows

Canton Goodfellow's "No child without a Christmas" Collection continues through Dec. 9 at Showroom of Elegance, 6018 Canton Center Road.

Bring in canned goods, nonperishable items or cash donation for the Canton Goodfellows and receive a gift from our Santa Bag. All gifts are with a retail value of \$20 or more.

"This is our way to help those children in the Plymouth/Canton school district that are in need and wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas or food while out of school on the holiday break," said Linda Robin, Showroom of Elegance owner. "Our need is great this year with over 700 children to provide for. We need so much help. Please join us in this mission."

For more information, call (734) 207-1906.

Chorale auditions

BeckRidge Chorale announces auditions for the second half of its 36th season.

Auditions will be held Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7-9:30 p.m. at Plymouth First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

To get more information and to sign up for an audition go to: www.beckridgechorale.org. While there you may also purchase tickets to BeckRidge Chorale and/or Cherry Hill Singers upcoming concerts.

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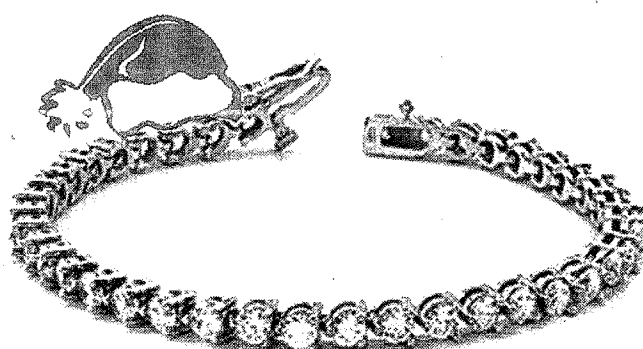
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CHANGE A REGULAR ELECTION DATE

Please take notice that pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, as amended, the Board of Education of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, Michigan, will conduct a public hearing on the issue of its consideration of the establishment of a new regular election date pursuant to law.

School districts that currently hold their regular elections on a date other than at the odd-year general election date may change their regular election date to any of the following dates:

- The odd year general election date;
- The general November election date;
- The November regular election date in both even and odd years; or
- The odd year May regular election date.

The hearing will be held in the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, located at 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, at 7:00 p.m. on the 8th day of December, 2009.

The Board of Education of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools also gives public notice that the Board of Education is authorized by law to choose to vote and take action on a resolution setting the regular election date immediately subsequent to the public hearing.

If the Board of Education fails to adopt a resolution reestablishing the District's regular election date, the District's regular election will continue to be held at on the date on which it is currently being held.

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The bridge is dropped into place along the Rouge recreation trail. Officials estimate the bridges will be usable within a couple of weeks.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bridge installation starts along Rouge trail

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three of seven wooden pedestrian bridges linking a pristine recreation trail that meanders through Canton Township have been installed — a major development for a project idea hatched nearly a decade ago.

Workers from Florida-based Nature Bridges spent Wednesday and Thursday installing two bridges along a stretch of the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail between Lilley and Sheldon — and a third bridge west of Sheldon.

"This is really big — one of the best days of my career," Brad Sharp, Canton's parks

and facilities manager, said Friday.

Weather permitting, workers are expected to install two other bridges as early as Friday along the recreation trail between Lilley and Haggerty. Finishing touches to the bridge approaches still have to be made.

"I would say in the next few weeks they should be usable," Assistant Township Engineer Robert Belair said Friday. "It's great to see them put in finally. It really ties it all together."

The final two bridges between Sheldon and Canton Center should be in place as early as next spring, creating a seamless, five-mile recreation trail that winds through the township north of Michigan Avenue.

"The absolute goal is to have all seven bridges fully open by June 2010 from Canton Center to Haggerty," Sharp said.

Local officials have said the bridges — prefabricated out of state and assembled on site — will make the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail a perfect getaway, right in the heart of bustling Canton, for nature lovers who want to walk, jog, ride non-motorized bikes and go cross-country skiing.

The bridges will complement a trail head earlier built on Morton Taylor north of Michigan Avenue, in an area where just over a mile of nature trail already has been in use.

Trail users already can use a parking lot off Morton Taylor

to access the trail head.

Canton's elected officials in July had voted to hire Nature Bridges to build the 10-foot-side, wooden pedestrian bridges for \$671,654, using a combination of state, county and township dollars earlier allocated for the project.

Township residents in surveys had cited more walking trails as one of their top recreation priorities.

Trail users will occasionally have to cross major roads that intersect the nature trail, but officials have said signs are to be posted to alert pedestrians and motorists of crosswalks. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

W-W board to get revamped schools plan

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Parents spoke and the school board listened.

That's the message from Wayne-Westland school officials who spent more than 15 hours reworking the recommendations of the district's 21st Century Schools Committee to address concerns raised by residents at a five-hour public forum last week.

"We heard what residents said, we listened to what they said and the proposal has been changed," said school board President Skip Monit, who participated in a portion of the discussions. "The board gave the administration direction and I think they have come up with a good plan that even the community can live with."

The new recommendations will be presented to the school board at a 6 p.m. meeting Monday at the Stockmeyer Auditorium on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School. The meeting will be the board's regular monthly meeting, but the agenda is being reworked to allow for expanded citizens' comments, which most likely will be limited to one hour.

"We've got to do our best so everyone is heard," Monit said.

Changes in the proposal include a return to the original boundaries for the high school attendance areas, which addresses issues raised by parents living in the "blue square," the southern portion of the Madison Elementary School attendance area.

"The blue square is gone under the new proposal," said Monit.

Under the new proposal, Madison would still be closed and those students living south of Avondale between Wayne Road and Dowling moved to Schweitzer Elementary for kindergarten through fourth grade. However, instead of going to Adams, Franklin Middle School and eventually Wayne Memorial High

School, the former Madison students would go to Marshall, Stevenson Middle School and John Glenn High School.

Revisions to the plan will create four lower elementary schools in which students will be split off to go on the two proposed 5-6 schools. The goal of the district had been to keep students with classmates throughout their school years, and that will happen at the start of fifth-grade under the new proposal, Monit said.

In response to concerns about students in the Norwayne community having to cross major roads like Michigan Avenue to get to their new schools, the recommendation is to keep Hamilton Elementary open to service the Norwayne students.

While it isn't what residents of Norwayne wanted — they were asking that one of the two schools, Lincoln or Jefferson Barns, be kept open — students instead would go to Hamilton, which is on Avondale at Schuman and about a half-mile north of the Norwayne subdivision.

"I think people assumed we would be a rubber stamp for the recommendations and we're not," said Monit. "I hope residents see that by this new recommendation that we did listen to them. We've got to vote by our conscience and by what's right for the students."

The changes, if approved, will mean the district will save less than they hoped to cut \$5.5-\$6 million of the estimated \$12 million it needs to trim from its budget. The committee had recommended that it seek help from employee groups to make up the difference.

"This is a give-and-take situation, we're just going to have to bite the bullet," Monit said.

It also appears the board heeded residents call to delay voting on the recommendations. According to Monit, the board will most likely take it up at a special meeting, quite possibly on Monday, Dec. 14.

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THE PARK LIVING



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10am-7pm 11am-5pm Dec. 13	9am-10pm 10am-9pm Dec. 14	9am-10pm 10am-9pm Dec. 15	9am-10pm 10am-9pm Dec. 16	9am-10pm 10am-9pm Dec. 17	9am-11am 10am-8pm Dec. 18	7am-11pm 9am-2pm Dec. 19

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EDUCATION

Program helps girls dash into life's lessons

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Louise LeBlanc knew about the international Girls on the Run program from Runner's World magazine, and decided she'd try to buy the program to get it started in the Plymouth-Canton area.

The cost was prohibitive, and LeBlanc decided to seek out sponsors. On the day she came home from talking with one prospective sponsor, her daughter brought her good news: The program already existed locally, in partnership with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Continuing Education and the Plymouth YMCA.

"It was meant to be," said LeBlanc, who now coaches the program. "I love what it stands for. I love that it teaches life-time skills."

GOTR is a 10-week program run twice a year - once in the fall, another in the spring - that focuses on life lessons such as building teamwork, sportsmanship and being a good citizen in the community. Lessons include things like "Being a girl of your word" and "values are valuable." The program, which started as a YMCA pilot at Central Middle School in 2007, had 16 runners this year, including 12 third-graders and four fifth-graders. The girls meet twice a week after school. The program costs \$100 per session, some \$25 cheaper than most similar programs, according to LeBlanc.

"The YMCA has been great at keeping the fees to a minimum," she said. "They help families needing assistance, thanks to generous donors in the Strong Kids Campaign."

Teamwork comes into play for community projects such



Plymouth-Canton area runners took part in the YMCA's Flurry Scurry at Kensington Metro Park, capping the 10-week Girls on the Run program.



Mackenzie Mace, 8, got well ahead of her family.

as the Soles for Souls shoe-collection project and the Cards for Soldiers program.

"It's about community," LeBlanc said. "Some of these kids don't belong to a sport. Running is an individual thing where you can set your own pace, but it also teaches the girls about teams, because we cheer each other on."

The idea is to help build self-esteem among the girls, something LeBlanc sees happening in her own home. Her 8-year-

old daughter, Natalie Gifford, suffers from Osteogenesis imperfecta, a genetic disorder characterized by bones that break easily, often from little or no apparent cause.

Natalie "didn't want to be an OI kid," prompting a discussion with her mother "about our bodies and what matters is on the inside, not the outside," LeBlanc recalled.

"One day she just blurted out to me, 'Mom, I'm fine just the way I am,'" LeBlanc said.

"That was great to hear."

Natalie finished the 10-week fall session, which culminated in the "Flurry Scurry" run at Kensington Park, and pronounced the program a good one.

"I had fun," she said. "I learned I'm perfect the way I am."

Leah Stevens wasn't sure she wanted to join, but enjoyed it in the end.

"Once I got into it, I really liked it," she said. "We learn teamwork, and it's fun."

The other fun part for LeBlanc is watching not only her girls, but their families, get involved. The Flurry Scurry drew 254 runners (16 Bentley Elementary School runners plus 20 of their family members), including runners from Allen, Bird, Bentley, Dodson, Eriksson and Farrand elementaries.

"It's a trickle-up effect," LeBlanc said. "It affects not only these girls, but their families. It really becomes a family affair."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

School board considers another election switch

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

About a year ago, the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education voted to move its election schedule to every November in what they said, at the time, was a cost-cutting move.

Apparently, they've changed their minds.

School board trustees will consider a resolution moving the school elections to odd-year Novembers when they convene for their meeting Monday at 7 p.m. in the board office on Harvey in downtown Plymouth, school officials said Friday.

A public hearing on the election switch is scheduled as the first item on the agenda for Monday's meeting.

The latest switch reportedly revolves around not only costs, but political factors such as the size of the ballot, particularly during presidential and gubernatorial elections, and a fear that political parties may become more involved in a local, non-partisan election.

That was a concern for board president Steven Sneedman a year ago.

"Holding even-year November elections will encourage political parties to influence our elections," said Sneedman, then a trustee. "When they're the ones that are in Lansing deciding how

PUBLIC HEARING

- **What:** Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meeting
- **When:** 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8
- **Where:** E.J. McClendon Education Center, 454 Harvey, Plymouth
- **Included:** A public hearing on a resolution to move the school elections from every November to an odd-year November schedule

much money we get every year, I think that's a recipe for disaster."

The move comes barely a year after a 6-1 vote by the board to switch to every November. Until then, Plymouth-Canton had been splitting the \$100,000 cost of an odd-year May election with Schoolcraft College. However, Schoolcraft trustees voted to move to even-year November elections to reduce their cost to zero.

At the time, the board passed on an even-year November option that would have cost them nothing, since the election would have included other municipalities. Trustees estimated at the time odd-year elections would cost the district some \$84,000 because they would share costs with the City of Plymouth, which conducts odd-year elections for its city commission.

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SIMON

Her mission: Spread word about Safe Delivery law

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Livonia woman sprung into action recently after she heard the tragic story of the mother who left her newborn girl in a Dumpster in Garden City.

Cheryl Davidson believes that not enough people know about the state's Safe Delivery of Newborns law.

She has made it her priority to inform people about the law by distributing materials and contacting the media.

She contacted both the Garden City and Westland police departments after the incident to inquire whether they needed some updated publications to pass out to the public.

"I believe this is such an important and compassionate piece of legislation that it is worth my time and effort to make sure the word is spread," Davidson said. "In light of the unfortunate incident where a 22-year-old woman abandoned her newborn in a Garden City Dumpster, I wanted to use this tragedy as an opportunity to broaden awareness about the Safe Delivery law."

Desiree A. Walker, 22, was arraigned last Wednesday afternoon in 21st District Court in Garden City on



Walker

three felony charges of attempted murder, child abandonment and second-degree child abuse. Walker is accused of leaving her newborn baby in a plastic shopping bag in a Dumpster behind several businesses along Ford Road on Nov. 20.

Davidson started her current campaign by contacting Channel 7 news because in two of its broadcasts, the law "wasn't mentioned once in reports about the incident."

Her contact with the two police departments also inquired whether they were current with their handbook and other training materials for their staff where the Safe Delivery law is concerned.

"When a woman finds herself in crisis having delivered a child she does not want, she can take the child to any hospital, fire station, police station or call 9-1-1 within the first 72 hours of birth and hand the child to an on-duty staff person or contractor," Davidson said. "The baby must be unharmed. The parent can then walk away and remain anonymous, or may fill out a short medical

information form for the sake of the child and may also receive medical attention for herself. Again, she doesn't have to do anything, if she doesn't want to once she has put the baby in the arms of someone on duty. What she cannot do is just leave the baby on the premises, such as on a chair or on the doorstep. That is not in compliance with the law and she would be in danger of prosecution."

After the mother has surrendered the child, she still has 28 days to change her mind and petition the court to get her child back, Davidson said.

The part about calling 9-1-1 is a new addition to the law that not many people know about, Davidson said.

"As a matter of fact, not many people seem to know about this law in general, and this is where people like me come in," she said.

The state of Michigan has a very small budget for publicizing the Safe Delivery of Newborns law and "in light of this, they rely upon people like me who volunteer their time and energy to promote the law in any way possible," she said.

Media is the best way because it reaches the largest audiences. However, Davidson has also taken

printed materials to local colleges and universities, crisis pregnancy centers, homeless shelters and even posted materials in public bathrooms and coffee shops.

She tells everyone she know about this law. "I have a car magnet on my minivan with the basic information and the hotline number on it," Davidson said. "You never know who is listening or watching."

Davidson said that if the mother in the Garden City case had followed the Safe Delivery law, she would be free of prosecution and the baby would be in an adoptive home.

Since the inception of the Safe Delivery of Newborns law Jan. 1, 2001, there have been 74 newborns safely surrendered — 70 were in hospitals, three were at fire departments and one was at a police station — in counties throughout the Lower Peninsula. A majority occurred in southeast Michigan.

The hotline number for Safe Delivery is (800) 733-7733. More information can be found the Safe Delivery Web site for Safe Delivery at www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5452_7124_7200---,00.html.

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Case of missing boy remains unsolved still 15 years later

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fifteen years ago this Friday, D'Wan Sims' mother told security guards at Wonderland Mall that her 4-year-old son was missing.

Dwannna Harris told police she lost her son in a mass of Christmas shoppers at the mall. The story generated thousands of tips, several false leads and searches by police



D'Wan

and volunteers. His photo appeared in newspapers and on television. But D'Wan was never found. This week, The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children issued a press release with a photo of what D'Wan may look like today at the age of 19 and urged people to call (800) THE LOST with information.

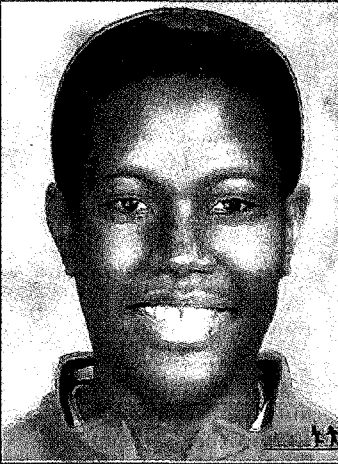
Detective Sgt. Shelley Holloway of the Livonia Police Department said that while the case remains open, no tips have been received lately.

Livonia police remain suspicious of the story of Harris, who married and is now Dwanna Jackson.

"We're confident that he never made it to Wonderland Mall," Holloway said. "He never appeared on any video at all."

D'Wan's mother was observed on the video. "You see her walking around, not reacting or concerned, that her son is missing," Holloway said.

