

Searching for a job  
during the holidays?

SEE CLASSIFIED SECTION C

MADD HOLDS RALLY TO  
KICK OFF HOLIDAY SEASON

LOCAL NEWS, A8

It's Peppermint Season!

FOOD, B9

SUNDAY

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# CANTON OBSERVER

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## CONNECTION

### Cells for soldiers

VFW Post 6695 is still accepting cell phones for U.S. soldiers any time after 10:30 a.m. seven days a week. Each cell phone turns into a one-hour AT&T calling card to be used by our servicemen and women. Post members are also collecting Campbell Soup can labels for the children in the National Home.

The post is also selling Christmas trees at what officials say are "the best prices in town. A veteran's discount and free local delivery are offered. The hours are from 2-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, while they last.

VFW Post 6695 is located at 1426 S. Mill St. in Plymouth, some 100 yards north of Ann Arbor Road.

### Pink out

Volleyball players from West Middle School and East Middle School will be doing their part to battle breast cancer when they battle on the court Tuesday.

Players will wear pink, some will have pink wristbands and at least one coach has ordered pink pom-poms for parents to wave. Parents attending the game are being encouraged to wear pink, as well, to help raise Breast Cancer Awareness.

The game starts at 3:45 p.m. at West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth.

### Holiday concert

The Celebration Youth Orchestras of the Plymouth-Canton Symphony Orchestra present their annual holiday concert 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

With more than 65 students, the orchestras, under the direction of PSO Music Director and Conductor Nan Washburn and Assistant Conductor Hektor Oyetti, include two levels of strings, a Flute Choir and the Celebration Symphony.

Each group will perform many holiday favorites. Tickets are \$6 and are available at the door the night of the concert.

For more information, call the symphony office, (734) 451-2112 or go online to [www.plymouthsymphony.com](http://www.plymouthsymphony.com)

### Not ringing

The Salvation Army Christmas fund-raising campaign for the Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Belleville service area has currently collected \$57,262, just 18.2 percent of its \$315,000 Christmas goal for this year, Salvation Army officials announced. The Red Kettle drive lags, as well, having collected \$43,280 of its targeted \$225,000 as of Nov. 29.

"The bell ringing portion of the campaign will run through Christmas Eve and we are asking our communities for their support to help raise the needed funds," Capt. Dan Hull, corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army, said. "The overall fund-raising campaign will end in January. These funds will support our programming for the Plymouth, Canton, Belleville and Northville communities for 2011."

## Canton renews push for Ford Road help

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After federal authorities twice rejected competitive funding to improve traffic conditions along Ford Road near I-275, Canton officials have renewed their push for help from Lansing.

"We're committed to this," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

LaJoy recently had a one-on-one meeting with state Rep. Brian Calley, R-Portland, who will become Michigan's next lieutenant governor Jan. 1 when Gov.-elect Rick Snyder assumes office.

LaJoy, who formerly served in the state House and knew Calley there, used a catching-up session in Lansing

with his ex-colleague to bring attention to efforts to reshape the Ford Road/I-275 corridor. Officials say heavy traffic congestion has made the Ford-Haggerty intersection the state's most accident-prone.

Though LaJoy said Calley couldn't make promises, LaJoy laid out the need for funding to improve the bustling interchange. LaJoy shared with Calley a years-old regional transportation study, paid by Canton and the Michigan Department of Transportation, that indicated a need for improvements.

LaJoy seemed encouraged to have a dialogue with Calley even before he and Snyder take office.

"That's a great way to start with the

new administration," he said.

Officials say the interchange hasn't been upgraded despite years of rapid growth Canton had witnessed prior to an economic slowdown — and even despite the downturn, some new businesses continue to sprout up along Ford and Haggerty.

Canton officials find it worrisome that improvements to the Ford Road/I-275 area aren't even listed on a regional priority list for the next 25 years, even though local leaders say the interchange and its problems have regional implications.

"It's not even on the radar of the Michigan Department of Transportation, and that's wrong," LaJoy said.

Municipal Services Director Tim Faas had suggested earlier this fall that local officials, hopefully with support from state officials, can manage not only to get the project placed on the MDOT list, but moved as closely to the top as possible.

One proposal — twice denied federal stimulus dollars this year — called for adding extra exit ramps, or slips, to allow drivers to access Haggerty in either direction without using Ford Road. It also called for a northbound service drive alongside the freeway to accommodate traffic from Cherry Hill Road, allowing motorists to avoid Ford and merge onto I-275.

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PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINOZA

Santa Claus arrives in time to help Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy light the township's official Christmas tree Wednesday at The Summit.

## Let there be lights Santa throws 'on' switch for holidays

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sean McBride really wants a Power Rangers Miners set for Christmas, and the 6-year-old Canton boy knew right where to go to ask.

That's why Sean was one of the earliest kids in line — with mom Tara and Grandma Carol Biro — when Santa Claus set up shop in The Summit on the Park Wednesday night. Santa listened to requests from hundreds of youngsters after helping Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy with the official lighting of Canton's Christmas tree.

"He's nice and cool," Sean McBride said of Santa.

That was the general reaction of the hundreds of people who braved biting, cold temperatures to watch LaJoy and the Jolly Ol' Elf throw the switch on the holiday season. The choir from Plymouth Christian Academy rang in the season by singing a variety of Christmas carols, there were cookies and other refreshments and a variety of activities to keep the youngsters busy.

"It's the first time we've come," said Tara McBride, who said she's lived in



Ten-year-old Joy Chamberlain of Plymouth belts out Christmas carols for the Plymouth Christian Academy choir.

Please see **LIGHTS, A5**

## Band booster machine about more than raising cash



DIANE HANSON

Hundreds of Plymouth-Canton Marching Band supporters traveled to Indianapolis to cheer on their favorite performers at the Bands of America Grand National Championships on Nov. 13, among them Teresia Rebellio, left, Alex Quintos and Marlene Turbett.

BY DIANE HANSON  
CORRESPONDENT

Famous for supporting their children's extracurricular activities, booster clubs — made up mostly of parents and perhaps a few other family members and friends — are a staple of the American high school scene.

Few are more active or monetarily successful than the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Music Boosters.

"It's for the kids!" six key members of the 400-plus-member Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters intoned in unison when asked why they donate so much of their time, talent and treasure. The boosters were taking a short break from — what else? — volunteering on a recent Saturday to help run the Holiday Craft Show at Plymouth High School.

Please see **BOOSTERS, A2**

## Search board narrows chamber president field

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An eight-member search committee hopes to have a new Canton Chamber of Commerce president on the job by early next year to replace Dianne Cojei, who is leaving the helm after more than 10 years.

Chamber board Chairman-elect Marty Heator, who also heads up the search committee, said five candidates have been interviewed for the post after the panel narrowed the list of contenders from 13 applicants.

"We would hope to name someone this month and have them start as soon as they can in the new year," Heator said.

He declined to name the candidates.

Heator's remarks came as Cojei gave her

farewell statements Wednesday during her last chamber luncheon as president during a holiday get-together attended by about 100 people at the Summit on the Park.

"Thank you for your support, thank you for your trust, and thank you for your friendship," Cojei told the crowd, which gave her a standing ovation.

"It's been a great ride, and I've loved being part of watching this community grow," she said.

Cojei said she will remain active in the community and expects to see her friends at events such as the local jazz concert series, Liberty Fest, the chamber-sponsored restaurant Grub Crawl and golf outings.

Heator, meanwhile, said the search committee has been seeking a new president whose experience includes involvement with nonprofit organizations. The new leader will steer a chamber that has a 15-member board of directors and 600 members from the business community.

Under Cojei's leadership, the number of chamber members grew from 378 to 600, and the organization moved to its new headquarters on Hanford, near Canton Center, from space it formerly leased in an office building.

Cojei's farewell luncheon Wednesday included a holiday performance by the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Madrigal Singers and Chamber Choir. The chamber also collected toys and gifts to boost the Canton Goodfellows campaign to ensure that no local child is forgotten at Christmas.



Cojei

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## BOOSTERS

FROM PAGE A1

The annual event, along with a second one in the spring sponsored by the PCMB, is one of the largest fund-raisers for the instrumental music program. Last week's event brought in some 2,000 people to shop at more than 100 exhibits.

"Fund-raising is a primary function of the boosters," said John Noss, president of the PCMB. "This is a year-round activity. We help fund some of the day band program needs, plus the marching band. We assist the director. He gives us the vision and tells us what he wants us to do and we collaborate together to create the marching band show."

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band has a long-standing solid reputation as one of the top high school marching bands locally, statewide and nationally, packing a trophy case with countless

awards over the years, including 22 state and three national championships. This year was no exception to the trophy-accumulating prowess of the 214 hometown marchers, coming in second in the state and 13th in the nation with their challenging production.

And the boosters, as always, were a key part of that success.

### SALES AND SERVICE

"A very significant part of what we do is logistic support, which is the volunteering side," said Ross Kadish, PCMB assistant secretary. "From the equipment crew to what all the other parents do to help support — moving our band to the competitions and back, feeding our band, taking care of uniforms, volunteering at the craft shows and all the other fund-raising activities — it takes hundreds of volunteers."

"So fund-raising is a very significant activity, but just as significant, if not more so, is putting the bodies in for all the things

that need logistic support."

Volunteer opportunities abound with the big fund-raisers like the craft shows and the Great Lakes Invitational (a statewide marching band competitive show each October) among others that support the general fund, which provides for equipment acquisition for the crew, some musical instruments and the prop budget.

"The general fund also provides housing while we're on the road," Noss said. "It provides buses when we go out of state. We have a food crew to feed our traveling army on the road with the chuck wagon (an actual food truck). We have a field crew, a uniform crew, nurses, prop building people who don't travel with us, but build during the year, chaparrones, washer parents and uniform magicians that maintain the show uniforms."

### BIG BUDGET

That virtual village of volunteer services and fund-



Boosters Carol Knauss and Peggy Fenwick greet shoppers entering Plymouth High School and direct them to the more than 100 vendors at Saturday's Holiday Craft Show sponsored by the Plymouth Canton Music Boosters. Some 2,000 attended the annual event.



Booster mom Julie Welsh sums it up with her sign at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis on Nov. 13.

in, so my second year I started to volunteer for more things," she said. Besides handling the secretarial position, she also provides much of the communication throughout the year, including the newsletter.

Kadish admitted he actually tried to talk his daughter out of going into marching band 11 years ago.