Holloway said Livonia police investigators spoke with eyewitnesses who saw D'Wan's mother arrive at the mall without her son. Their stories were corroborated with store receipts and surveillance video of their arrivals to shop there. Livonia Police were assist-



D'Wan's photo is progressed to what he may look like at 19.

ed by the Michigan State Police and the Detroit Police Department during the initial investigation.

Holloway said she doesn't know for a fact that Sims is dead, but she believes "something happened to him. It could have been an accident," she added.

Holloway has not spoken to Jackson in years, she said.

But Jackson insisted at the time of the disappearance that she and her son walked from the Target store into the mall, and that shortly thereafter he was gone, according to published reports and newspaper stories from that time.

In a 2003 newspaper story, Beverly Harris, the mother of Dwanna, said her daughter was emotionally devastated by the loss of her son and by police interrogations. She remembers the sadness of Christmas without D'Wan and his enjoyment of Power Rangers and watching television.

Holloway said the case was frustrating. "We exhausted just about every resource we could use," Holloway said.

Anyone with information on the disappearance of D'Wan Sims can contact the Livonia Police Department at (734) 466-2470.

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Gone campin'
Sixth-graders from Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth recently enjoyed a four-day stay at the YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton. The students enjoyed activities such as zip lines, challenge courses, archery, skits and more.

Public hearing set to detail Sheldon Center Road project

Wayne County's Department of Public Services, in cooperation with Canton Township, will hold a Public Hearing for the Environmental Assessment of the Sheldon Center Road Improvement Project (from Warren Road to Joy Road) 5-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21 at the Canton Administration Building, Lower Level, Meeting Room E, located at 1150 Canton Center Road.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires Federal government agencies identify the environmental impact of any road project over a half-mile in length that will change the footprint of the roadway as part of their decision-making processes. The NEPA also requires that agencies receiving federal aid for a project provide information to the public and consider their input when reaching decisions.

To view a copy of the Sheldon Center Road Improvement Project Environmental Assessment visit www.waynecounty.com/mygov/dps/. The assessment will also be available for review during normal business hours through Jan. 15 at the Canton Township Administration Building, the Canton Public Library, and the Wayne County Department of Public Services Field Engineering Permit Office, located at in the city of Wayne at 33809 Michigan Ave.

The following options can be used by the public to submit a comment on assessment:

- Comments can be made in person at the public hearing
- Mailed to Kenneth Kucel at the Wayne County Department of Public Services, Engineering Division, 415 Clifford, Detroit MI 48226
- E-mailed to SheldonCenterEA@co.wayne.mi.us

Written comments must be submitted no later than Jan. 15.

Construction on the Sheldon Road Corridor, which runs from Canton Center Road to Joy Road, is anticipated to begin in 2010. This is a large scale project that may take two years to complete. Construction on this project will include; widening Canton Center Road to five lanes from 400 feet north of Warren Road to where Canton Center Road splits and turns to the north-west; reconstructing and widening Sheldon Center Road to five lanes from Canton Center Road to 200 feet south of Joy Road and; reconstructing the Sheldon Road connector to three lanes from Sheldon Road to Sheldon Center Road.

Museum event blends tea, tunes

The Plymouth Historical Museum mixes holiday tunes and afternoon tea for "Festivitea," scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19.

Harmony 4 Fun, a barbershop-style ladies quartet, will perform holiday music at the Plymouth Historical Museum. The group's entertainment will follow a Victorian-style tea complete with scones, tea sandwiches, and other fare catered by Sweet Afton Tea Room in Plymouth.

The tea that will be served is the museum's new signature blend, "Mary's Blend," a tantalizing cherry and almond black tea in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also now available for purchase in the museum's gift shop.

Tickets for FestiviTea are \$20 for Plymouth Historical Society members and \$25 for non-members, and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the museum's Web site at www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html using PayPal. Ticket holders who come early that day are also invited to enjoy the museum's special exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story."

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m.

For further information, call (734) 455-8940.



Holiday 4 Fun, featuring Nancy Kingsbury, Terry Mull, Colleen Malone and Shirley Southgate, perform at the Plymouth Historical Museum Dec. 19.

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• **FANTASTIC MR. FOX** (PG)
FRI-WED 11:05, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:15, 9:20
TH 11:05, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15

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

• **THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON** (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:25

• **THE BLIND SIDE** (PG-13)
11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

• **3D DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL** (PG)
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FRI/SAT LS 11:30

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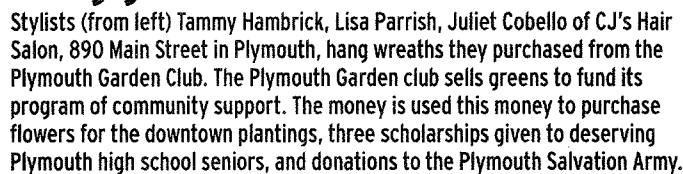
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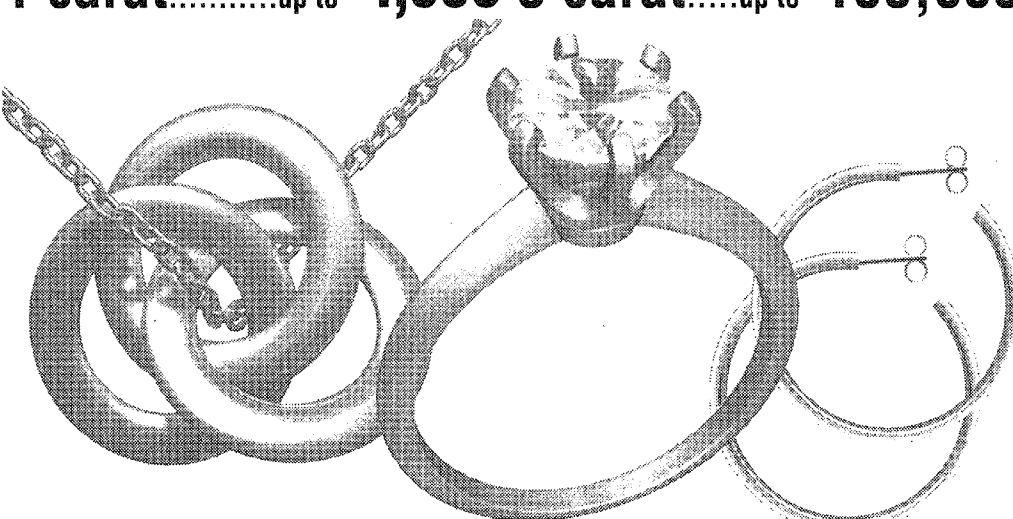
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SILVER COINS	GOLD COINS	SILVER COINS																																																															
<p>GOLD COINS</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  <p style="font-size: small; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ONE OF OUR BUYERS PAID \$260,000 FOR 18 GOLD COINS!!</p> </div> <p>Pay up to for the following rare gold:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <th>United States</th> <th>Used</th> <th>New</th> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1.00 1842 to 1889.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2.50 1798 to 1834.....up to.....</td> <td>\$5,500.....</td> <td>\$17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2.50 1840 to 1929.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$3.00 1854 to 1888.....up to.....</td> <td>\$3,000.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1795 to 1833.....up to.....</td> <td>\$10,000.....</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1834 to 1838.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1839 to 1908.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1908 to 1929.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$10.00 1795 to 1804.....up to.....</td> <td>\$9,000.....</td> <td>\$29,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$10.00 1839 to 1932.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$7,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$20.00 1850 to 1933.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$50.00 1851 to 1852.....up to.....</td> <td>\$5,000.....</td> <td>\$15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$50.00 1915 Pan-Pec.....up to.....</td> <td>\$7,500.....</td> <td>\$25,000</td> </tr> </table>	United States	Used	New	\$1.00 1842 to 1889.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$10,000	\$2.50 1798 to 1834.....up to.....	\$5,500.....	\$17,500	\$2.50 1840 to 1929.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$5,000	\$3.00 1854 to 1888.....up to.....	\$3,000.....	\$10,000	\$5.00 1795 to 1833.....up to.....	\$10,000.....	\$50,000	\$5.00 1834 to 1838.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$10,000	\$5.00 1839 to 1908.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$6,000	\$5.00 1908 to 1929.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$6,000	\$10.00 1795 to 1804.....up to.....	\$9,000.....	\$29,000	\$10.00 1839 to 1932.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$7,500	\$20.00 1850 to 1933.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$10,000	\$50.00 1851 to 1852.....up to.....	\$5,000.....	\$15,000	\$50.00 1915 Pan-Pec.....up to.....	\$7,500.....	\$25,000	<p>SILVER DOLLARS</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  <p style="font-size: small; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ONE OF OUR BUYERS PAID \$90,000 FOR ONE SILVER COIN!!</p> </div> <p>Pay up to for the following rare dollars:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <th>United States</th> <th>Used</th> <th>New</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1794 to 1803.....up to.....</td> <td>\$2,000.....</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1836 to 1838.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1840 to 1873.....up to.....</td> <td>\$500.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trade Dollars.....up to.....</td> <td>\$100.....</td> <td>\$2,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1878 to 1904.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1921 to 1935.....up to.....</td> <td>\$50.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">All prices in ad based on rarity and condition.</p>	United States	Used	New	1794 to 1803.....up to.....	\$2,000.....	\$50,000	1836 to 1838.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$5,000	1840 to 1873.....up to.....	\$500.....	\$5,000	Trade Dollars.....up to.....	\$100.....	\$2,500	1878 to 1904.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$12,500	1921 to 1935.....up to.....	\$50.....	\$5,000	<p>SILVER COINS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Will Pay Up To</p> <h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">950%</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">On</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Silver Coins</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Up to 950%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">of face value on silver coins 1964 & older</p>
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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONSIDER BRINING EVERYTHING</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">We have surprised many people who thought their items were not valuable enough to consider. The expert evaluators we have gathered together offer you a wealth of knowledge and experience. We are accustomed to paying thousands of dollars for valuable items. Don't miss this opportunity. Perhaps we'll help you find a real treasure in those hidden away pieces. There's never a charge for our consultation or services.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">YOU MAY HAVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF ITEMS GATHERING DUST</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Almost everyone has something of value they no longer need or want: Inherited items, jewelry that doesn't fit your style, watches that are old or even broken, silver pieces. Several items that might be useless to YOU.. may be considered treasures by the collectors from our vast international network.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">REASONS TO SELL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Midwest Gold Buyers specializes in evaluation and buying New and Antique jewelry. Our generations of experience qualify us to evaluate everything from small pieces to the finest and most valuable estate jewelry. 2. Midwest Gold Buyers has an undisputed reputation. We work in compliance with your Local and State Government. 3. This is an ideal opportunity to have your valuables evaluated (especially if you inherited them) by experts right here in this area. Come in for a free appraisal and cash offer - NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. 4. If you are not wearing or enjoying the items that you have, then this is a great chance for you to convert them to CASH. This is much better than just holding hard to sell diamonds, jewelry & coins.
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**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13TH
10am-5pm**

Higher returns almost always mean riskier investments

Q: Dear Rick: I'm not a stock market investor. I can't take the roller-coaster ride that the market always seems to be in. Earlier in the year, I chose to liquidate all my stock to invest in a more conservative manner. I took your advice and as opposed to buying certificates of deposits through my bank, I shopped around. I was surprised at the difference in rates throughout the country. At the time, I bought six-month CDs. They have matured and I started shopping around for new CDs. The problem is the rates are so low. I do not want to go back into stocks, but I want better returns than I am getting in CDs. Is there any other investment that would give me the same protection as CDs, but pay a higher rate of return? I need the higher rate of return to cover my living expenses so I don't draw down on my principal.

A: You have just identified one of the main problems in the investment world today. Rates of return on fixed-income investments such as CDs are at record lows and, unfortunately, I believe they will stay there for a while. Other investments that pay higher rates of return do not offer the same protection as CDs do. For example, if you purchase a corporate bond, it will pay higher rates of return than a CD, however, you are assuming additional risks. Not only will the value of the bond fluctuate throughout the life of the bond, but even in high-quality corporate bonds, there is a risk of default. It is important to under-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

stand how bonds, which are fixed-income obligations, work. When interest rates go up, the value of bonds go down. In addition, when interest rates go down, the value of bonds go up. In today's world with record-low interest rates, it is highly unlikely that interest rates will go down further. More than likely, the direction of interest rates is up. Therefore, when interest rates go up, the value of a bond will go down. Of course, if you hold that bond to maturity, when you redeem the bond you will receive the full value. However, during the life of that bond, there will be some fluctuation. One way to reduce the fluctuation is to buy short-term bonds. Short-term bonds will have less principal fluctuation than long-term bonds. The problem is short-terms that are investment grade and have a low risk of default are paying low rates of return. In addition, it is important to accept the fact that even with high-quality bonds, there is a slight risk of default. A bond may be high quality when you purchase it, but that may change during the life of the bond. For example, at one time GM bonds were as solid as could be; unfortunately,

that changed over time. In your situation, since you want an investment that is insured and will have no principal fluctuation, one other avenue to consider is fixed annuities. Fixed annuities are insured up to \$100,000 and will have no principal fluctuation. Unlike CDs, where you can lock money up for as short as six months, that is not the case with fixed annuities. Generally, the minimum time period you can commit to a fixed annuity is five years. That doesn't mean you don't have access to your money prior to the five-year period, because you do. However, if you withdraw your entire balance prior to five years, you typically end up paying a penalty. Most good fixed annuities allow you to withdraw 10 percent of the value of your account on a year-by-year basis. The conservative investor who wants investments without default risks and no principal fluctuation should consider CDs and fixed annuities. The rates of return for both of these investments are relatively low. The reality of the situation is that the cost you pay for insured investments with no principle fluctuation is low returns. Good luck!

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

McCotter honored by state bankers

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, received the 2009 Economic Impact Award from the Michigan Bankers Association on Thursday. The Economic Impact Award recognizes public officials for their leadership on matters of public policy that support and encourage a vibrant Michigan economy. State Rep. Brian Calley, R-Portland, also received the award. "These leaders understand the serious economic challenges faced by banks and businesses across Michigan," said Dennis Koons, president



McCotter

and CEO of the Lansing-based Michigan Bankers Association. "They support legislation and initiatives advancing Michigan's economic livelihood." McCotter was honored for his efforts on preserving and promoting manufacturing and small businesses as well as reducing taxes and the size and scope of government. Calley was recognized for his decade as a community banker, assisting hundreds of

small businesses and his in-depth understanding of the challenges facing small businesses in Michigan. The awards were presented during the MBA's Bank Management and Directors Conference at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. The Michigan Bankers Association is the voice of the Michigan banking industry. Comprised of Michigan financial institutions with more than 3,400 branches located throughout the state, the MBA promotes strong communities and economic activity in Michigan by advancing a positive business environment.



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The Plymouth Symphony's Home for the Holiday concert Thursday, Dec. 17, will feature traditional holiday favorites such as *Winter Wonderland*, *Let it Snow*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Christmas on Broadway* and *The Polar Express*.

Symphony comes 'Home for the Holiday'

The Plymouth Symphony invites all to come "home" to downtown Plymouth for a yuletide pops concert at the historic Penn Theatre Thursday, Dec. 17.

These festive, family friendly concerts will include traditional holiday favorites such as *Winter Wonderland*, *Let it Snow*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Christmas on Broadway* and *The Polar Express*.

A special spotlight in the program will be on two ensembles from the PCSS-sponsored Celebration Youth Orchestras, the Celebration Sinfonia and the Celebration Flute Choir. Rounding out the special wintry musical feast will be a classical, old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing-along.

Following the sold-out success of the last two years the orchestra will be doubling the fun of this delightful holiday



Plymouth Symphony conductor Nan Washburn leads the orchestra in its Home for the Holiday concert Dec. 17 at the Penn Theatre.

tradition by adding a second performance. The first performance will be a Family Concert at 6 p.m. followed by the traditional holiday concert at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for

students (group rates are available).