"In my mind, I wondered: 'Why would you want to give up your life?' And that's what I told her," he said. "At the end of that first year, my daughter came to me and said, 'I didn't give up my life, Dad, I found one.' And you know what? So did I — and I love it. You start out doing it for the kids, but I can tell you now, I do it as much for me. And it's one of the few things I can do where I can get involved and my kids don't complain about it. I love being involved with this organization."

"Having these experiences with your kids is amazing," Michelle Noss added. "And your kids will never forget it."

"Looking back at my eighth and final year, it is an experience I never expected," John Noss said. "If this was a regular job, you couldn't pay me enough for the hours I put in, but this is because of the passion and the love for these kids. This organization is alive and well and strong and that's all because of the people that are involved."

raising force is essential with a yearly operating budget of nearly \$400,000 according to Jeff Long, assistant treasurer, who added that nearly a \$1 million passes through the PCMB account in a year's time.

"Some of the fund-raisers that we have allow members to be actively involved, such as with the citrus sale — which is new this year — and the flower sale in the spring," Long said. "A portion of those proceeds go into their individual accounts and a portion goes into the general fund."

A big ongoing individual fund-raiser is the Scrip program, where local merchants provide various percentages of profit on the sale of gift cards or recharges to gift cards.

Noss' wife, Michelle, is in charge of the Scrip program. "Scrip is solely provided so that the members have a way to offset their personal band fees," she said. Band fees for each member were \$1,200 this year. "I think it is important that we continue to offer that, because there are a lot of people that struggle to come up with their band fee."

Corporate sponsorships and donations from places such as Rock Financial, the Silverdome, Plymouth Super

Center, Gordon Foods, the Rotary, community restaurants and many local merchants have been a tremendous support for the organization and have helped to keep costs down.

Such support has been beneficial in the boosters' efforts of assisting David Armbruster, director of bands at the Park, and Sheldon Frazier, assistant director, in recruiting new members to the music program. This year alone, there were 70 new members in the marching band — nearly one-third of the total.

And current boosters have much to say to incoming parents.

### CHANGE OF LIFE

"The parents have just as much fun as the kids," said Jeff Saenz, in his fifth year as a booster parent and first as the equipment crew chief. "I'm one who never went out of my box and this is way beyond my box. I wouldn't give it up for anything. This is fantastic."

PCMB secretary Lori Barnett was intimidated and overwhelmed by the huge sea of yellow- and black-clad parents at the meetings held once each month and twice during the marching season.

"But I wanted to dig right

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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

### Health seminar

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts a health care reform seminar presented by Dean Clemons, vice president of Meadowbrook Insurance Agency to explain near-term changes and Blue Cross-specific implications with guest speaker Barb Kellman, director of operations for Blue Cross Blue Shield Managing Agency. The event is scheduled 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the Canton Chamber of Commerce, 45525 Hanford in Canton.

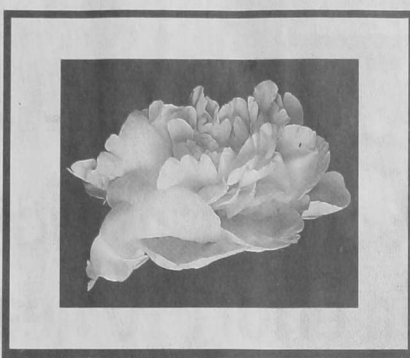
Seating is limited, and reservations are required. There's no admission charge for chamber members.

Call the chamber office, (734) 453-4040.

### St. Nick Frolic

The countdown to Christmas has begun, and with it comes the Canton Senior Center's Annual St. Nick Frolic.

Area seniors are invited to the Summit on the Park's Grand Ballroom on Dec. 8 from noon to 4 p.m. for a luncheon. The event will include prizes, entertainment and of course a fabulous holiday meal.



### Art exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the photographic works of Jason Nichols in an exhibit that will run through Jan. 2 in the Gallery@VT, located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. Nichols uses two cameras to shoot his striking black and white images, including a digital SLR. Nichols also uses a large format camera with a digital scanning back for his still life and flower photography. Works of this award-winning photographer will be on display Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as during public performances at the theater and also by appointment. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays. For more information about this latest exhibit in the Gallery@VT, please call 734/394-5300 or visit cantonvillage theater.org.

The Summit Gourmet by Continental will be serving turkey and dressing with gravy, mashed redskin potatoes, vegetable salad, desert and beverages. Door prizes will be handed out and excellent entertainment will be

provided by Jerry Robotka and the Madrigal and Chamber Singers of the Plymouth

### Canton Community Schools.

Register at the Summit front desk. Ticket prices are \$13.95 for residents and \$18.95 for non residents. The Canton Senior Center can be found in the Parkview Room of the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

For more information about The St. Nick Frolic event, call (734) 394-5484 or visit www.Cantonfun.org.

### Nuns in charge

"Put the Nuns in Charge," a long-running comedy from the author of "Late Night Catechism" is coming to St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church in Canton 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28.

Ticket prices range from \$20 for non-reserved seating and go up to \$75 for front row seats. All tickets include a dessert afterward. All proceeds will go to two great causes - St. Pat's Food Pantry in Detroit and World Youth Day.

Child care will be provided for a small donation. Tickets must be purchased in person with cash or check at St. Thomas a Becket, located at 555 S. Lilley Road in Canton,

south of Cherry Hill Road. Contact the church at (734) 981-1333 for further information.

### Healing Hearts

Attorney Thomas Novak will speak about Corrections, Law and the Family in a program Monday, Dec. 13, sponsored by Hope 4 Healing Hearts Inc.

The program will be at Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland, and will include a question-and-answer session.

Novak first volunteered to work with offenders in 1984 as a college student. Since then he has continued to volunteer with offender-related organizations and has served on the board of two non-profit groups.

He also has worked for seven years as a parole/probation Officer for the Department of Corrections and earned a law degree in 2003. He has seen and felt the effects of his own brother-in-law's two prison terms. Questions for Novak, a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, can be submitted in advance so he can provide more complete

### Holiday photos could win prizes

Send us your favorite holiday photos for a chance to win a prize.

Go to hometownlife.com (Get Published) and post your favorite holiday photo (or photos) with a short caption, then encourage friends and family to vote by clicking recommend under the photo. The top vote getter will receive tickets for two to Imagine Theater (Canton or Novi). The second and third place winners will receive a coupon for a free four-square cheese and one-topping Buddy's pizza.

Contest ends midnight Dec. 31. Share your holiday spirit with others! Go to hometownlife.com.

answers.

Hope 4 Healing Hearts meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of the month at Kirk of Our Savior. For more information or to submit questions, call Bonnie Hlberer at (734) 734-646-2237 or by e-mail at Bonnie@hope-4healinghearts.com.

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# EDUCATION

Sunday, December 5, 2010

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

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Achieve Academy students Keith Gillespie (left) and Samuel Beebe present a check to William Stone, the stepfather of their schoolmate, Brandon Miller, who was seriously injured in an accident that claimed the life of Brandon's mother, Stephanie Stone.

## Students 'Achieve' successful drive

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Brandon Miller was seriously injured in an automobile accident that claimed the life of his mother Oct. 26, his friends immediately felt like they wanted to do something.

Police say Bradley Wayne Howard of Ypsilanti, a repeat drunken driver with a suspended license, was doing at least 70 mph when he ran a red light at Ecorse and Harris in Ypsilanti Township and crashed into the Ford Taurus driven by Brandon's mom, Stephanie Stone. Brandon was seat-belted into the front passenger seat, while Savannah

had her seat belt on in the back seat.

Still, the accident killed Stone, injured Savannah and left Brandon hospitalized for weeks with serious injuries.

All of which left his friends feeling like they should do something.

So they did. Sam Beebe and Keith Gillespie, schoolmates of the Miller children at Achieve Academy in Canton, organized a "casual-dress Friday" to benefit the children and their stepfather, William Stone. Instead of the normal Achieve Academy uniform, students paid \$1 to wear casual clothes.

"We just felt bad for the family," said Sam, a 12-year-old

seventh-grader at Achieve.

The event raised \$850. Beebe, the son of Matt and Kelly Beebe of Canton, was more than pleased with the results.

"It was a schoolwide thing, because we were very close friends with Brandon," Sam said. "Everyone was very happy."

Howard faces a Dec. 10 preliminary hearing in Wayne County Circuit Court on multiple felony charges, including second-degree murder. If convicted, he faces the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison.

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## Board uses workshops in effort to heal divide

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The workshop sessions Plymouth-Canton Community Schools board members originally scheduled to more clearly define board goals and the superintendent evaluation process are quickly becoming therapy sessions trustees hope will be a salve to the fractures that divide them.

In the latest session, Wednesday night at West Middle School, the board spent considerable time talking about goals they hope to achieve as a unit, as well as acknowledging some of the things that divide them. Included among those things was the 4-3 decision to strip Supt. Dr. Craig Fiegel of most of his duties, the most contentious issue to face the board in recent memory.

After two residents asked the board to be more collaborative, Mary Kerwin, the Michigan Association of School Boards consultant moderating the workshops, said the meetings could be the stimulus to getting board members back on the same page.

"(The speakers) said they want to see more teamwork from the board," Kerwin told board members. That's what we're going to see in this process."

Board members spent time

in previous workshops throwing out ideas for goals, and Kerwin molded those brainstorming sessions into a set of tentative, proposed board goals. Among them were things like focusing on student achievement, developing a shared vision which reflects high expectations, providing a productive atmosphere for decision-making and developing strategies to strengthen trust and maximize the performance of the leadership team.

The latter is an area, Kerwin told the board, where they needed to concentrate.

"There are some fundamental views that have divided you as a group," Kerwin said. "Most of the time we will agree on things. And then there are some things where there's a huge divide. There's a lot bubbling ... it would help to lift the lid and let some of that settle."

Part of what the board is doing is trying to develop a Code of Ethics for board members. They looked at a sample code from the Berkley school district Wednesday, one that establishes procedures and rules for board decisions and behaviors. Two of the big words that kept coming up were "ethics" and "governance."

In the Berkley example, board members acknowledge their role is to govern the dis-

trict, and not get into the day-to-day operations of the district. These are issues, board members acknowledged, that have divided them recently.

"The ethical discussion and what it means to govern are the two biggest issues for us," trustee Dianne Gonzalez said.

There was quite a bit of discussion about the handling of the Fiegel decision last week, when four trustees pushed through the vote stripping Fiegel of most of his duties. Kerwin acknowledged that issue has deeply divided the board and said they must work to rebuild trust.

"The entrenchment on this board is very, very deep," said Kerwin, who is a former Troy School Board member who now serves on the Troy City Council. "You're going to have to focus on things that are forward-focused. Bringing the trust back is hard to do."