Tickets may be purchased at the Symphony office in the Plymouth Arts Center, 774 N. Sheldon, or by calling (734) 451-2112 and also online at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

LIBRARY WATCH

The following programs are available during December at the Plymouth District Library:

- **Library closings** - The Library will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 30-31.
- **MEDICARE D PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. - CVS Pharmacy will join the Library staff in helping seniors gain a better understanding of the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Attendees are invited to bring their specific prescriptions for comparative pricing in the various programs available. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org
- **WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRITING GROUP**, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m. - Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience nor advance registration is required. Attend either meeting or both.
- **CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**, Monday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 8, 4 p.m. (spouses only program) - Social worker Chris Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services will answer a wide variety of concerns for individuals caring for ill or aging family members. No registration is required.
- **CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION**, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. - Members of this book discussion group are invited to read *Gentlemen and Players* by Joanne Harris. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org
- **VIETNAM PERSPECTIVES: OPERATION BLUE LIGHT AND COUNTERINSURGENCY**, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.; **THE IA DRANG, LINEBACKER AND CAMBODIA: BLUEPRINT FOR AIR-LAND BATTLE**, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. - Raymond Schepansky, Military History Teacher from the Plymouth Canton Educational Park returns with another in-depth look at war, specifically U.S. strategy during the Vietnam war. Register for either or both of these programs - (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.
- **YOUR POETRY GROUP**, Sunday, Dec. 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Round table readings of poems, your own or by others, are held on the

second Sunday of the month. Reader's discretion of language is asked in the works read. For more information, contact Barbara Kraft, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 217, or bk@plymouthlibrary.org

• **RHAPSODY MUSIC SERIES: GRATITUDE STEEL BAND**, Sunday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m. - These high-energy musical performers make a stop in Plymouth after travels throughout the U.S. and Europe, playing and singing Caribbean, Jazz, Latin American and African music. Register for this free program by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

• **DIA LECTURE**, Monday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. - The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents this monthly gathering, drawing from the Detroit Institute of Art Speakers Bureau. No registration is required.

• **BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Dec. 16, noon - This month's discussion invites members to read *Home* by Marilynne Robinson. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Tim Sherman, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 206 or tsherman@plymouthlibrary.org

• **MIDWEEK MOVIE**, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1 p.m. - Enjoy a recent release, popcorn and pop. No registration required.

• **STARS, MOONS & PLANETS**, Monday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. - He loves the skies and after this informal gathering, you will too. Plymouth resident Mike Best leads a lively discussion each month for adults and children over the age of 6. No registration is required. Contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@gmail.com

• **NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING**, Monday, Dec. 28, 7-9 p.m. - Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required. Bring your latest project.

• **HOMEBOUND BOOK DELIVERY** - Joining the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, the Plymouth District Library will deliver library books and audio books to homebound residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 240, to enroll or go to plymouthlibrary.org and complete the homebound delivery service registration.

Canton Library offers fine amnesty

The Canton Public Library will offer amnesty for overdue materials for one day only Wednesday, Dec. 9.

To be eligible, overdue Canton Public Library materials must be returned at

the Checkout Desk during regular business hours, or in the Book Drop from 9 a.m. to midnight. Patrons will still be liable for lost or damaged materials and collection agency fees.

The fine amnesty offer is valid only Dec. 9. Overdue materials returned on any other date will be subject to normal late fees.

For more information, call the library at (734) 397-0999.

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Ashlee Baracy, Miss Michigan 2008, Shops Westland!

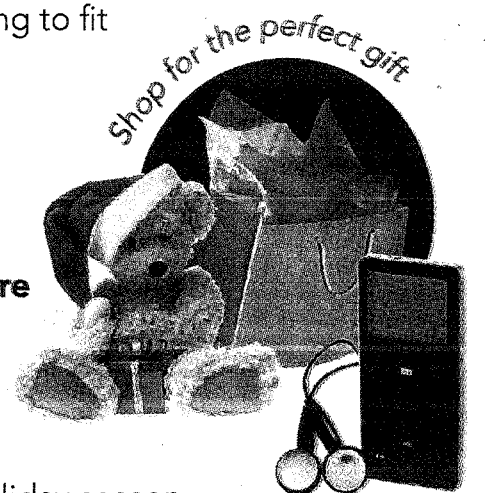
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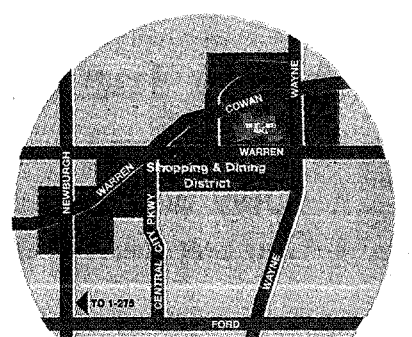


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SUNDAY
December 6,
2009

SECTION B
(CP)

Tim Smith, editor, (313) 222-2637
tsmith@hometownlife.com

Popular toys this holiday season – Neighbors, B6

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE



Gifts for pets
and pet lovers
See inside Classified

2009-10 BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW – PT. 1

Wildcats welcome new era

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mike Soukup is no stranger to hard work and that's what he expects out of the Plymouth varsity boys basketball team this season.

Soukup is the Wildcats' new coach, coming over from Redford Union. At RU, he was junior varsity coach and an assistant to head coach Brett Steele, a stickler for detail and one of the best at getting the most out of his players.

That's what Soukup will try to do in Plymouth, although he conceded there will be the inevitable adjustment to a new coaching regime and approach.

"When a new coach takes over a program, they bring in a new philosophy and expectations," Soukup said. "This is a transition time for all of us, both players and coaching staff."

Soukup, meanwhile, is optimistic the new era won't take long to take root.

"With the talent we have and the work ethic that has been displayed during preseason workouts," he said, "I believe we will find success this season."

The Wildcats do have several key players back from 2008-09, when the KLAA South team finished 9-13.

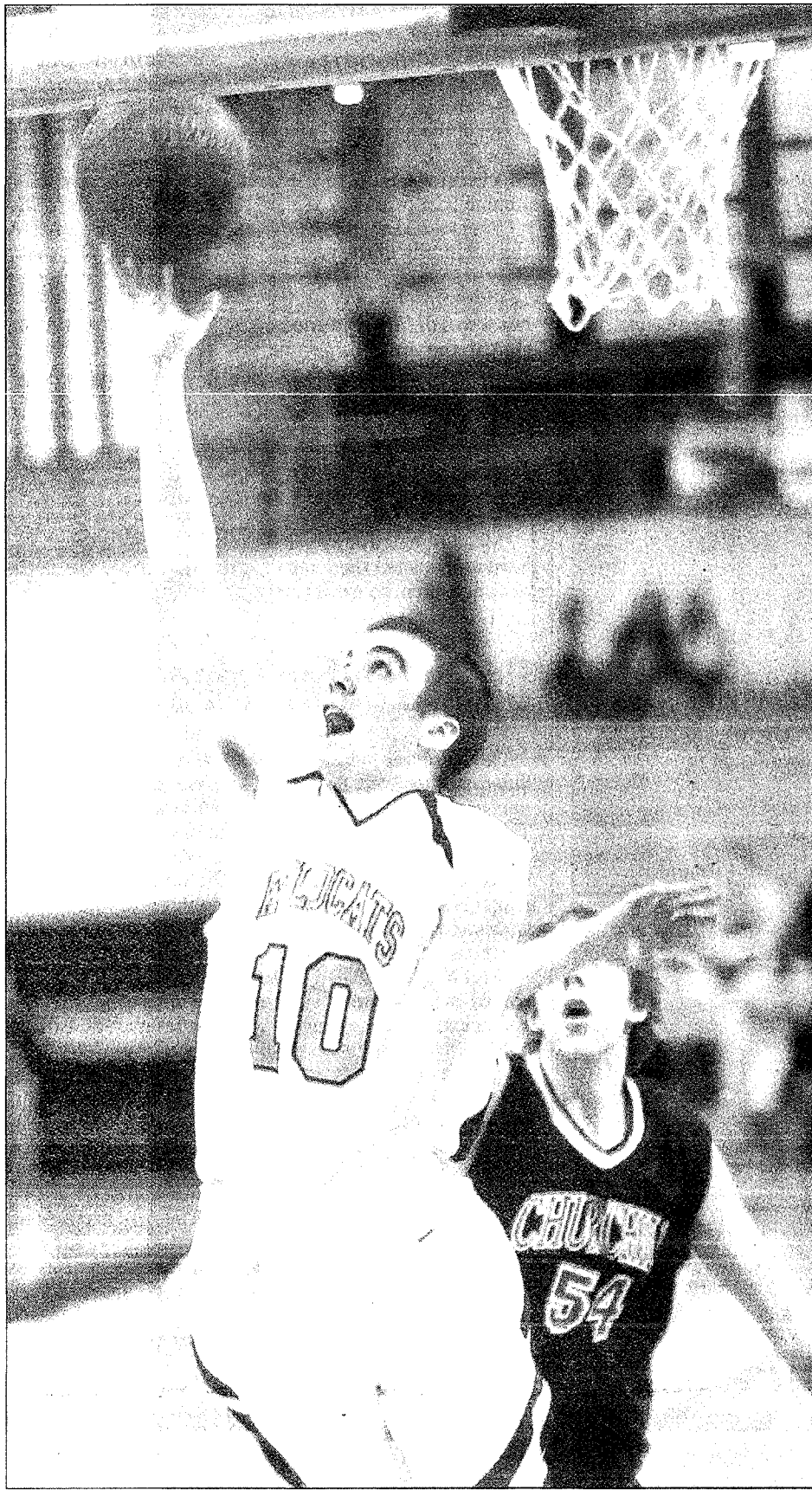
Senior forward Aaron Thompson, senior guard Dion Johnson, junior forward Brennen Beyer and junior guard Mike Nadratowski will lead the way.

Augmenting them will be seven promising varsity newcomers, all juniors.

That group includes forwards CJ Thompson, Zach Yokom and Jeff Heuer, guards Pat Salo, Stephen Jahn and Jimmy May and guard-forward Jacob Morris.

The first test for Soukup and his team is 7 p.m. Tuesday at home against Walled Lake Central.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Mike Nadratowski, shown from a game last season, is one of the returning players who will be called upon to help lead the Wildcats in 2009-10.

Reddy returns, looks to inspire

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It takes one to know one. Canton's new coach is touting a handful of new players as the Chiefs varsity boys basketball team looks to take a step toward contention in the KLAA South Division in 2009-10.

The new leader on the sidelines, Jimmy Reddy, actually is no stranger to Canton. He played his high school career for the Chiefs, graduating in 2000.

Reddy is energized about helping his alma mater bounce back from an 11-10 season in 2008-09, including 5-5 in the division.

But the 27-year-old coach is even more thrilled about the debut of sophomore forward Paul Baumgart, sophomore guard Kyle Adams, junior forward Ben Spreitzer and senior guard Hayatt Ali.

"I am really excited about the potential of the newcomers," Reddy said, describing Baumgart as "an athletic big man" who will pound the glass for rebounds and putbacks.



Jimmy Reddy



Dietrich Lever

Please see **REDDY, B2**

GAME WRAPS

Prep hockey

CANTON 4, SOUTHGATE ANDERSON 3: The visiting Chiefs held off a late rally by the Titans Wednesday night, with timely goalkeeping turned in by sophomore Spencer Craig (25 saves).

Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak praised Craig for how well he shut the door and closed out the non-conference boys hockey victory.

"I really like how Spencer stepped up and shut them down in the final minutes," said Majszak, whose team improved to 2-2 entering Friday's rematch with Salem.

The coach also said Jordan Smith blocked three shots at the very end of the game, helping to preserve the win.

Sparking the offense were forwards Riley Hoernschemeyer (1 goal, 2 assists), AJ Rosales (2 goals, 1 assist) and Taylor Baker (2 assists).

Tallying his first Canton varsity goal was Josh Dickson, whose low slapshot got past a screen set by Sean Murphy.

PCS PENGUINS 6, COUNTRY DAY 5 (OT): A goal by Jordyn Moore with 49 seconds to go in overtime enabled the host Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins to earn this Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win.

It was the second goal of the game by senior defenseman Moore, with the other four goals scored by senior Shauna Siebert, who played right wing.

The Penguins led 2-0 after two frames on single tallies by Siebert and Moore and went up 2-0 after two frames but the Yellowjackets rallied with three goals in a span of 1:12 to briefly lead

Please see **WRAPS, B3**

Penalty shot lifts Chiefs into tie with Rocks

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As cold as it was outside Canton's Arctic Edge Friday night, the hockey action inside was sizzling between the host Chiefs and Salem.

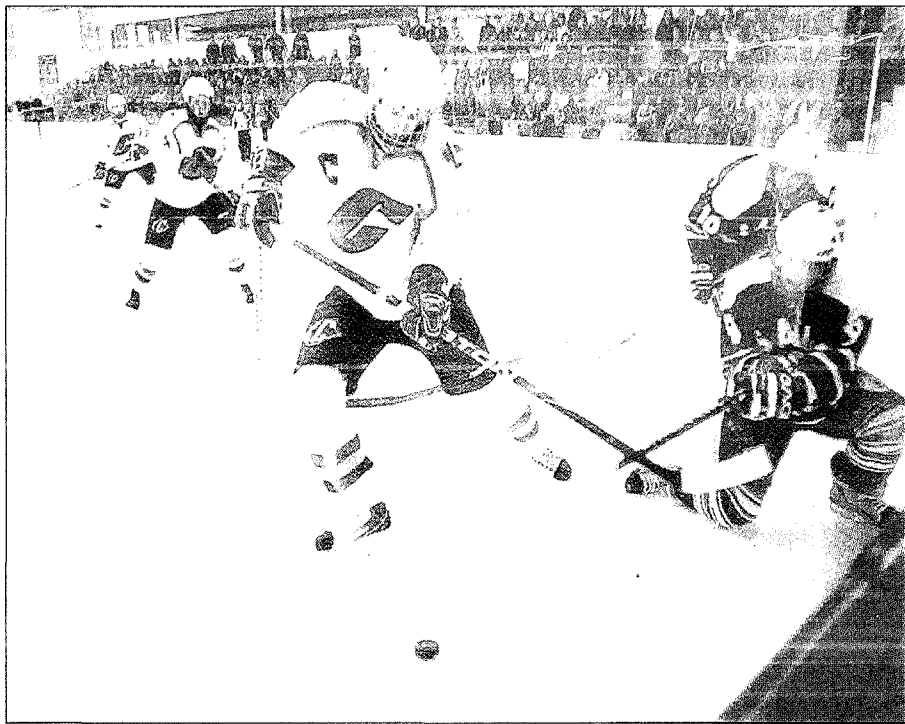
Fittingly, the KLAA South tilt finished in a 2-2 tie, good for one point each in the standings for both squads. On Nov. 28, in a crossover, the Rocks held on for a 4-3 victory.

"It was just as intense as the first game, except I thought both teams were prepared for each other this time and both teams brought everything they had," said Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak. "We played a really, really good game tonight."

Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher also liked the way his team competed, on the road without a top forward (Josh Jarvela, out with the flu).

"We battled pretty well, we had our chances," Ossenmacher noted. "I think we held them to 20 shots. Any time you do that, you put yourself in a good position to win."

Please see **TIE, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Jimmy LaFontaine tries to dig the puck away from Salem forwards Mark McGee (No. 9) and Nick Hayes during Friday's 2-2 tie at Arctic Edge.

RACHEL NORMAN



Captain's CORNER

Who: Rachel Norman, Salem senior and tri-captain for the Rocks varsity girls basketball team.

Miscellany: Norman, 17, carries a 3.8 grade-point average. Her parents are James and Terri Norman.

Captain's job: "I feel that the job of a captain is to be a base for the team, to support and encourage everyone to be the best they can be."

"Captains not only help communicate to the players, but to the coaches as well. A captain leads by example."

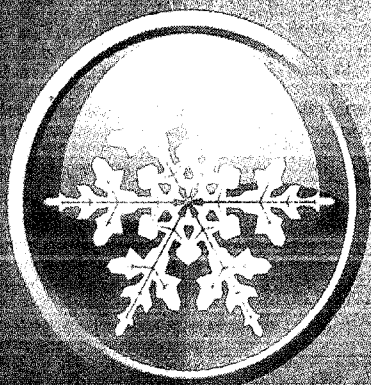
Leadership style: "I like to encourage and demonstrate

communication on and off the court. Communication is vital between players, and between coaches and players."

Why her?: "Perhaps due to experience. I also get along well with everyone on the team."