Board members took Kerwin's suggestions and plan to discuss them, and they'll meet again, perhaps after the first of the year, to begin the process of finalizing the goals.

For now, they seemed encouraged with the process.

"I know we still have some things to talk about," trustee John Jackson said. "But I feel good about the process."

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# LIGHTS

FROM PAGE A1

Canton her whole life. "The decorations are awesome, the activities ... it's wonderful. It's really traditional to bring your kids to see Santa. We love it."

The annual ceremony went off without a hitch Wednesday, as opposed to the last couple of years. Last year's event was forced inside by heavy rains, and the lights failed LaJoy the year before, his first as supervisor.

"I think I figured out why that happened," LaJoy told all the youngsters gathered outside the Summit. "I don't think we yelled, 'Merry Christmas, Canton,' loud enough."

There was no such problem this year. With the children hollering at the tops of their voices, Santa threw the switch and the tree lit up like ... well ... a Christmas tree.

"I love this part of the job," LaJoy said. "It's all about the community."

It was the first time at the event for Kate Taelman of Canton, who attended with her husband, James, and 2-year-old daughter Jackie.

"The tree lighting, the Christmas carols, Santa ... they're fun, family things to do," Taelman said. "It seems really nice."

And it was the last one for outgoing Leisure Services Director Ann Conklin, who retires at the end of the year



Ted Wakar, from Frozen Images Inc., carves a sculpture during the tree lighting ceremony.

PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINOZA

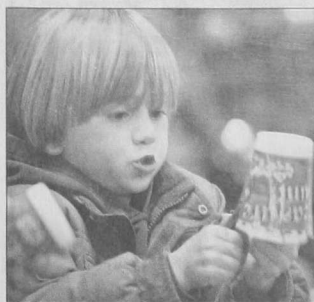
after a decade in Canton.

"This is why I got into the business, to see families com-

ing together," Conklin said.

"It's been a great time, and this demonstrates the support the

community has for what we do. It's definitely bittersweet for me."



Six-year-old Marek Mabry of Canton concentrates on his cutting while making an ornament, an activity sponsored by Rosey's Romper Room and Maybury of Canton during the tree-lighting event Wednesday at The Summit.

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## County upgrades snow removal trucks with side plows, anti-icing equipment

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County road officials hope improvements in equipment will reduce the time it takes to plow county roads this winter, perhaps cutting it in half.

On Thursday, County Executive Robert Ficano and road officials highlighted two changes on 20 trucks they hope will make snow removal operations more efficient: a wing plow attached to the side of the truck and anti-icing inserts for spraying multiple lanes on one pass.

Two trucks were re-engineered by the Wayne County Roads Division to pre-wet roads with salt brine. The two trucks were going to be auctioned off, but instead the roads division decided to keep the vehicles and retrofit them.

"These are difficult times," Ficano said. "The funding gets reduced from state and federal levels and it creates more challenges."

County officials showed one of the 20 county trucks that have been equipped with a side or wing plow and anti-icing inserts to spray the brine. That wing plow allows for the trucks to remove a wider area of snow, such as a lane and a shoulder simultaneously, according to Mike Rogers, director of the county roads division of the Department of Public Service. "We see it as a new measure in removing snow," Rogers said.

Tim Pollard, president of CE Pollard Co., said the 6-foot wide wing plow, when used with the 11-foot plow on the front, will allow for 15 feet in width of snow clearance, nearly doubling the 8 feet that used to be cleared. Ficano said the time to plow the roads should be cut in half for each truck with the additional equipment.

The county roads division maintains of 1,582 miles of primary county and local roadways, and 462 miles of state trunk lines, Ficano said. Wayne County averages just under 42 inches of snowfall a winter.

To assist in that removal and keep the roads from icing, the county will begin pre-wetting roads with a salt brine solution consisting of water and 23-26 percent rock salt. "They will be hitting the salt with brine, and when it hits the salt, it dissolves the salt instantly," Rogers said. "Without the pre-wetting, much of the dry salt bounces off the roads," Rogers said.

Rogers said the snow removal priority list will remain unchanged: Freeways are



The county will begin pre-wetting roads with a salt brine solution to dissolve the salt instantly and keep it from bouncing off the roads.

the highest priority, followed by the state trunklines and heavily travelled roads, such as Grand River, Telegraph and Ford roads, and the local subdivision roads in townships, which will be plowed only when snow reaches 6 inches. That threshold remains unchanged this year, officials said.

Officials hope the use of brine will help defray the rising cost of salt, now up to \$53.54 a ton, up from last year's \$41.92. The county begins the 2010-11 winter season with 96,573 tons of salt on hand. Officials estimate that between 70,000 and 130,000 tons of salt will be ordered this season. The county can treat 19.5 miles of two-lane road with a truckload of salt.

The roads fund budget has fallen from \$186.6 million in 2002 to \$105.7 million in 2010, a drop of 44 percent. The county road personnel has fallen from 588 in 2000-01 to 330 in 2009-10. Seasonal personnel fell from 138 in 2000 to zero in 2005, where it has remained.

"We've been forced to do more with less," Ficano said.

Hassan Saab, deputy director of the Department of Public Service, said fewer Michigan Transportation Fund dollars

are available because motorists are driving fuel-efficient vehicles and they are changing driving habits. Fewer fuel purchases mean less gas tax revenue. The gas tax is fixed at a 1997 rate, but the cost of labor and materials has "increased substantially" since 1997, Saab said.

Kevin Maillard, director of Public Works for the city of Livonia, said he and other DPW directors throughout Wayne County met with county officials recently to discuss snow removal for this winter season.

Maillard said the brine application has been used effectively in Livonia. The city of Livonia has not changed its snow removal policy or salt routes, which were devised last year during the budget discussions.

Any snowfall that measures 4 inches will be plowed within 30 hours from the end of the snowfall. "We usually do it within 18 to 24 hours," Maillard said.

That threshold remains unchanged. "We cut (the budget) last year and we came to the determination that we wouldn't change it this year. It's a traffic safety issue for us," Maillard said.

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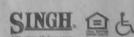


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# Tune out the political rhetoric on Bush tax cuts issue

**Q:** Dear Rick: I am confused about the Bush tax cuts. The Democrats are claiming they don't want a tax cut for the rich. On the other hand, the Republicans say they don't want any tax increases. I have no idea what they're talking about. Are they talking about raising taxes or cutting taxes further? Can you explain the situation?



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

and that leads us to the problem today.

What is being discussed in Washington is what to do with those tax cuts. If nothing is done, then next year, we would all revert back to the old tax laws which would mean higher taxes for everyone.

**A:** This is a classic example of the question — is the glass half full or half empty? It is important to go back a number of years when what is now being referred to as the Bush tax cuts, were passed. Unlike most tax law changes, the Bush tax cuts were not made permanent. Because of all sorts of technical reasons, the Bush tax cuts had a sunset provision which means that after a number of years it would revert to the old tax laws. I believe at the time the law was passed, it was anticipated that eventually the tax cuts would be made permanent. However, they were not,

that are about to expire. The Republicans want to extend the tax cuts for everyone and make those cuts permanent, or to extend them for a two-to-three year period. On the other hand, the Democrats only want to extend the tax cuts for people who make less than \$250,000. This is where the semantics come in from both parties. The Republicans claim that unless the tax cuts are extended for everyone, the result would be a tax increase for many taxpayers. On the other hand, the Democrats claim this is not a tax increase, rather, it is just reverting to the old rules because the Bush era tax cuts were only meant to be temporary. Democrats also claim that if the Bush era tax cuts were extended and included all income earners, this would mean not only a cut in taxes for middle and high wage earners, but also for the wealthy.

Of course, both sides are playing politics and word games to confuse us. In other words, it's business as usual in Washington.

I believe the issue isn't whether there should be a tax cut or a tax increase. I think that when people focus on whether it's an increase or a cut they're focusing on the wrong area. To me, the key issue should be what is the fair amount to tax someone?

My advice is, don't listen to the politicians' rhetoric. Unfortunately, I think all they want to do is confuse us. The bottom line is that the Bush tax cuts are set to expire at the end of the year and the question is should they be extended or not? If they are extended, should they be extended for everyone or for certain groups of taxpayers? Those are the issues. When you focus on whether it is a tax cut or a tax increase, you're not focusing on the key issues.

Good luck!

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

# Kids get a chance to shop with cops

Through the cooperative efforts of Canton Leisure Services, the Canton Police Department and local retailers, 58 Canton children will have the chance to "Shop with a Cop" this holiday season.

Later this month, Meijer on Ford Road will provide 18 youngsters with \$100 gift cards to shop in their store. And the Wal-Mart stores on Ford Road and Michigan Avenue are both providing 20 kids with \$100 gift cards for shopping. Children invited on the shopping spree will be escorted by Canton police officers who provide both guidance and companionship.

"The kids are always so excited about shopping for themselves and family members. Having help from the uniformed officers adds another element of fun to their evening," said Lt. Mark Schultz. "It's one of our favorite programs, providing us with the opportunity to bond with some younger members of our community."

Participants are selected through Leisure Services outreach programs held throughout the year in Canton. For more information on the outreach programs contact Leisure Services at (734) 394-5360.

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**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**





# Credit union celebrates Plymouth's history

A celebration for the Community Financial 60th anniversary is underway, an important milestone coincided with a project from Community Creations Inc. who partnered with the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, Friends of the Penn Theatre, Plymouth Historical Museum and the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce to create a customized pen-and-ink montage – "a visual community time capsule" of the Plymouth community.

"As we celebrate our 60 years, it is very exciting for us to be one of the many local businesses that are reflected in the montage detailing Plymouth's past and present architecture, sights and people," said CFCU CEO Bill Lawton.

"The montage is a beautifully illustrated interpretation of our community that has a rich and vibrant history including the legendary Daisy Manufacturing Company where the credit union began," said Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum.

In 1951, a group of Daisy Manufacturing Company employees joined together to form the credit union

that continues to prosper as Community Financial. "The spirit of these employees who followed the credit union philosophy of 'people helping people' continues in our work today," Lawton said.

Local Plymouth resident and amateur historian David Murphy paid tribute to the historical development of the Daisy Air Rifle manufacturing with original artwork entitled the "Guns of Plymouth." Murphy noted, "Throughout the Daisy Company's history, we can appreciate how they remain grateful and proud of their employees' commitment to promoting the fundamentals of safe gun handling and marksmanship."

"It is very unique to see how people and businesses have shaped Plymouth's rich history and I am delighted to present to Bill Lawton this piece of artwork to help the credit union team celebrate their 60th anniversary," said Murphy.

Lawton said he's proud of CFCU's past and excited about its future.

"I'm excited about the future as we focus our talents and resources to keep Plymouth and the other communities we serve won-

derful places to live and work," Lawton said. "It is our local, hometown friendly way of doing business that makes us a strong financial partner. We care about people and strive to make a difference each and every day."

Both pieces of artwork will be on display at Community Financial's Plymouth branch lobby, 500 S. Harvey from Dec. 15 through March 30, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Headquartered in Plymouth, Mich., membership in Community Financial Credit Union is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in the Michigan cities, townships or counties of Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Alpena, Otsego and Montmorency. With more than 45,000 members, Community Financial provides financial services to members at eight branch locations and through a variety of automated and online services.

For more information, visit the credit union web site at [www.cfcu.org](http://www.cfcu.org) or call (734) 453-1200 or (877) 937-2328, toll free.



Gathered around the pen-and-ink montage are Plymouth Historical Museum Executive Director Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, The Friends of the Penn Executive Director Ellen Elliott, Community Financial Plymouth Branch Manager Mark Evenson along with Plymouth resident and amateur historian David Murphy, who presented the 'Guns of Plymouth' original artwork to Bill Lawton, CEO of Community Financial Credit Union.

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*Mary Margaret Cheff  
Resident*

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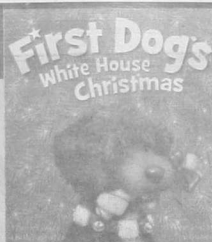


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BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW PT. 2

# Chiefs have stuff to be contender

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Second-year Canton boys basketball coach Jimmy Reddy's game plan is pretty direct. "This team has a chance to be good," Reddy said. "But they've got to understand that in order to be good they have to defend and rebound."

The defending KLAA South co-champs (16-7, 8-2 last year) definitely can run the floor and clean the glass at both ends of the floor.

Leading the way will be senior co-captain point guard Dietrich Lever (19.5 points, 7.5 assists) and 6-7 junior co-captain forward Paul Baumgart.

"Dietrich's been able to attack the lane and create shots for other people ever since I've seen him play," said Reddy about Lever, who recently signed to play college basketball at Ferris State University.

Reddy said Baumgart (seven points, seven rebounds) is a solid rebounder who can make an open 15-footer if needed.

"He's going to have to score for us and shoot more than he was used to last year," said Reddy, adding that Baumgart will need to at least reach the 10-point level to maximize Canton's chances.

## READY TO LEAD

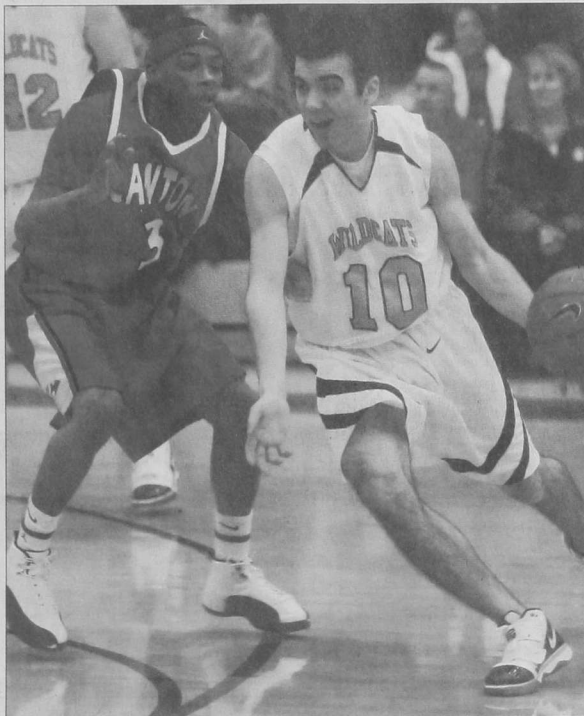
Lever and Baumgart also will need to fill the leadership void left by the loss of players such as Yusef Bazzi, Kevin Weisz, Kai Walther and Brandon Duffey.

"Dietrich has been better vocally, it's his turn to run the show," Reddy said. "He's been running the team as point guard the last two years very well."

"Now he has to be more of a vocal guy, to make sure people are in the right spots and that young guys know."

Baumgart will be there to assist first-year senior forward Cody Sheeler (6-3, 200) as he adjusts to the varsity level.

Please see **CANTON, B2**



Two of last season's top players, Canton's Dietrich Lever (No. 3) and Plymouth's Mike Nadratowski, are back to again lead their teams in 2010-11.

# Wildcats stoked to open season

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fresh off playing a major role in a near-championship season for his school's football team, Plymouth seniors Brennen Beyer and Jake Morris get the chance to bring some of that winning mojo over to the boys basketball squad.

Second-year head coach Mike Soukup would like nothing more than to see that happen as the Wildcats open the 2010-11 season Tuesday at Walled Lake Central with goals of improving on last season's 11-10 record.

"This group's mentality is so different than last year's," Soukup said. "The seniors have come in with great enthusiasm and are helping set the tone for our younger players."

Soukup added that players are getting more comfortable with their specific roles "and guys are making strides every day to fill them consistently and push to make each other better."

The expectation to battle and compete is no surprise to any team with players around such as the 6-3 Beyer, who averaged 11 points and eight rebounds last season.

He is being counted on to "be our anchor in the middle," Soukup said.

There will be no scrap for a rebound that Beyer won't like, but the Wildcats also have 6-3 forward Morris and senior forward Pat Salo (9.2 points) to help Plymouth score and rebound in the paint.

## SCORING THREAT

Another senior who likes to bring it is guard Mike Nadratowski, a scoring machine from behind the three-point arc who can slash through the lane when needed.

Soukup is looking for Nadratowski to again surpass double figures in scoring; he averaged 12 points per outing in '09-10.

Other seniors who bring ability and leadership

Please see **PLYMOUTH, B2**



Canton's on-ice fortunes during 2010-11 will follow the lead of senior co-captains Jimmy LaFontaine (left) and Jordan Smith.

# Chiefs' duo leads by example

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jimmy LaFontaine and Jordan Smith take their leadership roles with Canton's varsity boys hockey team very seriously.

In fact, the seniors go over notes following practices at Arctic Edge and see if there is anything more they can do to

'Jimmy and Jordan are stepping up and playing more of an active role. Not policing, but leading and making sure we're all on the same page.'

JEREMY MAJISZAK, Canton coach

improve the team.

"In the locker room we talk pretty much every day," said defenseman LaFontaine. "We're usually the last ones

out of the locker room. We talk about what we want to do with the team each day.

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**

# New Salem coach Israel no stranger to Rocks tradition

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Pete Israel was an all-state wrestler at Salem during the days when Ron Krueger coached.

Now it is Israel's turn to be in charge and he is thrilled to have the opportunity.

"I am excited to carry on the Rocks wrestling tradition of champions in which includes sending wrestlers to the state meet 34 out of 39 years," said Israel, who succeeds Greg Woochuck at the helm.

Israel is no coaching neophyte, by the way. After wrestling at Eastern Michigan University, he was an assistant coach at Canton and followed up with 12 years as an assistant with the Rocks.

Continuing Salem's wrestling tradition is a big deal for Israel. In fact, he filled out his coaching staff with one-time Salem state champion Jeremy Henderson and former Rocks' grappler Drew Ross.

According to Israel, it is a

'The good thing is that we are starting to see some of the underclassmen come in with wrestling experience, thanks to the middle school program as well as the Plymouth-Canton Wrestling Club.'

PETE ISRAEL, Salem wrestling coach

## PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW

younger team but one that worked diligently during the off-season.

"We attended a team camp in July that set the foundation for the season," Israel said. "The good thing is that we are starting to see some of the underclassmen come in with wrestling experience, thanks to the middle school program as well as the Plymouth-Canton Wrestling Club."

The club has helped all three high schools in The Park by enabling kids with solid training in the sport to have the basics down by the time they reach high school.

Of course, that doesn't mean it's time to coast as soon as they do.

"They need to continue to work hard and focus on their wrestling technique, studies and family," Israel said. "With focus and hard work good things will happen to this great group of student-athletes."

## VYING FOR SPOTS

In the lower weights, Israel will go with Devin Wells and Alex Arble at 103, Jordan Guy at 112, Cody Korpus at 112-119, and Nick Kim at 119-125.

Danny Kemp "has really worked hard on his technique

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

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## CANTON

FROM PAGE B1

"Paul's been really helpful for a guy like Cody," Reddy said. Reddy said Sheeler could progress quickly, if preseason workouts are any indication.

"He's a really good screener and rebounder and he works hard," the coach noted.

Another big guy who could wreak havoc on other teams around the basket is 6-5 forward Terrell Sewell, who moved up to varsity for last year's districts.

"He's come a long way," Reddy said. "He's a relentless rebounder who just goes after it and pursues the ball especially on the offensive end."

"He's going to score a lot in transition and off of offensive rebounds."

### WINGING IT

Returning players for the wing include senior guard Ben Spreitzer and junior guard Kyle Adams, who will start.

"I think Kyle's going to be able to stretch the defense with his ability to shoot the ball," Reddy said. "He's also a very strong kid for his size, both as a

rebounder and defensively." Spreitzer is being counted on to play meaningful minutes, "be able to score around the rim and make an open shot."

Reserves as the games begin (7 p.m. Tuesday at West Bloomfield) are sophomore guards Josh Mayberry, Josh Gring and junior guard Miles Felton.

The latter is a "high-energy guy, we need him to be able to defend. He's kind of got to be the same thing as Josh (Mayberry), he's got to be able to defend and make a pass to the open player on time."

Mayberry, meanwhile, is a court-savvy player who Reddy said will "have to come in and handle the ball a little bit."

The Chiefs follow the opener with a non-conference home game 7 p.m. Friday against Detroit King.

Before the holiday break will be contests against South Lyon and Dexter on Dec. 16 and 22, respectively.

"We play a tough non-league (early schedule) to get us ready for our division and to see where we are before Christmas," Reddy added.

[smith@hometownlife.com](http://smith@hometownlife.com)

## PLYMOUTH

FROM PAGE B1

include Zach Yokom, Jimmy May, Jeff Heuer and Stephen Jahn. Those players, along with Morris, "will have to be the glue guys that are so important for a successful year," Soukup added.

New to the varsity are 6-0 junior point guard Marcus Oden, 5-8 sophomore guard Josh Priebe and 6-0 junior forward Jalen Eason.

Oden is pushing for a starting spot already. Priebe will push for minutes in a reserve capacity while Eason "is one of the energy players we were missing at the varsity level last year. He loves to rebound and defend."