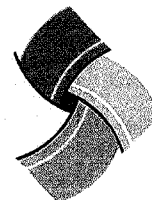
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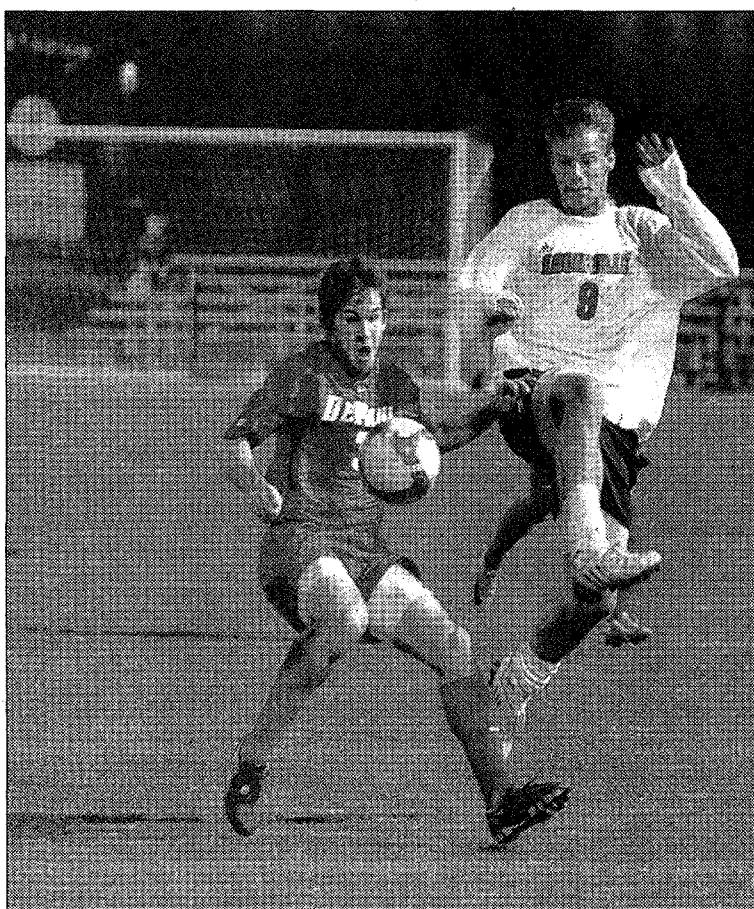


All Saints, All Smiles

The junior varsity basketball team All Saints Catholic School in Canton won the Thanksgiving Day Tournament at St. Sebastian, winning three games in a row. The team includes: (front row, from left) James Piot, Justin Savona, Robert MacLellan, Michael Millen; (middle row, from left) David Gunnis, John Pacente, Gino Persicone, Conor McElroy, Chris Wojay, Ryan Woebkenberg, Andrew Pyle; (third row, from left) coaches John Gunnis, Rob Pyle and Joe MacLellan.

'BIG' honors for Rolfe

Last month, 2008 Plymouth High School graduate Colin Rolfe (No. 9) of University of Louisville was a unanimous selection named to the 2009 All-BIG EAST Soccer Team. The awards were presented at the conference's annual men's soccer awards banquet in Morgantown, W.Va., on the eve of the 28th annual BIG EAST Men's Soccer Championship. In 2008, Rolfe was named BIG EAST Rookie of the year and in the pre-season this year; he was an All BIG EAST selection.

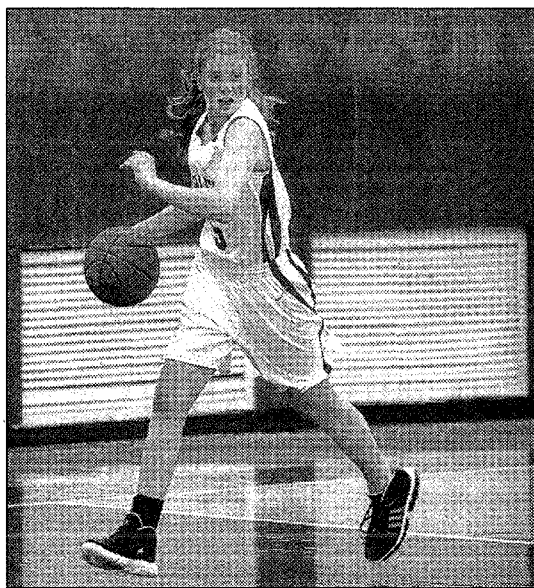


Salem still in scoring rut

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For the second game in a row, Salem's inability to score and penchant for turnovers cost the Rocks in the won-lost column. Visiting Ann Arbor Huron defeated Salem 42-26 Thursday night in a non-conference varsity girls basketball matchup. "Our effort was just as good (as the Tuesday opener)," said Salem head coach Fred Thomann. "But our recognition wasn't very good and our turnovers were disastrous. "We had 10 turnovers in the first quarter, which really put us in a bind." On the plus side, senior forward Sara Stone tallied 18 points and chipped in with five rebounds. The

River Rats held senior forward Brett deBear scoreless. Salem's second top scorer for the night was freshman forward Breanne Beaver (4 points). Huron got rolling with a 9-4 lead after the first quarter and never looked back. Thomann, whose team will host Farmington Hills Mercy 7 p.m. Tuesday, said the shooting will improve with continued hard work. "We're going to get better, it's just a matter of when it's going to kick in," Thomann emphasized. "Right now we're struggling in a lot of different areas. "But the season is 20 games long and we've only played two of them. We just need to keep working."



Salem's Katelynn Krause looks for a teammate to pass the ball to during Thursday's game against Ann Arbor Huron.

JOHN KEMSKI

Plymouth quickly up to speed

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It wasn't that bad of a start. In fact, going 1-1 at Wednesday's quad meet at Dexter had Plymouth head wrestling coach Quinn Guernsey somewhat optimistic.

The Wildcats lost 48-20 to Belleville but came back with a rousing 50-18 triumph over Chelsea.

Recording wins in both bouts of the day for Plymouth were Shadi Jammoul and Alec Breckenridge, Said Youssef and Robbie Barackman.

"We looked sharp for the beginning of the year," Guernsey said. "Our lineup still needs quite a bit of tweaking but it was definitely a good start to the year. "Tomorrow (Thursday) we'll go back to work and hope to keep improving."

Assistant coach Danny Jammoul said he liked the competitive fire shown by the Wildcats.

"Most of the guys wrestled hard and pushed the tempo of their match, so we're pretty

PREP WRESTLING

proud of that," Jammoul noted.

Chiefs open strong

Meanwhile, Canton Thursday defeated Riverview 42-27 to get the season off to a good start.

It only took Waleed Faraj 22 seconds to pin Riverview's Gage McFarland at 130 and Anthony Abro similarly took care of Blake Smith at 189 (0:45 for the fall).

Other Chiefs with pins included Donnie Watkins (145, technical fall), Brent Winekoff (160) and Ben Poirier (215). See below for meet statistics.

DEXTER QUAD MEET WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

**BELLEVILLE 48
PLYMOUTH 20**
103 pounds: Shadi Jammoul (P) pinned Chris O'Keefe (B), 1:01; 112: Alec Breckenridge (P) pinned Josh Watson (B), 0:57; 119: Said Youssef (P) won by major dec. over Ivy Riley (B), 20-7; 125: Brandon Papin (B) won by void; 130: Casey O'Keefe (B) maj. dec. over Chase Kallil, 18-7; 135: Tyler Schneider (B) pinned Jimmy Ahearn, 3:52; 140: Carter Sherman (B) maj. dec. over Ziad Tamimi, 14-5; 145: Kyle Skotak (B) pinned Tate Braboy, 3:38; 152: Andrew Majewski (B) dec. Brandon Crowther, 5-1; 160: Robbie

Barackman (P) maj. dec. Cameron McCoy, 21-8; 171: Shames Delahaye (B) maj. dec. Jackson Chalmers, 15-6; 189: Mark Tooley (B) dec. Curtis Crosier, 9-4; 215: Forest Sampson (B) by void; 285: Dustin Staton (B) pinned Wally Eppler, 2:20.
Plymouth's dual meet record: 0-1 overall.

PLYMOUTH 50 CHELSEA 18

103 pounds: Shadi Jammoul (P) won by void; 112: Alec Breckenridge (P) pinned Taylor Cooley, 5:05; 119: double void; 125: Said Youssef won dec. over Avery Osentoski, 13-9; 130: Chase Kallil (P) tech fall over Billy Collins, 16-0; 135: Jimmy Ahearn (P) dec. Travis Preston, 7-1; 140: Ziad Tamimi (P) pinned Zack Karsuninik, 1:55; 145: Dylan Raye-Leonard (C) pinned Tate Braboy, 3:38; 152: Brandon Crowther (P) pinned Jake Remo, 0:41; 160: Robbie Barackman (P) dec. Matt Lindauer, 14-7; 171: Jackson Chalmers (P) pinned Brett Hutchen, 0:48; 189: Curtis Crosier (P) pinned Joel Bradley, 2:59; 215: Ray Zielinski (C) by void; 285: David Slugger (C) pinned Jordan Birman, 3:46.
Plymouth's dual meet record: 1-1 overall.

CANTON 42 RIVERVIEW 27 (Thursday, Dec. 3)

103 pounds: Richard DeMarois (C) won by forfeit; 112: Chris Carroll (R) dec. Keshav Patel, 8-0; 119: Brandon Hernandez (R) dec. Daniel Filippelli (C), 12-2; 125: Jeff Czjka (R) dec. Alex Eimers, 18-7; 130: Waleed Faraj (C) pinned Gage McFarland, 0:22; 135: Zach Marsh (C) dec. Matt Rossi, 9-1; 140: Robbie Luciani (R) dec. Mitch Wolski, 6-4; 145: Donnie Watkins (C) won by tech. fall over Stephen Warrington, 20-5; 152: Mike Carnavon (R) pinned Patrick Murphy (C), 1:58; 160: Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Lucas Nino, 1:12; 171: Keith Zech (C) dec. Joey Jimenez, 10-4; 189: Anthony Abro (C) pinned Blake Smith, 0:45; 215: Ben Poirier (C) pinned Jacob Martin, 3:39; 285: Ronald Dively (R) pinned Julius Maddox, 2:24.
Canton's dual meet record: 1-0.

Brett Foster joins All-Observer boys netters

The Observer belatedly adds Salem junior Brett Foster as part of the All-Observer First-Team Singles boys tennis team and it was an oversight that he wasn't included in the original story (Nov. 15). His omission was an oversight and he deserves to be so recognized.

Brett Foster finished with a record of 15-7 at No. 1 singles against some of the toughest opponents in the entire region and defeated Novi's Carson Crandall. He also is an outstanding student, carrying a 4.0 grade-point averaged and being a KLAA Scholar Athlete.

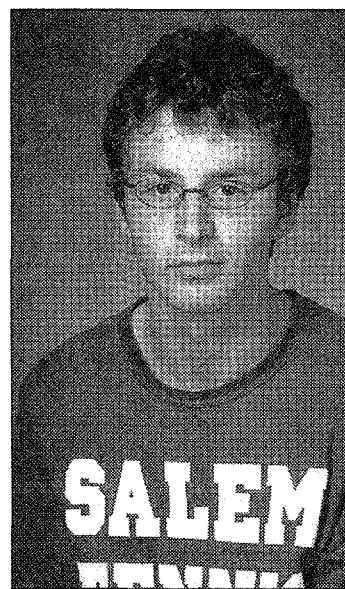
"He had a pretty good season, although he wasn't that pleased with his results," said Rocks head coach Bill Nelson.

"He's the kind of player that never gives up on a point, and will hit any number of balls to win a rally."

Nelson expects bigger and better things from him in his senior season.

Meanwhile, the addition of Foster does not bump anybody off the All-Observer team. He joins other first-team singles players Aaron Zhang (Plymouth), John McDonald (Farmington Hills Harrison), Stephen Payne (Livonia Franklin), Walter Woods (Franklin), Ryan Hansz (Canton) and Josh Famie (Harrison).

The All-Observer team was selected by tennis coaches, at a meeting facilitated by Observer sports editors.



Brett Foster
Salem

Canton: Brandon Duffey, Kevin Weisz and Kai Walther.

"Defensively, he (Duffey) will guard the other team's best wing player," Reddy said. "Offensively, he is a good finisher around the rim."

So is Weisz, who also can drain outside shots.

Meanwhile, Walther is "a good leader, our best screener. He does a great job getting other people open."

Meanwhile, the new coach is banking on a tried-and-true recipe for success.

"If we can defend, rebound, pass and catch well," Reddy said, "we have a chance to have a good season this year."

Reddy and the Chiefs will open the season at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Dearborn Heights Crestwood before hosting West Bloomfield (7 p.m. Friday).

tsmith@hometownlife.com

REDDY

FROM PAGE A1

That group joins a solid cast of six returning players.

In the backcourt are junior point guard Dietrich Lever and senior guards Yusef Bazy and Alec Martin. Reddy said Lever, obviously, needs to excel in order for the Chiefs to contend.

"Our defense starts with him (Lever) putting great pressure on the ball," Reddy said. "Offensively, he has to run the team. He does a great job of getting into the lane, where he can finish or create for others."

Bazy brings leadership and energy and "will do anything to help us win," while Martin is a scoring threat from beyond the 3-point arc.

A trio of senior forwards returns to hopefully power the inside game for

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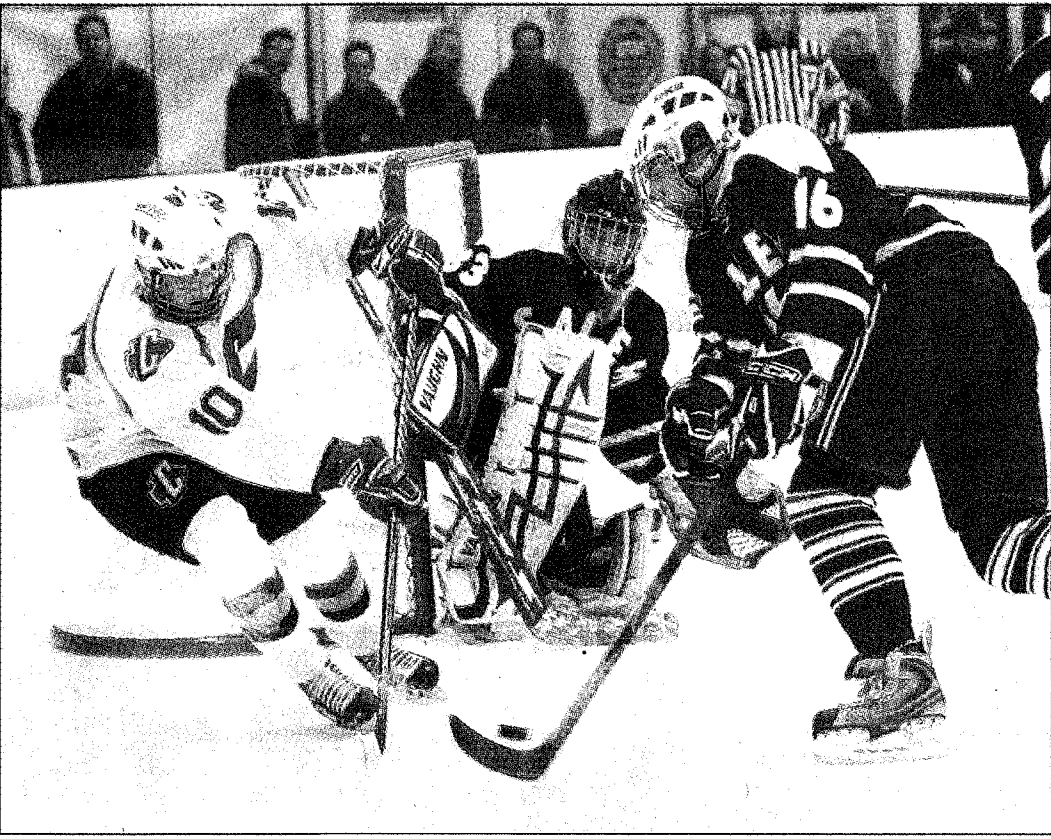
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Vying for control of the puck in front of Salem goalie Steven Manser Friday night are Rocks defenseman Matt Hull (No. 16) and Canton forward Matt Rogers.

TIE
FROM PAGE B1

The Rocks were little more than a period away from doing just that, as second-period goals by junior center Ryan Quigley and sophomore forward Austin Sartorius made it 2-1.

But then came the critical call of the night, a penalty shot awarded to Canton junior forward AJ Rosales with just 23 seconds to go in the frame.

Rosales was tripped up moving in on Salem senior goalkeeper Steven Manser (18 saves) and the penalty shot was called even though Manser had to make a stop on the initial shot.

HITTING HIS SPOT

On the penalty shot, Rosales stickhandled into the slot, veered far to the right until Manser was out of position and buried a high shot inside the left post.

"He works on that hesitation move a lot in practice and he did it," Majszak said.

The Canton coach called it "good karma" for the penalty shot to be called, because the Chiefs had an apparent goal called off earlier in the second.

Ossenmacher said he didn't have a good read on the play to question the referee's call, but he added that Rosales shouldn't have had such a glorious chance to begin with late in a period.

"We need to do a better job watching him in that situation," Ossenmacher said. "There's no reason he should get behind us to even put the ref in a position to make that call."

"We got a couple guys staring at the puck, it squirted free and that's what happens, unfortunately."

In the final 17 minutes, both goalies were called upon to keep the game deadlocked.

Canton sophomore Spencer Craig (26 saves), praised by Majszak for his play, held the fort during a power play early in the period.

At the other end, Manser had to be good to stop a point-blank try by junior forward Phil Baciak, who tried to one-time a centering pass into the cage.

With about 1:30 to go, Rosales intercepted an errant Salem pass in the Rocks zone. But he had too sharp of an angle to sneak his shot past Manser.

Canton (2-2-1, 0-1-1) took a 1-0 lead in the first period when senior D-man Kyle Korte

scored. Assisting were senior blueliner Alec Gilo and junior forward Jordan Smith.

BACK-TO-BACK

The Rocks evened things on a deflection by Quigley (with assists to junior defenseman Garrett Berg and senior forward Kurt Driscoll).

Then with 6:55 remaining, a point shot by Berg was tipped into the Canton goal by Sartorius, standing right in front of Craig. Also assisting was senior forward Mario Macari.

"As a whole, I thought our centers (freshman PJ Rogers, Quigley, Macari) played pretty well today," added Ossenmacher. "Being short one guy, we ran three centers for most of the game."

"With their responsibilities, what we expect of them defensively, we expect them to play the full sheet of ice and they did that tonight."

According to Majszak, the way his team forechecked and cycled in Salem's end late in the contest was a plus.

"Now we need to take that same nitty-gritty bearing down to the offensive zone," he said. "We had a couple opportunities we probably could have put home there in the third."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Seguin, Whalers harpoon Saginaw

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The first portion of the 2009-10 Ontario Hockey League schedule has been a mixed bag for the Plymouth Whalers, still trying to get off the win-one, lose-one treadmill.

But with the recent acquisition of Los Angeles Kings prospect Robbie Czarnik, the Whalers finally have two solid go-to lines at the disposal of head coach Mike Vellucci.

Wednesday night at Compuware Arena, Czarnik blasted home his first OHL goal and high-scoring forward Tyler Seguin tallied a three-goal hat trick to spark Plymouth to a 6-2 victory over Saginaw.

"Early on we had a lot of jump, we got a couple quick goals on big rebounds," said Vellucci, whose team improved to 16-13-0-0 entering Friday nights rematch with the host Spirit. "That was the turning point tonight, getting up on them early."

Plymouth — with a little different look on the first couple lines — scored goals by Seguin and center AJ Jenks just 2:25 apart to go up 2-0. Assisting on both markers was Tyler G. Brown, who skated with Seguin and Jenks (1 goal, 2 assists).

Before the end of the stanza, Garrett Meurs scored for a three-goal cushion.

Seguin made it 4-0 at 3:43 of the second period, cashing in the rebound of a Michal Jordan point shot. The goal chased Saginaw starting netminder Edward Pasquale.

Saginaw finally beat Whalers goalie Matt Hackett (31 saves) with 9:49 left in the second when a long shot by Jordan Skellett hit a body and changed direction.

Getting it back, with 21 seconds left in the frame, was Czarnik, who skated well with linemates Josh Brittain and Myles McCauley.

GOAL-SCORER'S GOAL

Czarnik, who left the University of Michigan hockey



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth's Joe Gaynor (No. 24) tries to get open in front of Saginaw goaltender Edward Pasquale during Wednesday night's contest at Compuware Arena. Defending Gaynor is Saginaw's Joe Underwood, a Canton native.

OHL HOCKEY

team to join the Whalers, skated from the left half-wall and spun around a defender into the nearby circle before snapping a shot past Saginaw goalie Anthony Peters.

"That's what we were trying to do when we picked him (Czarnik) up, we needed more offense," Vellucci said. "He's a good player and you try to spread out your goal scoring as much as you can. That gives us two good lines."

It was Czarnik's first goal after going without one in his first three Plymouth outings.

"I could tell he was pressing a little bit the first couple games, but it takes a while to get used to your linemates," Vellucci added.

Plymouth's special teams also played a key role in the win.

The Whalers killed off a one-minute, 40-second 5-on-3 Saginaw power play thanks to Hackett and some second-effort defense from blueliners Leo Jenner and Austin Levi

(Farmington Hills).

Shortly after Plymouth returned to full strength, the Whalers went on the power play and only needed six seconds to go up 6-1.

Seguin's third goal (his 23rd) came on a deflection in front of Peters. Drawing their second assists of the game were Jenks and Joe Gaynor.

Saginaw (16-10-2-0) added a meaningless goal, and the only excitement after that were two fights within a second of each other.

Levi bested Ryan O'Connor in the first matchup, but Saginaw's Garret Ross got the upper hand on Plymouth winger Tyler J. Brown (Westland) as the Spirit looked to send a message ahead of the Friday meeting.

"That wasn't from us," said Vellucci. "We play them again Friday so you expect it."

Vellucci added that his team needs to finally string a couple good games together. "This game means nothing if we don't win there."

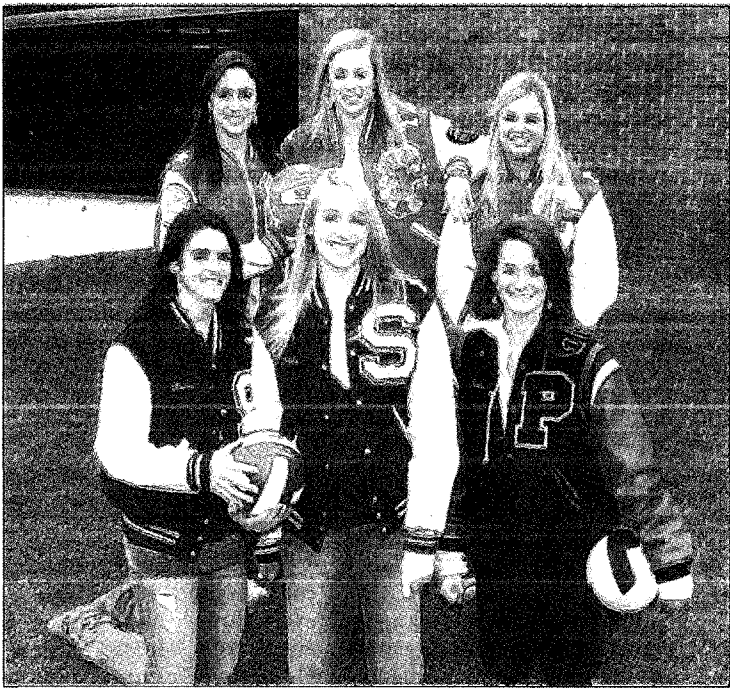
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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 8
W.L. Central at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Canton at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
West Bloomfield at Canton, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Mercy at Salem, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Baptist Park, 7:30 p.m.
Canton at Marian, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 10
Det. Renaissance at Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
Det. Community at Salem, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Mercy, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Ply. Christian vs. Det. Community, 1 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Monday, Dec. 7
Salem at South Lyon, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Liggett vs. PCS Penguins at Canton Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9

Canton at Lakeland, 7:40 p.m.
Churchill vs. Plymouth at Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
Churchill vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Southgate vs. Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 2:30 p.m.
Salem at Monroe, 5:30 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
Canton at Harrison, 7 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
PCS Penguins (JV) vs. Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 8:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 9
Canton at Catholic Central, 5:30 p.m.
Quad at W.L. Northern, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Salem "10" Tournament, 9 a.m.
Avondale Invitational, 9 a.m.
Garden City Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
Bedford Invitational, 10 a.m.

Rochester Invitational, TBA
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Thursday, Dec. 10
Monroe at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Rocket Relays at John Glenn, 1 p.m.
EMU Relays, TBA
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Dec. 12
Canton at Vassar, 12 p.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Monday, Dec. 7
KLAA Quad at Waterford Mott, 6:30 p.m.
KLAA Quad at Grand Blanc, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9
KLAA Quad at Pinckney, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Wyandotte Invitational, 9 a.m.
CCAM Invitational at Stony Creek, 1 p.m.
GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Sunday, Dec. 13
Ladywood in Team Competition at Hartland Sports Center, 8 a.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 10
Plymouth at Sarnia, 7 p.m.



JOHN KEMSKI

All-Region
spikers

The 2009 Division 1 All-Region volleyball team included players from all three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams. Those include: (front row, from left) Kerry MacDonald, Salem; Nicole Merget, Salem; Katie Salo, Plymouth. In the back row are (from left) Canton's Kristen Muir, Jordan Kieltly and Lauren Macuga.

WRAPS
FROM PAGE B1

3-2.

"I ended up calling a time out after they scored their third goal," said Penguins coach Mary Beth Johnson. "I told the girls to start over and act as though (it was) a 0-0 hockey game."

The teams traded goals the rest of regulation, which ended 5-5. Siebert scored all three

PCS goals, with the final one knotting the contest at 5-5.

That set up the eventual game winner by Moore (2 goals, 2 assists).

Collecting her second victory of the season was Penguins freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo.

Drawing three assists for PCS (2-2, 2-0) was senior center Kara Bongiovanni with two helpers each for junior forward Tory Campbell and junior defenseman Sarah

Coleman. Junior winger Rebecca Majszak also picked up an assist.

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SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on December 16, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred cash only but will except debit/credit. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

A119	Stacey Grantham	Treadmill, Refrigerator, Bike
A124	Monique Jordan	2 Tables, 10 Boxes, Dresser
A312	Nikki Cooper	2 Bikes, 20 Boxes, Mattress
A403	Ferial Blaik	3 Boxes, Bag
B112	Edward Watkins	Motorcycle Parts, 5 Totes, 10 Boxes
B113	Edward Watkins	Engine Stand, Sanding Machine, Drill Press
C156	Brandi Warren	Toys, Stereo, 5 Boxes
C168	James Craemer	Desk, Microwave, 5 Boxes
C182	Laura Anderson	Table, Dresser, 5 Boxes
E146	Russell Redmon	Toys, 40 Boxes, 5 Bags
RV2	Scott Pierce	Sylvan Boat
RV50	Beverly Brown	Ford Bronco
RV53	Beverly Brown	Mercury Villager

Publish: November 19, 2009

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Top soccer players earn All-Observer accolades

First team

Sasa Miskovic, Sr. GK, Salem: One of the top student-athletes to represent Salem, the senior goalkeeper overcame a knee injury to be a key reason for the Rocks march to the Division 1 state semifinals.

Salem's co-MVP finished with a goals-against average of 1.05 and earned his second first team All-State berth along with All-KLAA.

Miskovic held off top-ranked Livonia Churchill, 3-2, in a memorable district final and then followed up with a clutch performance against Canton in the regional final (a 3-1 win). Against Holt in the D1 semifinal, it took a late header to defeat Miskovic and the Rocks, 1-0.

"Sasa is an intelligent organizer of our back line and dominates the 18-yard box," said Salem head coach Ed McCarthy. "He has great quickness and prevented sure goals throughout the season with a new back line from the previous year."

McCarthy called Miskovic "the best goalkeeper in the history of Salem soccer."

Adam Bedell, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill: The first-team Division 1 All-State selection finished the year with an amazing 11 goals and 10 assists. The 6-foot-6 Bedell anchored a Churchill defense that allowed just nine goals in 21 games.

"He was instrumental in our restarts and supporting our attack as well," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said of the All-KLAA pick. "He's one of the most complete soccer players I have coached here at Churchill. He has the best touch of any defender in the game. He could play anywhere on the field."

Jon Dugan, Sr. Def., Canton: Strong defense had a lot to do with Canton going 14-8-3 and then capturing its first Division 1 district championship since 1998. The Chiefs blanked three opponents during the districts, winning the final 4-0 over Dearborn Edsel Ford and adding a fourth whitewash in the regional semifinal. Dugan was a key component of that stinginess.

"Jon was a strong defensive asset to our team," said Canton coach George Tomasso. "He was also one of our captains, and he proved his leadership all year by giving a consistently high performance. We had four shutouts in the state playoff run, and he was a huge part of those."

Dugan was selected as an All-State honorable mention and was named to the All-District and All-Region teams.

Dan Jasewicz, Sr. Def., Plymouth: Jasewicz sparked the Wildcats defense, contributing to the team's 10-7-2 overall record and excellent 7-2-1 second-place finish in the KLAA South.

"He had an outstanding season for us; he organized our defense," said Wildcats coach Jeff Neschich. "It's been our best finish in the division since the school's been open, and he's been a key part in that."

The senior co-captain, who chipped in seven goals, was recognized for his fine play, being named to the all-conference team as well as being an All-State honorable mention selection.

Zach Cooney, Jr. Def., Liv. Stevenson: The junior anchored the Spartans' defense from his center back position en route

2009 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER FIRST-TEAM

Sasa Miskovic, Sr. GK, Salem
Adam Bedell, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill
Jon Dugan, Sr. Def., Canton
Dan Jasewicz, Sr. Def., Plymouth
Zach Cooney, Jr. Def., Liv. Stevenson
Eric Webberman, Jr. MF, N. Farmington
Lachlan Savage, Sr. MF, Salem
Ian Guerin, Sr. MF, Liv. Churchill
Phil Strachan, Sr. MF, Liv. Clarenceville
Mark Amis, Sr. MF, Farmington
Max Washko, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill
Alex Tramel, Sr. F, Salem
Gage Flanery, Sr. F, Luth. Westland

SECOND-TEAM

Conner Burton, Sr. GK, Liv. Stevenson
Erik Bird, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill
Connor Furgason, Soph. Def., Canton
David Bahling, Sr. Def., Farmington
Dan Martin, Jr. MF, Salem
Don Mullett, Sr. MF, Ply. Christian
Tyler Arban, Sr. MF, Garden City
Vinh Nguyen, Sr. MF, Plymouth
Nelson Kenne, Sr. MF, Westland Glenn
Brandon Tolinski, Sr. MF, Canton
Adam Shibaq, Sr. F, N. Farmington
Ardit Dushkaj, Jr. F, Liv. Clarenceville
Francis Mensah, Jr. F, Redford Union
Jordan Machonga, Sr. F, Ply. Christian

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR

Reid Friedrichs, Liv. Churchill
Ed McCarthy, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Nick Wood, Stephen Foster, Tim Devine; **Franklin:** Jordan McGuire, Dillon DeBeliso; **Stevenson:** Adam Dabkowski, Chris Sergison; **John Glenn:** Troy McGuigan, Robert Hurst; **Wayne:** Kevin Glass; **Clarenceville:** Garet Hintzman, Mike Schiffman, Jimmy Moody; **Lutheran Westland:** Austin Baglow, Laith Francis, Kent Krzyske, Mitchell Boehm; **Huron Valley Lutheran:** Matt St. John, Mark St. John, Matt Kempainen; **Farmington:** Ben Fleck, Brent Winkler, Zach Schuit, Jake Finkbinder, Donald Payne; **Harrison:** Will Mindrou, Dan Leeb, Andrew Kuelbs, Koshiro Shimomiya; **North Farmington:** Justin Barbat, Matt Jaisle, Marc Chiodo, Kyle Kansman; **Canton:** Mitch Posuniak, Kai Walther; **Plymouth:** Nick Russ, Andrew Yoder, Kyle Brindza, Joe Klonowski, Sam Maccani; **Plymouth Christian:** Blair Robinson, Travis Dekruyer, Matt Zandee, Alex Chapman; **Salem:** John Krutty, Mohammad Pourmand; **Redford Union:** Jaak Mejia, Tyler Cooley, Anthony Sadler; **Garden City:** Andy Chambo, John Selinski, Justin Vincent.

to All-KLAA, All-District, All-Region and honorable mention All-State recognition.

Cooney, who scored two goals this year, earned a starting spot as a sophomore on Stevenson's Division 1 runner-up team. He is also a member of the Derby County Wolves Under-16 national championship team.

"Zach is a very good overall soccer player who can excel both offensively and defensively," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "He is a great competitor and a strong leader by example, and he tends to rise to the challenge of the biggest game."

Eric Webberman, Jr. MF, N. Farmington: Webberman played an important role in the team's turnaround, going from 4-12-2 last year to 10-4-4 and a fourth-place finish in the OAA White Division. He was the North MVP for the second year in a row, and he made the all-state second team. Playing mostly center back, Webberman still had seven goals and six assists.

"He's our hardest-working player on the field, and he was always double teamed when he had the ball," coach Mike Horner said. "Besides being an extremely talented athlete, he's also a bright young man and understands the game very well. His first choice is not to play defense, but he was happy to do that for the good of the team. He works hard and doesn't have a big ego. Next year we'll play him in the center of the field and give him a chance to be more a part of the attack."

Lachlan Savage, Sr. MF, Salem:

While Miskovic was keeping the ball out of Salem's goal, Savage was busy taking care of business at the other end of the pitch with 12 goals (sharing top team honors with Alex Tramel).