Plymouth will get to jell as a unit with a string of road games to open the season. The Wildcats won't play a home game until Tuesday, Jan. 18, against Westland John Glenn.

"We will be road tested early," Soukup said.

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# Tri of two-sport Eagles return in time

BY TIM SMITH

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the pitfalls of Plymouth Christian Academy's volleyball team going to the finals is it meant a trio of two-sport athletes couldn't join the rest of the girls basketball team for many preseason practices.

But with a little more than a week to get prepared for the 2010-11 season, guards Brianna Harris, Mary Anleitner and forward Jennifer Malcolm have successfully traded in one sport for another and now are basketball-primed. Just in time, too, as they helped the Eagles earn a 53-36 victory Tuesday night in the opener against Franklin Road Christian.

All will be counted on to help PCA improve on last season's 11-12 record and become a contender in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Unfortunately, the Eagles did lose one of the volleyball players. Junior Kristin Malcolm decided not to return to the basketball team, said head coach Carol Gerulis.

"She wants to focus on volleyball," Gerulis said. "We have her sister Jenny playing on the team as a freshman. The hole left behind is

(Kristin's) leadership and work ethic, that's what we'll miss the most."

### BACKCOURT DEPTH

PCA does have returning players. Point guard Harris, one of only two seniors, averaged eight points and four assists while making the All-MIAC second team in 2009-10. Harris is one of the team's better outside shooters.

Sophomore guards Jenna Abraham and Karen Windle also will be part of the rotation and senior guard Bethany Hale will see plenty of playing time as well. All three started games during points of last season.

Sophomore guard Anleitner's athleticism bodes well for her becoming one of the team's mainstays. In the opener against Franklin Road, Anleitner scored eight points (as did Harris and Windle).

"Our guards move the ball really well," Gerulis said. "On defense, they are quick and able to do some pressing."

Two freshmen already are showing they can handle varsity basketball up front.

Jennifer Malcolm (5-11) and Emily Gerulis (5-8) have good inside-out games, meaning they can shoot the ball from the perimeter if needed or take the ball down low.

The coach said Malcolm "can take the ball to the basket really good," while Emily Gerulis is a very good rebounder and one of the best passers on the squad.

In the opener, Malcolm led the Eagles with 12 points and nine rebounds. Gerulis chipped in with seven points, nine boards and four steals.

Junior guard Kristin Lindberg, a transfer from Canton High School where she played on the junior varsity last season, is another player who could help the Eagles.

"Kristin's got really good skill and is really patient with the basketball," Carol Gerulis added.

Although Gerulis admitted she has a team with a lack of varsity experience, it shouldn't hamper the team as it competes in the MIAC this year.

"We're young," she said. "But I think we have a lot of experience because a lot of them played AAU ball over the last four years."

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# Coach remembered: Visser, 78, part of early Franklin basketball legacy

BY BRAD EMONS

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Robert "Bob" Visser was never the retiring type even though he hadn't taught high school since 1990 or coached boys basketball at Livonia Franklin since the 1976-77 season.

The 78-year-old Visser, a longtime Plymouth Township resident, remained highly active up until his untimely death Saturday following complications from injuries suffered in a Nov. 16 automobile accident in Sun City, Tex., Ariz.

Throughout his life Visser was devoted to his profession, his church, and his family. He was a Silver Life Master in duplicate bridge, an avid golfer, taught literacy to Hispanic



Bob Visser

students in an after-school program and served as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels in both Michigan and Arizona. "Dad had a great life, he was a hard worker and was very fortunate," said David Visser, his son, who resides in Canton. "He had arthritis and didn't play as much golf recently, but he enjoyed his weekly 18-hole putting league each Tuesday. He was very happily married for 56 years and they were able to visit all 50 states."

Visser, who twice earned Observerland Coach of the Year honors, was the varsity boys

basketball coach at Franklin from 1968 through 1977 guiding the Patriots to their first-ever Northwest Suburban League title (1972), Class A district crown (1973) and a school-best 22-4 record and a regional championship (1974). Franklin also captured league and district titles in 1976 under Visser.

Born and raised in Grand Rapids, the 6-foot-7 Visser was a standout at Central High School before going on to play both golf and basketball at Hope College (1950-54) where he was coached by his older brother John. In basketball, he made All-MIAA (1952) and was a team captain (1953-54). Visser began his public school teaching career in 1954 and became a faculty

member teaching both Latin and Physical Education when Franklin High opened in 1961. He also coached golf at Franklin.

He retired from the Livonia Public Schools in 1990 and split time between his homes off the Pines Golf Course at Lake Isabella and Sun City West.

In 1992 he and his wife Sue, also a teacher, moved permanently to Arizona.

Visser is also survived by two daughters, Jane Vander Velde of Pasadena, Calif. and Margaret Rideout of Fishers, Ind., along with eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in Dec. 21 in Sun City West. Donations may be given to Hope College.

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# WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

this summer (and) will see action at 125-130," although Mitch Rosinski and Conner Thornberry also could see action in those weight classes.

Israel said Austin Rohr "has really dedicated himself this off-season" and will compete at 135.

In the middle weights, there should be good competition at 140 and 145, with Matt Lang, Riley Daxader and Ray Williams vying for those spots.

Sallem likely will feature Josh Marhofer "who has shown great improvement over last year" at 152, with Peter Contos another possibility.

Competition for playing time will really be fierce both at 160 and 171. Israel listed Tyler Gross, Dylan Hatcher and Alex Brown as top contenders for those spots, followed by Dan Karies and Cody Mandelka.

The upper weight classes could be solid with Kyle Sugg, Jake McCabe and Jordan Zhou looking to share duties at 189 and 215.

Ali Ajami is slotted for the heavyweight position.

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# Canton boasts nucleus

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Although Canton wrestling stalwarts Donnie Watkins and Brent Winekoff graduated, don't expect the 2010-11 Chiefs to have a drop-off in performance.

Head coach Cory Mancuso welcomes back a core of major contributors from last winter's 29-7, district championship team as well as some promising youngsters.

It might take Mancuso some time to find out if the current group can keep Canton on the winning path. But he has confidence that can happen.

"We feel that we have a very strong lineup and are looking forward to seeing how good this team can truly be," Mancuso said.

Canton will be spearheaded by returning state qualifiers Anthony Abro and Ben Poirier. The seniors will wrestle in the 189- and 215-pound slots.

Regional qualifiers

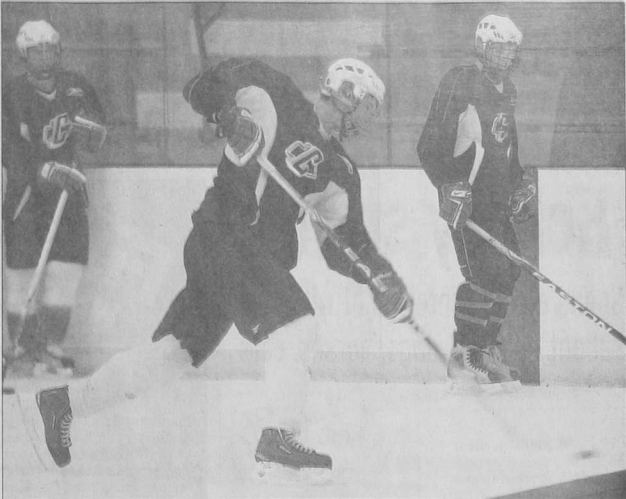
Richard DeMarois (112-pound sophomore) and Alex Eimers (140, junior) add muscle to the mix while junior 125-pounder Keshav Patel (First-Team All-Observer) also is back.

Mancuso said two freshmen with the chance to be impact performers this season are Ben Griffen (103) and Alec Pantaleo (119).

The rest of the lineup as the KLAA South season gets ready to begin include sophomore Marc Przybyski (130), senior Daniel Filippelli (135), senior Julia Salata (140, along with Eimers), junior Zach Marsh (145), junior Sean O'Keefe (152), senior Austin Vela and sophomore Patrick Murphy (vying for top spot at 160), senior Austin Mach (171) and senior heavyweight Robbie Lincoln.

The Chiefs will square off 5:30 p.m. Wednesday against KLAA rival Northville.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jimmy LaFontaine (center), shown taking a slap shot during Canton hockey practice recently, carries a 4.0 grade-point average off the ice. But the senior co-captain is pretty astute on it, too. He and fellow co-captain Jordan Smith routinely pow-wow after practices to get a read on things. "We talk about what we want to do with the team each day."

# HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

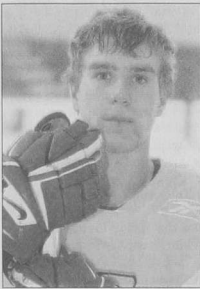
"I think we're going to go far this year. We've got a good core, a lot of seniors that want to win."

Smith, who also was one of last year's co-captains (as was LaFontaine), said the post-practice confabs are something new but seem to be going over just fine with their teammates.

"We discuss what we saw on the ice and off the ice, who was working hard and who was slacking," said Smith, a center. "Just try to improve on any negatives we saw on the ice."

With the blessing of head coach Jeremy Majszak, they make subtle suggestions to players about remembering to leave it all out on the ice every single day—the same approach taken by LaFontaine and Smith as the Chiefs look to become a prime-time team in the KLAA South.

"Just go hard every time, don't slack or take that shift off or that rep off in the weight room," Smith said. "If you do it shows



Jordan Smith urges his Canton teammates to "go hard every time" on the ice.

up on the ice during the game."

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

According to LaFontaine, the most important thing about succeeding as a captain is walking the walk.

"It (co-captaincy) doesn't put me above anybody," LaFontaine said. "But I feel like I have to step up my own game and show everybody else what needs to be done."

"I'm always going 110 percent

and I want my teammates to go 110 percent."

LaFontaine, also a captain on the Canton boys tennis team and National Honor Society member, added things seem to be falling into place overall—even with the season still very young.

"It's going good, because all the guys are starting to work harder and (work) together more, which brings them closer together," he said. "We do video after each game and upstairs (at Arctic Edge) we work out two or three times a week."

"We do weight training, sprints, conditioning, all kinds of muscle building."

So far, Majszak is thrilled with the leadership duo.

"Jimmy and Jordan are stepping up and playing more of an active role," Majszak said. "Not policing, but leading and making sure we're all on the same page. That the team does come first and pushing these guys to their limits."

"That's what it's going to take for us to do something this year."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

# Lineup still evolving for 'Cats

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth wrestling coach Quinn Guernsey likes the overall talent level on the 2010-11 team, but exactly how everything shakes out remains to be seen.

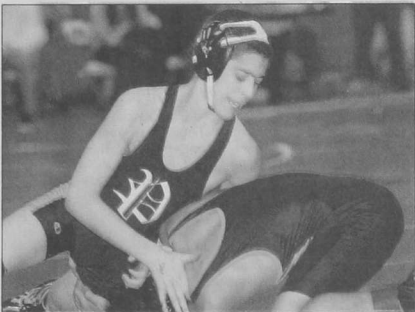
Guernsey said there are eight returning starters from last season's 20-15 squad, although some of them probably will be competing in different weights.

Five of those wrestlers lost in the consolation semifinals in the individual districts.

"The talent is there to have a very successful season," Guernsey said. "The question will be can those individuals spread out enough to find success as a team."

Meanwhile, there are a few spots that haven't been nailed down as the season opens. But Guernsey noted there could be a talent influx that could give the team quite a boost.

"The upper weights remain a large question," Guernsey said. "But (we) will have a number of athletes to choose from as the season progresses fed by football players fresh from their state



Plymouth's Shadi Jammoul (left), shown from a tournament last season, is one of the team's top returnees for the 2010-11 season.

championship appearance."

There are openings at 189, 215 and 285, along with 140, but everywhere else in the lineup are wrestlers who have had varsity success.

"The strength of Plymouth's team will again be its lightweights," Guernsey said.

Returning starters include sophomore Trey Berry (112), senior Shadi Jammoul (119), sophomore Chase Kallil (125),

sophomore Alex Breckenridge (130), junior and All-KLAA selection Said Youssef (135), senior Jimmy Ahearn (145), senior Brett Echols (152) and senior Jackson Mohammed (171).

Freshman Mohammed Youssef looks primed for the 103-pound slot, while Matt Walsh appears to have the inside track at 160.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

# Bridges sparks Canton in opener

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kayla Bridges started the season in mid-year form with a 26-point, 11-rebound performance Tuesday as visiting Canton knocked off Farmington Hills Mercy, 57-37.

Canton girls basketball coach Brian Samulski said Bridges pretty much did it all. "She scored from the perimeter, inside, and got to the line," Samulski said. "She did a nice job of creating opportunities for herself and her teammates by doing a great job on the offensive glass."

Bridges led a balanced scoring attack for the Chiefs (1-0), with Sara Schmitt (10 points, 6 rebounds), Kari Schmitt (8 points, 3 steals, 5 assists), CarolAnn Sexauer (8 points) and Robyn Mack (7 assists) all contributing.

Abbey Lovat tallied 12 points for the Marlins. Samulski said his team played a solid opener, with good attention to defensive detail and

rebounding duties.

"It's always good to compete and play against good teams like Mercy," he noted. "I thought the kids played hard, they were solid versus the zone and they rebounded well."

**WILDCATS START 0-2:** After falling 32-22 on Tuesday to West Bloomfield, the Plymouth girls basketball team dropped a 48-30 decision Friday to visiting Dexter. Alyssa Dillon led the Wildcats Friday with eight points, with Isis Haywood (6), Alex Roberts and Kylie Robb (5 each) helping the cause. But Plymouth could not overcome Dexter's defensive press and height advantage on the glass, said new head coach Bob deBear.

"They pressed us and we could not break their press," deBear said. "They won the rebounding war... But our girls played hard, there were flashes of some great stuff."

Against West Bloomfield, the Wildcats trailed 17-4 at halftime and came out stronger against the Lakers' zone defense in the third quarter. But the damage had been done.

# SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

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

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign attorneys to young associate attorneys with much less experience.



In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups. Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be

eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

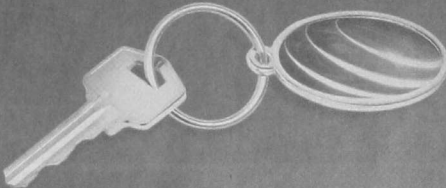
In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly of applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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## COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, December 5, 2010

hometownlife.com


**PHOTO GALLERIES**  
 hometownlife.com

# Holiday stories

Spend a cold winter night with tales about goldfish, dogs, horses, cats

BY SHARON DARGAY  
OSE STAFF WRITER

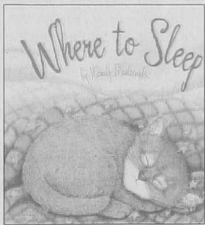
This year's crop of children's holiday books from Sleeping Bear Press is all about animals — from sleeping kittens to party pooches.

"Animals are always loved. I think it's hard to go wrong with a wonderful animal story," said Audrey Mitnick, publicity spokesperson for the Ann Arbor-based publishing company.

"We always look for holiday titles as part of our acquisition process. We're usually planning two or three years out in acquiring books. We're always sure to have holiday releases as a part of our fall publishing program."

What the company selects and promotes as holiday titles varies from year to year. A few years ago *The Night Henry Ford Met Santa* made the cut, along with *The Legend of Papa Noel*, a Cajun version of the Santa story, complete with a toy-laden boat pulled by nine alligators. Both had national appeal and aimed to educate as well as tell a delightful story.

"A good story is important but if you can add something more... it's truly a gift," Mitnick said. *First Dog's White House Christmas*, a new release and a sequel to *First Dog*, gives readers a glimpse of holiday customs around the world and a look at various dog breeds.



A kitten explores the places she might sleep in this board book that is perfect for little hands.

"After we released *First Dog*, which came out the spring after President Obama was elected, the response was so great, we said we've got a winner, let's try it again."

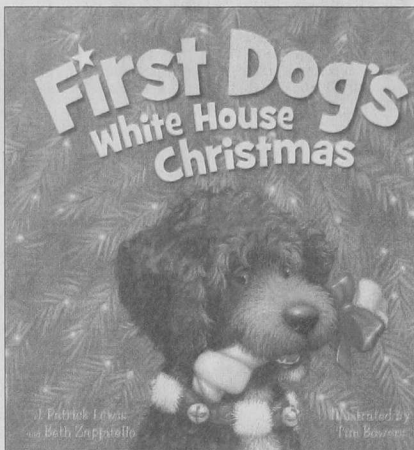
The result is a Christmas tale about the Portuguese Water Dog that invites his friends to a White House Christmas gala.

"The dog was so well loved by everyone who reads the book," Mitnick noted.

## BECOMING A CLASSIC

Equally endearing are the animals and their human companions portrayed in Pinckney author/illustrator Jane Monroe Donovan's holiday books.

Her first, *Winter's Gift*, tells the story of an elderly widower who receives the gift of a "new



Dogs from many nations come together for a party at the White House.

beginning" after he rescues a mare on a cold snowy Christmas Eve.

"That was such a heart-warming story. It has been read on television and over the radio. I've heard churches ask if they can read it during their night before Christmas service," Mitnick said, adding that *Winter's Gift* is quickly becoming a holiday classic.

Donovan said she thought about her own grandparents as she wrote and illustrated the book.

"I remember when I was younger, my grandmother was in the hospital. There was a blizzard and roads were shut down. I remember how upset my grandfather was that he couldn't see her," Donovan explained.

The mare in the book looks

a bit "wilder" than the black Arabian and brown American Quarter Horse that Donovan owns.

The self-taught artist also lives with dogs and cats, two of which make an appearance, along with her miniature horse, Fern, in *Small Medium & Large*, released in time for the holidays this year.

The pictures tell the story in this book about a girl who receives a dog, cat and horse for Christmas.

## LOVE OF ANIMALS

"Just seeing how much joy animals have brought to my kids and me" was the impetus for the story, Donovan said. "All the things they'd want for Christmas never lasted long, but the pets continually gave them joy. They



Pictures tell the story about a little girl and her love for animals in the book by Pinckney author and illustrator Jane Monroe Donovan.



Howell author Denise Brennan Nelson's Willow views art as an opportunity to set her imagination free.

still do. My kids are grown now, but when they come home from college the first thing they do is to see the animals."

That's the way Mitnick hopes readers will view Sleeping Bear Press holiday books. "We'd like to see books passed down from generation to generation."

*Small Medium & Large* retails for \$15.95. *Winter's Gift* is \$16.95. *First Dog* and *First Dog's White House Christmas* are \$15.95 each.

Other holiday selections from Sleeping Bear Press:

• *Where to Sleep* is a 6-by-6-inch board book, perfect for small hands to hold as Mom or Dad reads about a kitten discovering where she can fall asleep. Copy and illustrations are by Kandy Radzinski. Cost is \$9.95.

• *Memoirs of a Goldfish* shows what can happen when too many friends move into the same goldfish bowl. At first it feels cramped, but then it's all just one big happy family. Written by Devin Scillian and illustrated by Tim Bowers; \$15.95.

• *Once Upon a Time in the Kitchen* combines excerpts from classic children's literature with recipes. Written by Carol Odell and illustrated by Anna Pignataro; \$12.95.

• *Willow*, the story of a creative girl who demonstrates that magical things can happen if you let your imagination run wild, was released in 2008, but is a continuing favorite among young readers. A sequel, *Willow and the Snow Day Dance* is set for release next month. It's written by Howell resident Denise Brennan-Nelson and illustrated by Cyd Moore. Both books are \$16.95 each.

• *Via for von Trapp: A Musical Family Alphabet* is released in time for Christmas as well as the 45th anniversary of the Broadway musical, *The Sound of Music*. Each letter of the alphabet follows a portion of the family's journey from Austria to Vermont. Lapeer author, historian and lecturer William Anderson, researched historical archives including the von Trapp personal scrapbooks and photo collections while compiling information for the book. Cost is \$16.95.

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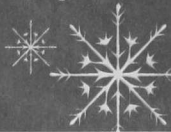
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# Pick a safe boarding kennel for your pet

If you're heading out of town for the holidays and can't take your pet with you, finding a reliable kennel or pet care service can be a challenge.

Every year, Better Business Bureau receives hundreds of complaints from pet owners about boarding kennels. Typical complaints include disputes over billing and treatment of the pet. Some owners say their pets came back from poor boarding kennels severely dehydrated and malnourished or rife with fleas, ticks, and even maggots. In worst case scenarios pets have become extremely ill from their stay at poor facilities which resulted in lengthy stays at the animal hospital.

"For many of us, our pets are like family and leaving them in the care of someone else can be nerve-wrecking and the stress can overshadow your whole trip," stated Patrick Bennett, Better Business Bureau spokesperson. "Taking a few moments to do your research and find a kennel you can trust will make your time out of town much easier for you and your pet."