Savage — a third team All-Stater and All-KLAA choice — also led the team in assists this season, marking the second consecutive season he led or shared the lead in both offensive categories.

During his prep career, "Locke" tallied points in eight of 11 tournament games to underscore how clutch a player he was at Salem.

"(Savage is a) very creative player with a crafty ability to pass and involve other players," coach McCarthy said. "He's an excellent attacking central midfielder."

Ian Guerin, Sr. MF, Liv. Churchill: The hard-nosed and scrappy midfielder, who scored three goals and added five assists, earned All-State honorable mention accolades as well All-KLAA honors.

"Ian is the hardest working player on the field at any given time against any given team," Friedrichs said of his captain. "He's an inspiration to his teammates and can mark any 'best player' on the opposing team. He's such a positive force for our second and such a positive influence with most of the time his work going unnoticed in the stat book. He was a game-changing player because of his overall attitude and work ethic."

Phil Strachan, Sr. MF, Liv. Clarenceville: The senior midfielder and sweeper led the Trojans to their best record in school history (13-5-2) and a runner-up finish in the Metro Conference.

The three-time All-Conference selection and two-year captain capped his senior year with six goals and eight assists.

"Phil is the strongest player I have ever coached," Clarenceville coach Trevor Johnson said. "He is a great leader, on-and-off the field, has incredible soccer instincts, a very big physical presence on the field, huge leg and can play any position."

"I couldn't have asked for a better player to coach. He's extremely dedicated and hopes to play at the next level. Another coach commented to me about Phil: 'It's like he's a man out there playing amongst boys.'"

Mark Amis, Sr. MF, Farmington: Amis was the primary playmaker for the Falcons, who were 14-6-1 and one of the top three teams in the OAA White Division. As the center midfielder, he scored eight goals and passed for eight assists. Amis made the all-region team and is an all-state honorable mention.

"Mark was somebody we could depend on each and every game," coach Luke Juncaj said. "He played hard all season. We dominated the midfield in just about every game, and Mark was the main reason for it. He controlled the midfield and got us on the attack. Because of his performance in the midfield, we had a lot of offense and a lot of goals scored. He was definitely the top player on this team and somebody who will be hard to replace next year."

Max Washko, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill: The Chargers' MVP and third-team Division 1 All-Stater

racked up 25 goals and 11 assists his senior year.

"He is a goal scoring forward who developed a work ethic over his career as good as anybody I've ever coached," Friedrichs said of the All-KLAA selection. "He has passion for the game of soccer that made him improve himself into a complete soccer player. He was the best player in the air and could score from anywhere on the field."

Alex Tramel, Sr. F, Salem: Tramel's speed, determination, versatility and powerful shot enabled him to net 12 goals for Salem, tied for team honors with Lachlan Savage, and help the Rocks post a 17-5-4 record.

He made 2nd team All-State and All-KLAA for his considerable contributions to the D1 regional champions.

"Alex has the ability to be a dominating target forward with a strong ability to hold the ball waiting for midfield support," explained McCarthy. "He can take players one-versus-one with a strong shot from both his left and right foot."

Gage Flanery, Sr. F, Luth. Westland: The senior forward, who scored 23 goals and added four assists, earned Division 4 second-team All-State honors along with first-team recognition in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

"Gage is one of those special players who is not only good on the ground, but also effective in the air," Warriors coach Rich Block said of his four-year varsity standout. "He's a gutsy kid who's really hard to handle off the dribble. He can finish and scored a lot of big goals for us this season."

Co-coaches of the year

Reid Friedrichs, Liv. Churchill: The 10th-year coach enjoyed his greatest season with the Chargers, who finished the regular season 17-0-1 and ranked No. 1 in Division 1.

Friedrichs, a former All-Big Ten goalkeeper at Michigan State, guided Churchill to the KLAA South Division, Kensington Conference and Association-wide titles.

Churchill allowed just nine goals all season en route to a 19-1-1 overall record.

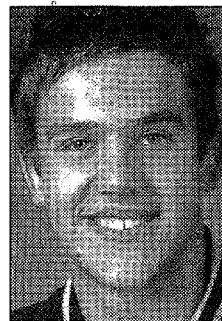
"It was a very special year and the boys made it that way by being in great shape and playing like a team," said Friedrichs, whose overall record is 122-778-20 at Churchill. "They played more as a team and more in their specific roles than any team I have coached. They squeezed every drop of potential out of themselves and I was very proud of them."

Churchill's only loss of the season came in the district final against Salem, 3-2.

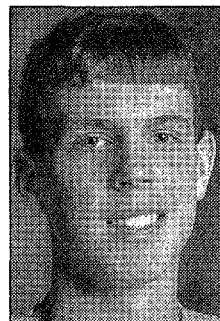
"I was just sad I didn't prepare them well enough for our first and only loss," Friedrichs admitted. "We weren't ready for that first 20 minutes somehow. We never gave up more than one goal in a game and we gave up two in the first eight minutes."

"Overall though, to play the schedule we do, and go unbeaten in the regular season, was something I was so happy to be a part of and is something I will remember for a long time."

Ed McCarthy, Salem: With the ability to motivate and teach his players at the same time, McCarthy led Salem to an excellent 17-5-4 record. The Rocks did their best work in



Sasa Miskovic
Salem



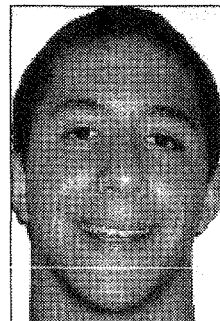
Adam Bedell
Churchill



Dan Jasewicz
Plymouth



Zach Cooney
Stevenson



Eric Webberman
North Farmington



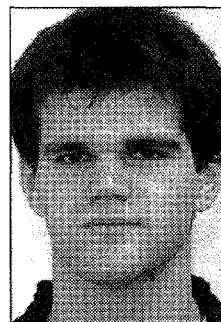
Lachlan Savage
Salem



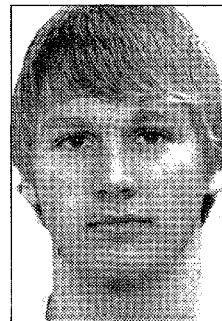
Ian Guerin
Churchill



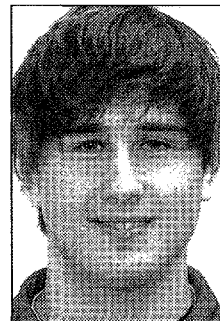
Phil Strachan
Clarenceville



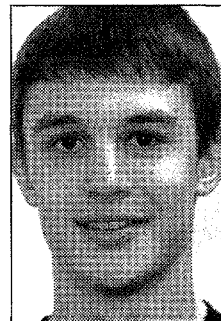
Mark Amis
Farmington



Max Washko
Churchill



Alex Tramel
Salem



Gage Flanery
Lutheran Westland



Jon Dugan
Canton



Reid Friedrichs
Churchill coach



Ed McCarthy
Salem coach

the state playoffs. They mowed down Plymouth, Northville, title-favorite Livonia Churchill, Dearborn and upstart Canton — and then coming within a whisker of playing for a Division 1 state championship. Holt won the semifinal 1-0 on a header late in regulation.

McCarthy might have been more proud of what the 2009 Rocks accomplished after losing six players to college from the 2008 squad that went 22-1-4. He improved his 14-year record at Salem to 227-60-48.

"The expectations from outside the program were not high," said McCarthy, who played at Redford Union and Schoolcraft College during high school and college, respectively. "Despite losing so many high quality players, the team was very motivated and focused to improve on the (2008) regional finalist team."

With a number of scoring threats, Salem one-upped the

'08 team, which was the No. 1 squad throughout the regular season.

"The key to this year's team was our balance," McCarthy noted. "We were not dominant in any area. We had a solid back line, midfield line, and forward line. This was supported by a deep bench."

The deep and talented roster did plenty of damage, scoring 59 goals. In addition to All-Observer first-teamers Savage and Tramel (12 goals each), the Rocks' lineup included 11-goal scorer Dan Martin (who made the All-Observer second team) and Evan Antich who registered eight goals, including one against Livonia Churchill in the district final.

This year's district and regional titles were the seventh and fourth, respectively, that the Rocks have won during McCarthy's long and distinguished tenure at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

MU baseball camp

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger and his staff will stage a holiday baseball camp for ages 9-18 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, at the Total Sports Complex in Wixom.

The cost is \$150 for the first child and \$75 for each additional child.

MU baseball staff members Stu Rose, Ted Falkner and Mike George will assist in the camp.

For more information, e-mail Jen at Total Sports at Jen@total-sportscomplex.com.

Lacrosse coach wanted

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls lacrosse coach for the 2010

spring season.

If interested, fax a resume to Ladywood athletic director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

Track coach wanted

The University of Detroit Jesuit High is seeking a varsity boys track and field coach for the 2010 season.

Those interested should forward a resume to: Mickey Barrett, Athletic Director, 8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit, MI. 48221; or fax to (313) 862-3299; or e-mail mickey.barrett@uofdetjhsuit.org.

Hoop programs set

Garden City Parks & Recreation Youth Basketball Programs are being

offered this winter for boys and girls in grades three through six.

Boys and girls freshman (third and fourth graders) basketball offers a recreational focus stressing fundamentals of the sport.

Cost is \$43 and all participants will receive a team t-shirt and medal. Games will be played Saturday mornings at Maplewood Community Center.

Registration will be conducted through Jan. 9. Play begins Jan. 9 and continues through March 6.

Boys junior varsity (fifth grade) basketball runs Jan. 26-May 4 and involves five elementary schools within the city. Practices will be held at the respective schools and games to be played at Burger School for the

Autistic.

Cost is \$48 and tryouts are required.

Registration will be held Dec. 7-Jan. 9 at Maplewood Community Center.

Boys varsity (sixth grade) basketball also involves all five elementary schools in Garden City. Practices will again be held at the respective schools with games to be held at Burger School for the Autistic.

Cost is \$48 and tryouts are required.

Registration will run Dec. 7-Jan. 9 with games being contested Jan. 28-May 6.

For more information, call (734) 793-1882 or visit online at www.gardencitymi.org/parks.

MU softball camps

Madonna University will stage three winter softball camps at the MU Activities Center featuring specialized individual instruction covering all phases of the game for girls ages 7-18.

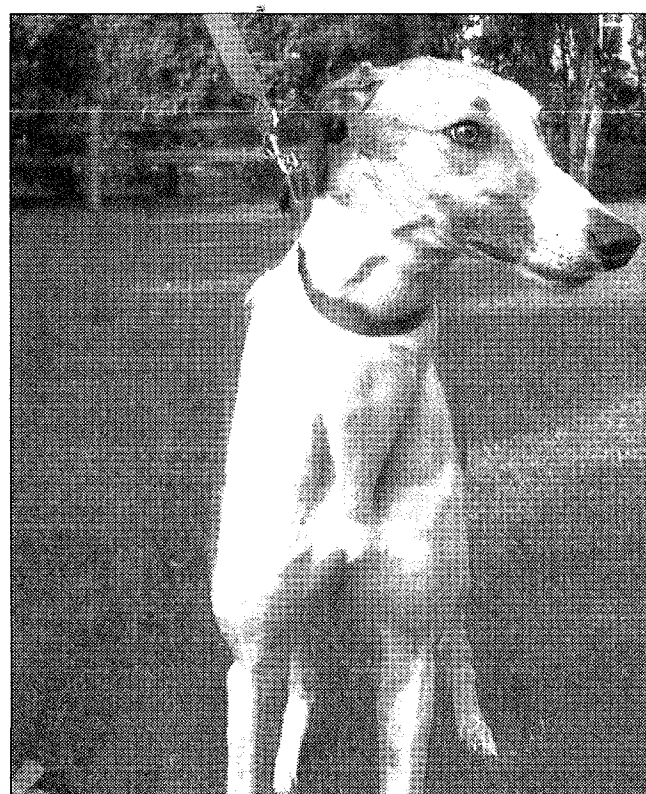
Among the camps offered include: Hitting - 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20 (cost \$30); Fundamental No. 1 - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 (cost \$150); Fundamental No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. (cost \$150).

For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.



Jill

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUNDS



Oliver

Three greyhounds, Jill, Oliver and Haley, are on hand for Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption's "Santa Express Meet and Greet," noon to 4 p.m., today, Sunday, Dec. 6, at PetCo, 43435 Ford Road, at Morton Taylor, Canton.

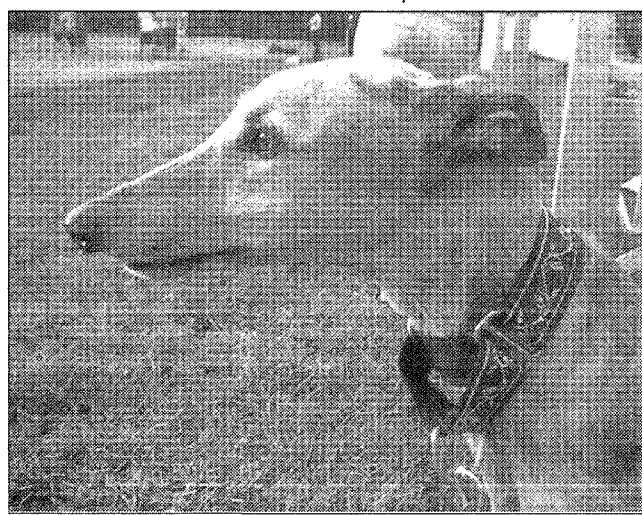
Here's what volunteers say about the three dogs:

Oliver, 2, has a white coat with red markings in it. He is the sweetest dog you could ever want to meet. Handsome and gentle. He'll be at the adoption event between noon and 1:30 p.m. Jill is a beautiful little

black girl with the sweetest eyes you could ever wish for. She is 3 and a curious little girl at that. She'll arrive at the meet and greet at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Haley is 6 1/2 years old and could melt the heart of a Grinch. She is a petite little girl with light fawn brindle coloring. She'll be on hand at around 1 p.m.

Can't make it to today's event? View the dogs online at www.greyheart.org. For more information about adoptable greyhounds, call Greyheart at (866) 438-4739.



Haley

MILESTONES

PHILLIPS-SHELTON

Amanda Phillips and Timothy L. Shelton plan to marry in December 2009.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Martin Pollard and Tracey Rowedder of Acworth, Ga., graduated from Kennesaw State University and is

employed in sales.

Her fiancé, son of Terry and Brenda Shelton of Farmington Hills, graduated from the University of South Florida and St. Mary's Medical School. He is a psychiatrist at Non-Surgical Orthopaedics.

The couple plans to wed in Kennesaw, Ga.

PLYMOUTH TWINS

Langston Christopher Montney and Eloise Rose Montney were born Nov. 19, 2009.

Langston weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces, and measured 19 1/2 inches. His sister weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces, and measured 19 inches.

Proud parents are Chris Montney and Hillary Cargo of Plymouth. Grandparents are George and Adrienne Cargo of Marshall, and James and Jeanann Montney of Davison.