The Better Business Bureau has created a checklist to help pet owners choose a safe and reliable home-away-from-home for their pets:

- Check the kennel out with the Better Business Bureau first to make sure it has a good track record for keeping customers satisfied.
- Ask your friends, neighbors, veterinarian or local



animal shelters for recommendations. Also, the Pet Care Services Association Web site ([www.petcareservices.org](http://www.petcareservices.org)) has a pet service locator that may be helpful in your search.

- Personally visit the facilities. Check for cleanliness and offensive odors, and note the overall safety of the kennel and cages. If your pet is prone to running away, ask about steps the kennel has taken to make the facility escape-proof.

- Ask about how your pet may come in contact with other animals. Some kennels let animals play together while others keep them separate at all times.

- If your state requires inspections, look for the certificate on the wall and make sure the kennel is properly licensed.

- Ask about the feeding schedule, water accessibility and frequency of — or fees related to — exercise.

- Note the friendliness of staff members and how they



Purebred cats will be on display at the Just Cat In Around Cat Fancier's Christmas show Dec. 11-12 in Allen Park.

interact with the other boarding pets. Ask about their background and experience.

- Make sure the facility requires that all entering pets have proof of immunization and ask about their policies regarding flea and tick control.

- Ask about the hours for drop off and pick up and make sure you understand their billing policy.

- Finally, ask what happens in the case of a medical emergency or other unexpected situation.

For more advice on finding reputable businesses around the holidays, visit <http://easternmichigan.bbb.org/consumer-tips/>

## ALL ABOUT CATS

Just Cat In Around Cat Fanciers Association will hold its Christmas cat show 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 11-12 in the Allen Park Community Center, 15800 White Street, Allen Park. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for children, 6-12. No charge for children 6 and under.

The all-breed show will include exhibiting and judging of 225 pedigreed cats and kittens.

For more information call Cathy Hawley at (248) 393-1986 or e-mail to [chawley@comcast.net](mailto:chawley@comcast.net). Visit the group's Web site at [www.cfa.org](http://www.cfa.org).

## BOWLING FOR TAIL WAGGER'S

Tail Waggers 1990, the Livonia-based animal advocacy group and rescue, is among the charities that will benefit from Drakeshire Lanes "Bowling for a Cause" fund-raiser, 7 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Dec. 17, at 35000 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills.

Admission is \$20 per person and includes three games, shoe rental, pizza and pop. Anyone who donates a new toy, mittens, gloves, canned food, toiletries, clothing or pet food will be entered into a drawing to win a trip for two to Las Vegas.

The event also will include a silent auction and raffles. Call Laura Zain at Tail Waggers 1990 for more information at (734) 560-4660 or visit [www.tailwaggers1990.org](http://www.tailwaggers1990.org).



## Annual market

Angels and other works by Plymouth potter, Kathy Sandberg are among the 40,000 pieces of ceramics for sale at Oakland Community College's 35th annual Potters Market, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today, Sunday, Dec. 5, at United Food and Commercial Workers Union Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, one block south of 13 Mile, between I-75 and John R, in Madison Heights. Admission is free and parking is free. Because of the crowds, no strollers are permitted. OCC students and guest potters, like Sandberg, produce and sell the ceramic items, including jewelry, ornaments, kitchenware, mugs, tiles, and decorative art. For information call (248) 246-2686 or visit [www.thepottersmarket.com](http://www.thepottersmarket.com).

## Arthritis Today

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## CONNECTIVE TISSUE CONDITION

A patient with joint pain sees the doctor who undertakes several laboratory tests. The doctor may then tell the patient that: "The tests indicate that you have a connective tissue condition; you should see a rheumatologist." What does the doctor mean?

What he is saying is that the test, probably an ANA (Anti-Nuclear Antibody) indicates that the explanation for the patient's joint aches may come from a condition such as Rheumatoid Arthritis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Scleroderma or Sjogren's Syndrome. These conditions come under the umbrella term "connective tissue disease condition". That wording reflects medical practice of 100 years ago when these conditions were considered the result of disease in the tissues surrounding joints and blood vessels.

Presently, physicians believe that conditions like Lupus and Rheumatoid arthritis result from a body reaction in which the body's own T and B cells make antibodies against tissues that are normal constituents of the body. However, the old term "connective tissue condition" persists.

When the patient sees a rheumatologist, he will review the patient's illness in detail. This inquiry, an examination, and laboratory studies will allow the rheumatologist to determine if the cause of the patient's joint pain is Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis or one of the other conditions that make up the connective tissue conditions.

Since rheumatologic disorders have specific treatments, delineating the patient's connective tissue disorder is essential for the patient's long term health.

060873402

## Lutheran choir sings carols, classical works

The Detroit Lutheran Singers will perform its Christmas concert at four Detroit-area churches beginning today, Sunday, Dec. 5.

"Sing We Noel!" will include favorite Christmas carols, works and arrangements by Bach, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Christiansen, Parker and Shaw, carol singing with the audience and an opportunity to join the Singers in the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Shows are 3:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at First Baptist Church

of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Road, Southfield; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 25535 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights; and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11 at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, 2905 South Commerce Road, Walled Lake.

Eric Freudigman directs the group and Doris Hall is the accompanist.

Tickets are \$10 and \$7, available at the door.

For more information visit [www.detroitlutheransingers.com](http://www.detroitlutheransingers.com)

## North Congregational celebrates with music

The Chancel Choir of North Congregational Church will perform the Antonio Vivaldi *Gloria* at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, during the regular worship service. Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), who was born and worked in Venice, was a contemporary of Johann Sebastian Bach.

The *Gloria* features soprano soloist, Brandy Ellis, and mezzo soprano soloist, Leah Dexter. Accompanying the 30-member Chancel Choir and soloists will be a 10-piece orchestra conducted by Laurie Meeker, music director of North Congregational Church.

This presentation is part of the Sunday morning worship service, and the public is invited to attend. North Congregational Church also holds a candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. North is located at 36520 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, north side of 12 Mile, between Drake and Halsted. Call (248) 848-1750 or visit [northcongregational-church.org](http://northcongregational-church.org) for more information.

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# FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION AND NURSING

## GREAT STAFF. GREAT CARE.

### Winter Safety Tips for Senior Citizens

A COMMUNITY SERVICE MESSAGE FROM FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION & NURSING



FOUR SEASONS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
PAT LYDEN, RN, MS, LNH, LNC

Meet Pat Lyden, Four Seasons administrator and a registered nurse for many years. Her number one message for families is to check on loved ones daily and visit often to make sure the heat is on and they're safe.

"The elderly have a need for warmth, warm temperatures," said Lyden. "Especially with Alzheimer's and dementia, if they get outside and don't remember, the risk is great to their health. Check on them frequently particularly if they're known to wander or are forgetful. If you have brothers and sisters, take turns calling. Make sure they have boots, coats and gloves. Are they really safe to drive? You have to assess your loved one. Are they safe to operate stoves? Don't let them use the oven to heat."

Food is a necessity that is sometimes taken for granted.

"Make sure they have food. Some of the elderly are extremely proud. Stop and look in the refrigerator," said Lyden.

Even if a senior citizen is in good health, accidents happen. Falls account for the majority of emergency room visits for this age group. The resulting injuries frequently cause hospitalization that leads to deterioration of functioning and the need for long periods of physical

**"... some of the elderly are extremely proud... give them their independence but check on them daily and visit often..."**

rehabilitation. This holiday season make sure electrical cords do not present a tripping hazard. Treat outdoor steps to prevent black ice.

"Make sure walks are shoveled. Is their porch clear of objects that could cause a fall," said Lyden. "Rugs also trip elderly up particularly when walking with walkers."

The hours after dark bring danger as well. To prevent the need for nocturnal trips to the bathroom, Lyden suggests seniors drink less water before bedtime. Late evening and early morning hours are prime times for accidents. "There also needs to be night lights so they can see in the dark," said Lyden. "Families need to take the role. Give them their independence, but check on them."

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### DINE WITH SANTA

**Festive brunch** - Parents can bring cameras and video equipment to capture the moment their children meet Santa at brunch, Dec. 5, at the Summit on the Park in Canton. Kid-friendly foods and traditional family favorites will be on the menu, and youngsters will receive a holiday souvenir, crayons and a placemat for coloring.

Doors will open and brunch will start at 11 a.m., with Santa arriving at 11:30 a.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Summit Front Desk, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, during normal business hours. Online registration is not available. Tickets prices are \$16 for ages 13 and older; \$12 for ages 4-12; and children, 3 and under, free. Ticket deadline is Nov. 29. Seating is reserved by table location only and can be done on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information call (734) 394-5460 or visit [Cantonfun.org](http://Cantonfun.org).

**At the zoo** - A buffet-style waffle breakfast will include costumed characters, arts and crafts, holiday movies and one-on-one visits with Santa Claus, 8-10 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 11 and 18, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at 10 Mile and Woodward in Royal Oak. The cost, which includes Zoo admission and parking, is \$30 for adults, ages 15 and older, and \$25 for children, ages 14 and younger. The cost for Detroit Zoological Society members is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children. Tickets must be purchased for all children regardless of age. Reservations are required. Call (248) 541-5717 and press #3.

### HOLIDAY CONCERTS

**Detroit** - Jazz Cafe presents "Freddie Cole Christmas" 8 p.m., Dec. 17-18 at Music Hall, 350 Madison. Tickets are \$27, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); (313) 887-8500.

**Farmington** - The Farmington Community Chorus will perform its 31st Annual Holiday Concert, "The Happiest Season of All," at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 18, at Mercy High School, 29300 West 11 Mile, Farmington

### HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Freddie Cole performs Christmas music Dec. 17-18 at the Jazz Cafe in Music Hall, Detroit.

**Hills** - Steve SeGraves directs the choir of more than 70 voices, which is accompanied by assistant director, Susan Garr. Tickets are \$12 in advance, available at [www.farmingtonchorus.com](http://www.farmingtonchorus.com); (248) 682-6562. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15.

**Livonia** - The Harmony/Town Chorus presents "Holiday Harmonies," its annual holiday show, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the Livonia Public Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Admission is \$6 for adults, and \$3 for children, 12 and under. For information for tickets, call (734) 743-1764 or visit [www.WeSingBarbershop.com](http://www.WeSingBarbershop.com). Concert

• Christmas concert features the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at St. Matthew's UMC, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt. Reception follows. Tickets \$12 each in advance, \$14 each at the door, \$10 each for groups of ten or more. (734) 422-6038.

• Franklin High School Choir sings at a free concert, 11:30 a.m. Dec. 8, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road. (734) 421-0749.