Eloise Rose Montney and Langston Christopher Montney

Passages

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WILFRED "BILL"
"BUMPY" CAMERON

Age 81, November 25, 2009 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Olga. Loving father of Reid (Mary Kay) and Marcia (Brad) Saunders. Dear brother of Ruth Frazer. Grandfather of Richard (Tracey), Kasi, Ellen and Aaron Saunders. Grace (Tony) Zaszczurynski and Audra Cameron. Great grandfather of Nicholas, Mitchell, Heston and Lilly. He was preceded in death by his son Keith Francis Cameron. Mr. Cameron worked at the YMCA for many years. He was a lifelong Rotarian, where he was past President, Paul Harris fellow recipient and Friendship Exchange Volunteer. During his life Mr. Cameron wrote two columns (Court Jester and Ski-Heil) for the Observer Newspaper. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday at 11AM at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. The family suggests donation to Livonia Rotary Foundation. Please sign Bill's online guestbook at www.rgharris.com



CORRINE CLARK

Age 84 of Canton, passed away Thursday, December 3, 2009. She was born May 7, 1925 to Walter and Agnes Schifle and was a life long resident of the Plymouth-Canton area. Married Wilbert (Bill) Clark on June 28, 1944 and had celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary this last year. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who enjoyed traveling, bowling, gardening and family functions. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, Nankin Eastern Star, the VFW Auxiliary, a Charter member of the Elks Vivian Club of Plymouth and belonged to the Trailwood Garden Club. She volunteered for the American Red Cross for 15 years. Dear mother of Terry (Susan) Clark of Ft. Wayne, IN and Carol (Bill) Barringer of Canton. Loving grandmother of Kelly (Chris) Steffen, Greg (Erin) Clark and Brent Clark of Ft. Wayne, IN and Grant (Jaime) Gardner and Mike Gardner of Plymouth and five great-grandchildren. Visitation 2-5pm and 6-8pm Sunday, December 6, 2009 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Funeral Monday 1:30pm at the funeral home. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

JANICE L. DIEHL
(nee DEPKI)

Age 71 long time resident of Plymouth, November 18, 2009. Loving wife of Robert. Beloved mother of Cheri (Craig) Britt, Kimberly (Don) Myers, Timothy (Tara) Blomberg, Steve (Lisa) Leonard and Kenneth Diehl. Dear grandmother of Michael, Ryan, Justin, Patrick, Donnie, Kelly, Timothy, Thomas, Rachel, Jessica, Kenneth and Stephanie. The family will gather with friends Sunday December 13 from 1PM until the 2PM Memorial Service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (btwn. Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Mercy Hospice. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Let
others
know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

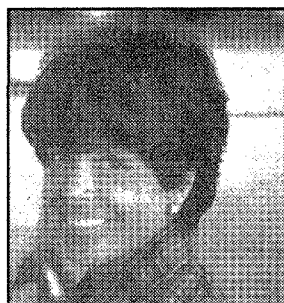
Observer & Eccentric

Call 1-800-579-7355



PAULA K. DUNCAN

Dec. 3, 2009 age 52, of Westland. Beloved wife of Charlie L. Dear mother of Christina (Jason) Parrillo, Samantha Duncan & Charlie Duncan III. Loving daughter of Sharon Morris & the late James Morris. Sister of Sherie Wells. Grandmother of Kaelce & Christopher Decker. Funeral at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland Mon. 1-9 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com



JOANNA (Jury) GARRETT

Love, Compassion, Joyfulness
Former Birmingham resident Joanna Garrett died on Monday, November 23, 2009. Joanna Jury was born in Jackson, MI, on August 4, 1940 to Helen and Henry Jury. She began her lifelong love of education at the University of Michigan where she earned a B.A. and M.A. in English. She was President of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and was involved in many academic and social activities during her time in Ann Arbor. Following her graduation she taught high school English in the Birmingham School District. Joanna was a modern renaissance woman. She loved, supported, and participated in the creative arts. She was a passionate reader and was co-founder of a book club which continues to this day. She was a painter and weaver, a superb cook and gracious hostess, and above all a teacher and mentor to children, friends and family. She was an accomplished gardener who reveled in the first blossoms of spring, the last displays of fall color, and even the raking of leaves. She loved making clothes for her grandchildren on her ancient sewing machine. She enjoyed all the performing arts, especially lie theatre and moves. An avid traveler along with her husband and greatest admirer, Roger, Joanna enjoyed numerous hiking, biking, and kayaking trips in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. In 2002 she completed the famous and challenging "Coast to Coast" walk across England in 15 days. She traveled to every continent except Antarctica, and always looked forward to the exciting new experiences her travels would bring. Joanna served on the boards of the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, the Friends of the Detroit Public Library, Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, Family Life Education Council (FLEC), and the Parents League of Independent Schools. She volunteered for many worthwhile causes including Habitat for Humanity, Guyton School in Detroit, the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Greening of Detroit, Services for Older Citizens (SOC), Pewabic Pottery, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Joanna will be remembered as a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother by her family. All who knew her will remember her enthusiasm, kindness, generosity, compassion, joyfulness, beauty, and keen mind. Mrs. Garrett is survived by her husband Roger, children Jeffrey (Maria) Johnston, Hillary (Dave) Grogan, and Bevan (Steve) Gottlieb; grandchildren Katherine, Michael, Benjamin, and Madeleine Johnston, and Garrett, Sterling, and Eleanor Gottlieb, and brother William. A memorial service will be held at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church on Saturday, December 5th at 11:00a.m. Memorial donations may be made to the University of Michigan Depression Center, Rachel Upjohn Building, 4250 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

CATHERINE KECKSES

Age 91 passed away Nov. 28, 2009. Beloved wife of John (deceased). Mother of Catherine (Al) Bright and John (Diane) Keckses. Grandmother of Dawn (Lou) Gasbarro, Kevin (Beth) Keckses, William (Kelly) Hunt, Keith (Lisa) Keckses, Nicole Bright, Kevin Bingman. Great grandmother of Dylan Hunt, Sophia and Nico Keckses, Carson and Quinn Keckses. Catherine has been an active member in her church, St. Mary's of Wayne, and also active in her community, Wayne, for most of her life. Visitation Thursday 3-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 Michigan Ave, Wayne. Funeral Mass Friday, in state 10:30am for an 11:00am Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne. Memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association appreciated.



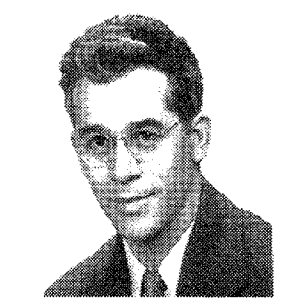
ILA MARSEE

December 3, 2009, age 85 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late Carl. Loving mother of Barbara, David (Janet) and the late Judy (Ed) Langer. Proud grandma of Dawn Bradford, Darren (Jana) Kopetko, Scott (Anita) Langer, Todd (Kara) and the late Kevin. Also survived by nine great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews including Joan (the late Eugene) Morrison. Visitation Sunday, 2pm to 9pm at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Monday, 10:00am until 11:00am. Funeral Service at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Interment Riverside Cemetery. Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church-Youth Group or the Plymouth Historical Museum. To share a memory, please visit: Vermeulenfuneralhome.com



ILA "Punk" ROBERTS

Age 85, of Farmington. Born in Brighton, Ontario, Canada to the late John and Grace Loomis. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Cec. Dear sister of Dawn Hetherington of Canada. Punk was a longtime member of Ward Presbyterian Church. A memorial service is pending, with a spring burial planned in Brighton, Ontario, Canada. Memorials may be made in Punk's memory to the charity of your choice.



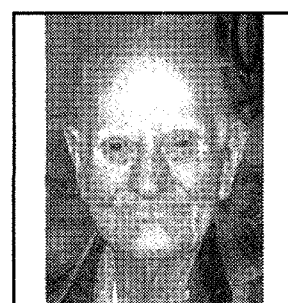
HAROLD EVERETT STEIN

Passed away December 1, 2009 at the age of 93. Hal Stein was born on May 18, 1916 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended Monroe High School in Monroe, Michigan and in 1932, as a sophomore, he set the State Class A record in the pole vault with a vault of 12' 3/4". He continued to compete in track and field during his college career at Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University). Hal served in the U.S. Army during World War II and attended the University of Michigan after discharge, earning a Masters Degree in History in 1949. While at the U of M he also pursued his interest in the fine arts and it was art rather than history that occupied the rest of his life. Hal taught art at Wayne Memorial High School from 1949 to 1975. He enjoyed the friendship of former students until the end of his life, with the satisfaction of seeing several of them choose careers in art. Both before and after retirement, Hal himself created a wealth of art: large and small sculpture, paintings, graphic and photographic works. He was a member of the Three Cities Art Club and had works in exhibitions sponsored by the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Plymouth Community Arts Council. He had a one man show of paintings at the Renaissance Unity Center in Warren in 2003. He also wrote poetry and extensive poetic commentaries on his visual work. Hal married Dorothy Estelle Lovell in 1946 and her death in 2001 ended 54 years of a very happy marriage. He is survived by his daughter Kathleen F. Stein and son-in-law William A. Hunt of Canton, NY. Contributions in Hal Stein's memory may be made to Art Serve Michigan (www.artservemichigan.org) a non-profit, 501(C)(3) organization devoted to supporting the arts in Michigan and specifically to countering the effects of budget cuts on school art programs. Share your special thoughts & memories at: www.schrader-howell.com



DOREEN J. STEVENS

Passed away quietly on November 20, 2009. Preceded in death by her loving husband Lee. Survived by her children Janet (Mike) Jensen, Randy (Mimi) Stevens, and Sheila (Tom) Gebhardt, grandchildren Sara, Christopher, Christine, Craig, Danny, Lea, Samantha, Callen, and great grandchildren Aiden, Kailee, Maggie, Kelsen, and Emmy. A Celebration of Life was held in Colorado. Memorial contributions may be made in Doreen's name to the Porter Hospital Cancer Center, 2525 S. Downing Street, Denver, CO 80210. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington, MI. www.thayer-rock.com



FRANK W. VAIL

Nov. 26, 2009 age 86 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Mamie. Dear father of Frank Jr. (Darella), Sandra (John) Kowlaski, 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 Bell and survived by 13 grandchildren & 13 great-grandchildren. Funeral was held at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Tuesday, Dec. 1st. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com

ALMA G. ZIMMERMAN

Age 89, November 29, 2009. Beloved wife of Howard. Dear mother of Joseph (Susan) Ramer, Sharon (John) Downs, the late Ruth Ann McKinley and the late Janet Guy. Grandmother of 7. Great-grandmother of 15. Great-great-grandmother of 3. Sister of Ralph Gardner, Richard Gardner and Norma Poisman. Services were held. Memorials suggested to the Garden City Builders Lodge Scholarship Fund. Arrangements by Santeiu & Son.

OBITUARY
POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.).

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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Attn: Obit c/o Char Wilson

313-496-4968

For more information call:

Char Wilson

586-826-7082

or Liz Keiser

586-977-7538

or toll free

800-579-7355

ask for Char or Liz

OE8658429

May peace
be with
you in this
time of
sorrow.

NEIGHBORS

Fun stuff: New toy store owners discuss popular gifts

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Charles and Elle Dare were doing a brisk business on a recent Saturday at their new Genuine Toy Co. on Forest Avenue in Plymouth, but they had time to talk about this year's top sellers among the younger set.

"Calico Critters I'd say have been among our best sellers," Charles said of the small animals in a bright green box. Board games and puzzles do well at the business, which was opened Aug. 3 by the Plymouth couple.

"We hear a lot of people say they are having family game nights now," Elle said. They showed Rokenbok which combines a construction toy with a remote control vehicle.

"It's a very well-made toy," he said. Children play with it all day, his wife added.

Quality toys are the focus at the new store, opened by Elle, who has a background in psychology working with abused kids, and later Web pages. Her husband spent 16 years with Merrill Lynch and was a banker for five years before that. He has children ages 9 and 13.

They don't carry a lot of dolls, sending those customers to Muriel's on nearby Penniman in downtown Plymouth.

This holiday season, they're selling the Plasma Car in which the child puts his or her feet up and turns the steering wheel. Elle said fossils and minerals do well, "things you couldn't get unless you were in a museum store. It gets them

interested in more of a science." Science and craft kits remain popular with middle schoolers.

Retro toys also do well. A small grocery cart toy even sold out in the past.

"We love toys," Charles said. "We think there's a market for different types of things."

INFLUENCED BY ADS

"They ask for the things they see in commercials," Elle said of local kids. The Zhu Zhu pets are big but have limited play value and are hard to get, they said.

"We tried to get a good quality for a good price," she said. They carry a lot of birthday gift items around \$20, or smaller ones for children who, for example, did well at the dentist.

The couple agreed video games only go so far in terms of using a child's imagination. "There's only so much you can do with that," he said. They see renewed interest in toys that pique children's imaginations.

Kathy Petlewski of Redford's a customer, having three grown children and a granddaughter who's 21 months old. She bought a tin toy set that won't break, along with toy fruit joined together by Velcro. Children can see the inside of the "fruit."

VARIETY OF FORMATS

Petlewski, an electronic resources librarian at the Plymouth District Library, said books also make great gifts this time of year and year-round. The library in



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zoe Barkoff, 7, shops for Mad Libs with her mom, Victoria Barkoff, and sister, Charlotte, 2.

Plymouth carries children's books in other formats, such as playaways and on CD. There are feature and educational DVDs and children's music as well.

Lauren Baker of Wixom, children's librarian at Plymouth, said the playaways are popular with kids. That's like a mini MP3 player for which children need their own headphones. The library carries titles for third grade or so through adult.

Barnes & Noble and Borders Web sites list hundreds of playaways for both children

and adults. They range in price from about \$30 through slightly more than \$100.

Genuine Toy Co. is at 550 Forest Ave. in downtown Plymouth, south of Ann Arbor Trail. The phone is (734) 414-9500, the Web site GenuineToyCo.com.

Find playaways and other book formats at www.borders.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. Visit Borders stores at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren Road, Laurel Park Place, 37560 W. Six Mile, Livonia, and 43435 Ford Road, Canton; Barnes & Noble is located at 17111 Haggerty, Northville.

Avoid toy hazards with common sense tips

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Web site has common sense tips on toy safety.

Parents and others should choose toys based on the child's age, abilities, skills and interest level, according to the AAP. The physicians also recommend you read instructions carefully first, and give children under 10 battery-operated toys rather than those that use an electrical outlet.

Choking is a hazard for children under 3, for whom toy parts shouldn't measure less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches in length. The AAP urges you keep button batteries and magnets away from young children who may swallow them, along with uninflated or broken balloons, also a choking hazard for those under 8.

For pull toys, watch for strings under 12 inches, a strangulation hazard, adds the AAP.

Much toy safety is common sense, agreed Charles Dare of Plymouth, co-owner with wife Elle of Genuine Toy Co. in Plymouth. She noted parents should read labels, and be leery of products made in China.

Industry testing has improved, Elle Dare said, with new regulations and U.S. standards now better than those in Europe.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group released its


Please see **HAZARDS, B7**



Elle Dare stocks shelves at Genuine Toy Co. She and her husband opened the store on Forest in Plymouth in August.

Arthritis Today

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



NOT ORDERING X-RAYS

When a patient with a painful knee or shoulder comes to a doctor, the patient's expectation is that the doctor will take an x-ray, or possibly with the technology now available, order an MRI. In many instances, the doctor listens to history of the joint pain, does an examination and then proceeds to describe medicine or perform a joint injection. He does not suggest or order an x-ray.

The reason he doesn't is that at this point in care, he is going to undertake a therapy that does not depend on what the x-ray shows. For example: A patient comes with a swollen knee, and after hearing what happened and examining the knee, the doctor has good reason to believe that a twist to the knee caused the problem and removing the excess knee fluid is the treatment of choice, the joint aspiration is what the physician will do. Obtaining an x-ray will not add information to change his mind.

However, if the doctor treats that knee and the patient returns not improved, then the response from the doctor will be to obtain an x-ray of the knee before undertaking any further treatment. Now the x-ray has a purpose: to uncover any unknown problem in the knee that could explain the failure to recover after reasonable therapy.

For physicians being a professional consists more than just finding the right diagnosis and undertaking the proper treatment. A professional does his work in an efficient manner, not using any more of the patient's time, money and resources than is needed for the task at hand.

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com

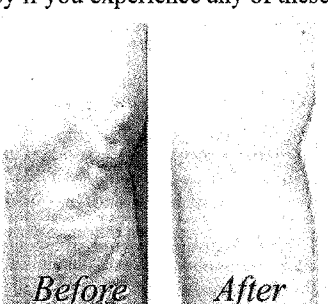
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Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Michigan Education Savings Program. Please visit www.misaves.com for a Disclosure Booklet containing this information. Read it carefully.

Before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider whether the state in which you or your designated beneficiary reside or have taxable income has a 529 plan that offers favorable state income tax or other benefits that are only available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

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C46186

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Cody High School
Classes of 1955-58

Holiday lunch, 1 p.m. Dec. 21, at Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. Contact: Vera at (734) 591-1305 or Irene at (248) 489-0415.

Detroit Pershing
Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit St. Brigid
Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Farmington High School
Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at cblehr@aol.com.

Garden City High School
Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City West
Class of 1970

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Dearborn Heights Heston High
Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com.

Theater
presents
staged
holiday
reading

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Craig Hane has done the math — and it's daunting. He needs to raise \$5,000 on Dec. 11 and that means selling 96 more tickets to Barefoot Production's holiday fund-raiser show in less than a week.

And if he doesn't? "Unfortunately if we are not able to raise the \$5,000 on Friday, we may have to cancel one or both of the remaining season shows, a fate we do not wish to happen," said Hane, founder and director of the Plymouth-based community theater.

"I'd like to get to all our creditors, everyone paid off by the end of the year. Right now this fund-raiser is going to help us pay off the remaining expenses plus give us starting money to get the next productions rolling."

The four-year-old troupe plans to stage *Rope* in February 2010, followed by *Steel Magnolias* in May 2010.

Hane said *Rope* is budgeted at about \$3,000. Ticket sales from that show will help pay for *Steel Magnolias*.

"Generally we work between \$1,000-\$2,000 a show, but if you want to give a good quality production it can be between \$3,000 and \$5,000," he said.

The cost of utility bills at the Walker-Buzenberg

Building where Barefoot stages shows, along with expenses for costumes, set building supplies, props, make up, and advertising adds up quickly — even though the troupe looks for ways to economize.

"We collect props from show to show," explained Chris Steves, a Woodhaven resident who works in Canton and sits on the Barefoot Productions board. She's also in charge of production direction and makes costumes.

"Up until now the things we've collected are things the actors have donated or found at resale shops that are super cheap. We've done shows and had board members clean out their homes."

"We did *Little Women* a few years ago, and the drawing room settee was borrowed from Wayne State and the rest was my living room," she said, with a laugh.

"When we did *Black Coffee*, (the set) that was Craig's living room."

TAKING RISKS



Barefoot Productions of Plymouth rehearses its reader's theater-style production of "A Christmas Carol." The actors voice all parts, including sound effects and narration.

The troupe has become known for its cutting edge presentations. Hane staged the 'Black Coffee' show, for example, in black and white, mirroring the color scheme of 1950s and '60s television shows.

The troupe has become known for its cutting edge presentations. Hane staged the *Black Coffee* show, for example, in black and white, mirroring the color scheme of 1950s and '60s television shows.

The Good Doctor, their most recent production, included a hidden swimming pool to make an actor's jump off "the pier" more realistic. Steves said the first row got wet at every performance.

Barefoot Productions stages its plays in an intimate setting that holds no more than 100 guests. That limits the revenue it takes in from

ticket sales.

"We only made \$2,700 on the Good Doctor and that was the most successful run to date," Hane said. "In the theater world, ticket sales are nothing. That's why we have to do these fund-raisers."

DESSERT, WINE

Tickets for the upcoming performance are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. The holiday celebration will start with a reception from 7-8:30 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 11. Vinter's Cellar Winery of Canton will supply wine, including a hot mulled beverage, and Sweets 21 in Plymouth will cater desserts and pastries. Tranquiletea, also in Plymouth, will offer teas.

The audience also will get a chance to meet the board of directors.

The performance, a reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, will start at 8:30 p.m. Hane edited the book into a 95-minute script last spring.

The seven actors portray

about 40 characters, sound effects and narration.

"It's all read as the novel but in different character voices," Hane explained.

He likens the experience to telling a bedtime story to the audience.

"It's fresh, elegant and simple. The stage is bare, with podiums and the actors are outfitted in gowns and tuxedos," he said. "They're not just reading. They have to get the characters out. They're memorizing the script."

Hane pointed out that Dickens read his novel in public more than 240 times.

"My whole theory was to present it as the original form Dickens intended it to be."

He said if all goes well on Friday, he plans to edit *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* for a dramatic reading next Halloween.

The Walker-Buzenberg Building is located at 240 N. Main, Plymouth. (734) 560-14983 or visit www.just-gobarefoot.com.

Radio station's collecting new,
unwrapped toys for needy children

There's still time to help 96.3 WDV D stuff three buses full of new toys to brighten the holidays for needy children. The radio station is collecting toys through Monday, Dec. 7, at Borders on Ford Road, east of Sheldon in Canton, Woodward and 13 Mile in Royal Oak and at The Village

of Rochester Hills, Adams and Walton.

Toys will benefit local charities including Orchards Children's Services, Beaumont Children's Hospital, Canton Goodfellows, Ronald McDonald House, Neighborhood Service Organization, Lighthouse,

Volunteers of America, Bridgepoint, Detroit Rescue Mission Missionaries and others.

New, unwrapped toys are accepted.

Donation hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 and 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Dec. 7.

HAZARDS

FROM PAGE B6

24th annual Trouble in Toyland report on Nov. 24. It noted progress in the last year with the new Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act and new Consumer Product Safety Commission leadership.

U.S. PIRG warns against choking hazards with toys, along with those excessively loud (over 85 decibels) or containing toxic chemicals lead and phthalates.

The Plymouth District Library has informa-

tion on toy safety, as do other area libraries.

"We are trying to be proactive in informing parents," said Kathy Petlewski of Redford, electronic resources librarian. "Parents and grandparents, too."

The Plymouth library, 223 S. Main, has printed information on the U.S. PIRG survey and other toy-safety information. That includes PVC-free toys, such as Lego and IKEA products.

The report also is available online at www.uspirg.org

— By Julie Brown

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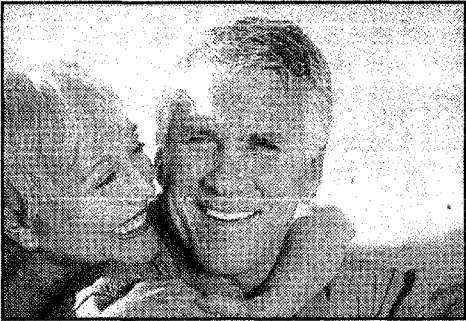
The Assessor Group-Livonia
www.theassessorgroup.com

CE0801950

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Senior Expo

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center
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If your business or organization serves seniors, you'll want to be a part of this exciting event!



Your Exhibitor Package Includes:

Print Advertising

One-quarter page black and white ad or one full page ad (color option available) for your business will appear in the accompanying special section publishing Sunday, May 9, 2010, in the South Oakland and Birmingham Eccentric and Thursday, May 13, 2010, in the Observer & Hometown Newspapers.

Web Presence

The Senior Fall Expo special section will be featured on Hometownlife.com, which receives upwards of 1 million page views per month!

Exhibitor Listing

You'll be featured on the center spread of our special section plus newspaper promotion during April and May.

Expo table plus two chairs

Use your space for giveaways, food demonstrations and promotional materials. Electricity available on a first come, first served basis for an additional charge.

Food

Two complimentary boxed lunches for exhibitors.

Special Section Promotion

The Senior Expo will be promoted in all of our trusted, local newspapers:

Birmingham Eccentric
Canton Observer
Farmington Observer
Garden City Observer
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Milford Times
Northville Record
Novi News
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Holiday happiness

Rainy weather can't dampen spirits at annual tree lighting

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The weather outside was definitely frightful, but on the night Canton Township gathered to kick off the holiday season by lighting its official Christmas tree, the weather hardly mattered to the hundreds of children (and adults) indoors at the Summit on the Park.

Indoors there were still cookies to decorate, drums to bang, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* to watch and Santa to visit. Two people even braved the steady drizzle to take the free carriage rides.

"Let it rain," said Dan Thompson of Canton, who attended the tree lighting with his wife, Monica, and the couple's 6-year-old son, Nolan. "You can't dampen Christmas spirit."

Apparently scores of local residents agreed with the Thompsons, because they poured into the Summit in large enough numbers that visitors were being forced to park in the golf course parking lot and shuttled to the Summit.

The outdoor activities were somewhat curtailed, though there was a reindeer and the

carriage rides.

The indoor activities, however, kept everyone hopping — and happy. Grace Notes Flute Ensemble provided some musical entertainment, in-house dancers did their Dancin' Feet Spectacular, Canton Leisure Services and "Peace, Love & Planet" made eco-kids crafts and there was cookie decorating.

Lori Fithian led the interactive "Drummmunity" circle, sharing her knowledge of drumming traditions. And, of course, Santa took up residence in the gym, where he greeted children of all ages.

With the rain coming down, Supervisor Phil LaJoy lit the official tree from inside the building. Lights on the large "official" tree outside the Summit and on a smaller tree inside went on simultaneously.

Brooke MacDonald, 6, liked the cookie decorating — "I love cookies," she said — and her mom, Dawn MacDonald of Canton, praised the event as a whole.

"We come just about every year," Dawn MacDonald said. "(Brooke) likes all the activities. There's so much to do."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



Valerie Costanza from Dancin Feet Dancers plays Frosty the Snowman.



Aubrey Patterson writes a letter to Santa.



Andrew McCarthy makes a snow flake out of a cup.



Peter Caruana plays pin the heart on the Grinch during Canton tree-lighting holiday activities at the Summit Wednesday.



Abby Lockmondy gives the ginger man a hug.



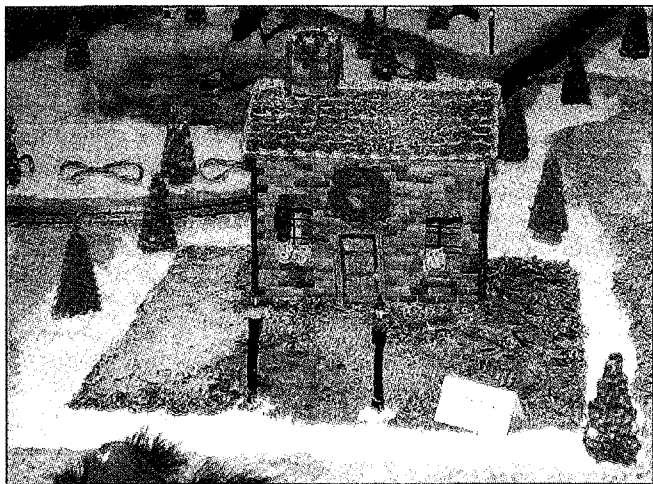
Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy throws the switch at the township's holiday tree-lighting ceremony.



Chynna Christian from Plymouth Canton Education Park helped provide some of the musical entertainment at Canton's tree-lighting.



Aashni Patel finds the cookies finger-licking good.



The Big Bad Wolf will huff and puff and eat this gingerbread version of the "Three Little Pigs" house on display at Schoolcraft College.

These houses are good enough to eat

Nursery rhymes inspired the lavishly decorated gingerbread houses you'll see on display through Friday, Dec. 10, at VisTaTech on the Schoolcraft College campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Culinary Arts students created the gingerbread art, which was judged and then assembled into a village.

Rachel Kaniarz of Livonia won first place for her edible rendition of "The Old Woman who Lived in the Shoe"

Second place went to the team of Katelyn Dingrave of Livonia and Garbrielle Todd of Jackson, who created the "Six Swans" in gingerbread.

Lisa Quint of Livonia took third place for "Three Little Pigs." Call (734) 462-4400 for more information.



The nursery rhyme, "Old Woman in the Shoe," inspired this first place winner on display in a gingerbread village at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING December 15, 2009

The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year of 2009 at the Charter Township of Plymouth offices located at 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 on December 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Charter Township of Plymouth, Clerks Office, 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 during normal business hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Publish: December 6, 2009

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting December 15, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-0750
X217

Publish: December 6, 2009

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NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2009

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2009 and payable through February 28, 2010 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page - www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED from Thursday, December 24, 2009 returning on Monday, January 4, 2010. The Treasurer's office will be **OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS** on Tuesday, December 29th, and Wednesday, December 30th.

Teresa Cischke, CPFA
City Treasurer

Publish: December 6 & 10, 2009

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Study: Women reluctant to take tamoxifen to prevent cancer

Even when women at high-risk of breast cancer are well-informed about the risks and benefits of using the drug tamoxifen for prevention, only 6 percent say they're likely to take it, according to a University of Michigan study.

Researchers at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center created a "decision aid" designed to inform women about the risks and benefits associated with tamoxifen, a drug that was first used to stop breast cancer from returning and has recently been shown to prevent breast cancer in the first place.

The U-M decision aid gave objective information about tamoxifen and was tailored to each woman's health history. The study targeted women

who were at high risk of developing breast cancer within the next five years; 632 women participated.

"Tailored information is critical because the risks and benefits vary across women. This is one of the most detailed tailored decision aids to address breast cancer prevention. The information about the risks and benefits of tamoxifen was tailored to each woman's health history. That means, when women read this decision aid, they learned about how the drug was likely to affect them given their age, race, breast cancer history and medical history," says lead author Angela Fagerlin, associate professor of internal medicine at the U-M Medical School and a research investigator at the VA Ann Arbor

Healthcare System.

After viewing the decision aid, 41 percent of women could correctly answer six questions about the risks and benefits of tamoxifen, while 63 percent correctly answered at least five of the six questions.

Despite this understanding, only 29 percent of women said they were likely to seek out more information about tamoxifen, and only 29 percent said they would ask their doctor about it. A scant 6 percent of women said they were likely to take tamoxifen.

Three months later, the researchers found that fewer than 1 percent of participants had started taking tamoxifen, and fewer than 6 percent had either talked to their doctor or

sought more information.

"For any given woman, there is not a right or wrong answer in regards to whether she should take tamoxifen to prevent a first diagnosis of breast cancer. The goal of decision aids is to explain the risks and benefits in a clear way so that the woman is able to weigh these factors and make an informed decision about what is best for her," Fagerlin says.

While as many as 10 million women could be eligible to take tamoxifen to prevent breast cancer, few choose to do so.

Side effects were the biggest concern about tamoxifen cited in this study. The side effects of tamoxifen include hormonal symptoms, including hot flashes, and sexual problems,

as well as rare incidences of endometrial cancer, blood clots or cataracts.

"Experts have bemoaned the dearth of women taking these pills, worried that word has not gotten out about tamoxifen's ability to prevent breast cancer in high risk women. Our study shows that even when the word does get out, most women are too concerned about the pill's side effects to want to take it," says senior author Peter Ubel, M.D., professor of internal medicine and director of the Center for Behavioral and Decision Sciences in Medicine at U-M.

According to the American Cancer Society, 194,280 Americans will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and 40,610 will die from the disease.

Two Detroit hospitals rank high on patient safety survey

For the third consecutive year, two Detroit Medical Center (DMC) hospitals met the stringent standards of the Leapfrog Group and have received honors as top hospitals in the nation for patient quality and safety.

Detroit Receiving Hospital and Harper University Hospital are among only 45 hospitals (34 urban, three rural and eight pediatric) nationally to receive the rec-

ognition for 2009. They're the only hospitals in Michigan to earn the top ranking.

The Leapfrog Group is a ranking agency that conducts surveys on behalf of Fortune 500 companies, with the goal of improving overall hospital quality.

Its rankings are based on a survey conducted at 1,206 hospitals across the country and is considered a comprehensive and current assessment of hos-

pital quality and safety.

The number of top hospitals selected for 2009 is down from those selected in previous years as a result of more exacting requirements used to evaluate the facilities vying for the award across the country.

"We have been purposeful in our pursuit of superior quality and safety for the patients we serve," stated Dr. Thomas Malone, president of Harper University and Hutzel

Women's Hospital. "Receiving the Leapfrog Group's top hospital recognition for three consecutive years is a testament to the dedicated professionals here. We are honored that the work we do everyday is being acknowledged by such a distinguished group."

Dr. Iris Taylor, president of Detroit Receiving Hospital, said the facility's second consecutive Leap Frog honor "acknowledges the exemplary

commitment to quality patient care and safety our health care professionals have made."

"Each and every day, our dedicated doctors, nurses, pharmacists, therapists and support staff work to set a bar of excellence that is among the highest in the nation." To make Leapfrog's list, a hospital must have a top efficiency of care score for at least three of four procedures and conditions. The Leapfrog survey

collects data from hospitals on their progress and commitment toward implementing practices in the several areas, including computerized physician order entry, ICU physician staffing, and evidenced-based hospital referral.

The 2009 Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety ratings and methodology can be found at www.leapfroggroup.org.

H1N1 virus affects expectant moms differently, physician notes

Pregnant women already keep a close eye on their health. But this flu season, expectant mothers have an additional concern — the H1N1 virus.

Kelly M. Campbell, M.D., an OB/GYN physician at the Women's Health and Menopause Center in West Bloomfield, has a few tips for pregnant women to limit

their exposure to the virus.

With the popularity of the H1N1 vaccine, some women may find it currently unavailable, or they may have concerns about getting the vaccine altogether. Although it is generally safe, Campbell suggests pregnant women speak to their primary care physician about getting the flu vaccine and H1N1 vaccine

to be fully protected.

According to Campbell, the H1N1 virus appears to affect pregnant women differently than the rest of the population. These women seem to have more respiratory complications, which may be a result of increased oxygenation of the fetus, or a mother's altered immune response during pregnancy.

"The signs and symptoms of the flu are the same for pregnant women as for the rest of the population, they include fever, cough, muscle and joint pain, vomiting and diarrhea," she said. However, expecting mothers who catch the H1N1 virus may develop serious complications, including early labor and pneumonia. The only way a

woman can know if she's contracted the virus is to have a test performed by her primary care physician.

Campbell said treatment for pregnant women who have been exposed to the virus, is Tamiflu. She said Tamiflu should be administered regardless of testing because the illness can develop rapidly.

Campbell suggests that expectant mothers practice frequent hand washing, drink plenty of fluids, get ample rest and avoid contact with known sick people. If a woman experiences increased respiratory distress, she should visit the emergency room.

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