• The St. Aidan Adult Choir, along with the St. Aidan Children's Choir, and St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 29th annual Christmas concert, 4 p.m. Dec. 12, at St. Aidan Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of

Six Mile. Admission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. (734) 425-5950

**Northville** - The Detroit Handbell Ensemble, and other local handbell choirs, will perform Christmas music at a free concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 11, at Ward Presbyterian Evangelical Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; (248) 374-5969.

**Plymouth** - The Plymouth Symphony and the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company present *The Nutcracker*, 2 p.m. Dec. 5, in the auditorium at Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. For tickets and information call (734) 451-2112 or (734) 676-7233. Or order online at <http://www.plymouthcantonalballet.org>.

**Westland** - The Michigan Concert Choir performs its annual free Christmas concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 11, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7575 N. Hix, between Warren Road and Joy; (734) 266-0533

### LIGHT DISPLAY

**Wayne County** - Four miles of displays and more than a million lights along Hines Drive make this the biggest holiday light show in southeastern Michigan. Lightfest runs 7-9 p.m. through Dec. 31 and is closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Admission is \$5 per car. Entrance is off Merriman Road, between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Ave., in Westland.

**Detroit Shriners** - The drive-through presentation includes more than 300 light displays along a one-mile route through Jan. 2, 2011 at Hazel Park Raceway, 1650 E. 10 Mile, at Dequindre, Hazel Park. Hours are 6-9 p.m. Sunday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Admission is \$10 per car. Detroit Shriners will donate \$1 from each vehicle admission to local non-profits and community projects such as Covenant House Michigan, Mittens for Detroit, Hazel Park Promise Zone Authority, Gleaner's Community Food Bank, DTE THAW (The Heat & Warmth Fund), Detroit Public Schools and Toys for Tots.

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Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Submit items at least a week before expected publication date. Be sure to include a contact telephone number for readers, as well as any ticket prices for an event.

## DEC. 2-8

### Clothing bank

**Time/Date:** 5:30 p.m. Dec. 8  
**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Hagerty, Canton  
**Details:** Free clothing to those in need. The bank also will be open 12:30-2:30 p.m. Dec. 18  
**Contact:** (734) 927-6686

### Concert

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Dec. 2  
**Location:** Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City  
**Details:** The Silver Strings Dulcimer Society offers a free Christmas concert. Refreshments served after the concert  
**Contact:** (734) 422-3660

### Concert

**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Dec. 8  
**Location:** Christ the King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** An annual holiday concert provided by the Franklin High School Choir. There is no admission cost. Handicap parking located on the north end of the building  
**Contact:** (734) 421-0749

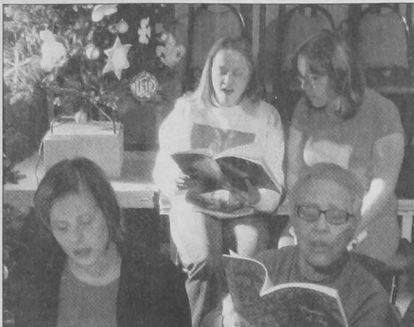
### Concert

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5  
**Location:** St. Matthew's UMC, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia  
**Details:** Christmas concert features the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus. Reception follows. Tickets \$12 each in advance, \$14 each at the door, \$10 each for groups of ten or more  
**Contact:** (734) 422-6038

### Craft show

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4  
**Location:** St. Thomas a Becket, 555 S. Lilley, at Cherry Hill, Canton  
**Details:** 20th annual craft show  
**Contact:** (734) 981-1333

### Family Fun Fest



Heidi (left, back) and Miranda Madias, Anne Perez (left front) and Lori Baldwin will be among the singers performing today, Sunday, Dec. 5, in a four-choir concert at Newburg United Methodist Church, in Livonia. The church's Chancel Choir, Sweet Spirit Choir and congregational singers will combine with the Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church of Garden City to present a Christmas Cantata, "Cantic of Joy," at the 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail; (734) 422-0149. They'll perform again at the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 12, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, at Maplewood, between Warren and Ford Roads, Garden City.

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 4  
**Location:** Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, east of Hagerty, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Pizza lunch, craft projects, face painting, Jim Carmody's LOL Show and more. Presented by Lutheran Social Services  
**Contact:** RSVP at [www.lssm.org/fun-fest](http://www.lssm.org/fun-fest) or (313) 823-7700

### Santa Lucia breakfast

**Time/Date:** Saturday, Dec. 4  
**Location:** Faith Covenant Church, 35415 West 14 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** The event includes a breakfast, procession, performances by the St. Lucia choir and children's groups at the church.

**Tickets are \$10 each for the 7-25 a.m. seating and \$15 for the 10:55 a.m. or 12:40 p.m. seatings**  
**Contact:** (248) 788-7094

### Special needs ministry

**Time/Date:** 6:30-8 p.m. Dec. 3  
**Location:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington Road and Newburgh, Livonia  
**Details:** Get in the Christmas spirit with carols, Kristal Bells, and the Christmas story. Refreshments will be served. This event is designed for adults with developmental disabilities, special needs, and their caretakers. RSVP by Nov. 26. If schools are closed because of heavy snow or

inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.

**Contact:** Judy Cook at Emmanuel at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail at [judy@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:judy@emmanuel-livonia.org)

## DEC. 9-15

### Blue Christmas service

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15  
**Location:** St. Paul's Presbyterian



## NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2010

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2010 and payable through February 28, 2011 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

**MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be mailed, or paid 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](http://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** Thursday, December 23, 2010 and Friday, December 24, 2010 also Thursday, December 30, 2010 and Friday, December 31, 2010. During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be **OPEN** on **Monday, December 27th, Tuesday, December 28th, and Wednesday, December 29th** for your convenience.

Teresa Cischke, CPFA, MiCPT  
City Treasurer

Publish: December 5 and 9, 2010

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### Northville

**Details:** The Detroit Handbell Ensemble, along with area handbell choirs, will perform music of the Christmas season in this free concert  
**Contact:** (248) 374-5969

### Concert

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Dec. 11  
**Location:** Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City  
**Details:** Free concert by Robert Gary  
**Contact:** (734) 524-0880

### Concert

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., Dec. 11  
**Location:** Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne  
**Details:** Sounds of Life Benefit Concert, featuring Bishop RJ Shackelford; \$20 donation with proceeds benefitting Life Pointe Church  
**Contact:** (734) 486-3210

### Concert

**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. Dec. 12  
**Location:** 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** The St. Aidan Adult Choir, along with the St. Aidan Children's

Choir, and St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 29th annual Christmas concert. Admission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items.  
**Contact:** (734) 425-5950

### Cookie walk and bake

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 11  
**Location:** St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail in Livonia  
**Details:** Christmas cookies of all varieties will be sold by the pound along with bake sale items  
**Contact:** (734) 422-2290

## DEC. 16-22

### Concert

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16  
**Location:** First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main in Northville  
**Details:** Men of Grace from the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac will sing original compositions as well as contemporary, spiritual and gospel and blues music. Dessert will be served after the concert. A \$5 donation is requested.

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Request to Transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate  
From Metaldyne Corporation  
To Amtex, Inc.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request to transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate Number 2003-526 from Metaldyne Corporation to Amtex, Inc. The request includes building improvements. The facility is located at 14328 Genoa Court, Metro West Industrial Park, Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

The request of Amtex, Inc. is on file in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

During the public hearing any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered. Contact phone number is 734-354-3224.

The public hearing, commencing at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday December 14, 2010, will be held in the Town Hall at the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

Joe Bridgman, MMC  
Clerk  
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: December 5, 2010

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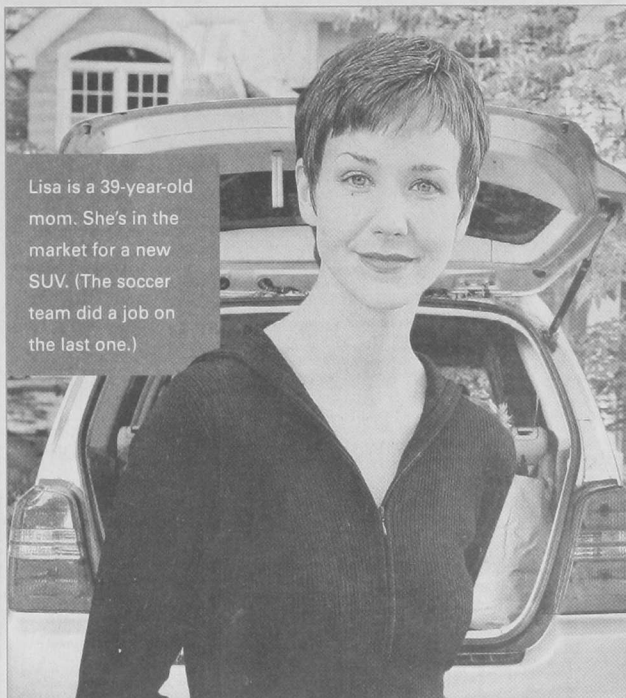
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**WALTER CHARLES ARSENAULT**  
Age 75, November 18, 2010. Walter is survived by his wife Margaret "Mickey" Arsenault and children Edward (Kelly) Arsenault, Cheryl Foreman, Susan Miles, Tim (Tina) Foreman and the late Gary Foreman. Grandfather of Aimee, Alice, Nicole, Sean, Tarrah, Megan, Kayleigh and Nicki. Please visit: [www.harrywillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harrywillfuneralhome.com)

**JOHN E. (Jack) CARRIER**  
Feb. 7, 1933 - Nov. 24, 2010

Age 77, of Taylor, Jack was a Korean war veteran, enjoyed people, bowling & golf. Beloved son of Margaret Carrier (Maloney) & Arthur Carrier. Dearest brother of Joann (Pete) Janunas. Most loved uncle of Debra (Frank) Jaeger, Mark Janunas & Vince (Stephanie) Janunas. Great-uncle of Matt & Chris Jaeger. Celebration of Life luncheon to be held in lieu of funeral Sunday, 12/5/10.

**JEAN A. CODNER**

Passed away on November 30, 2010 at the age of 102 in Clemson, South Carolina. She was born June 9, 1908 in Standish, Michigan, the only child of Walter Anderson and Lulu McDole. She graduated from the University of Michigan, married Edward E. Codner on June 17, 1939, and moved to Birmingham, Michigan in 1940 where she resided until 2004. Edward died in 1989, but Jean is survived by her daughter, Dr. Ellen Codner of Danville, California and son, Jim Codner and daughter-in-law Diane of Seneca, South Carolina. Grandsons are Drew (Spouse Jennifer) and Clay Codner and great grandchildren are Hannah, John, Caroline and Joshua Codner, all of Cincinnati. Jean was a member of St. James Episcopal church for over 60 years. As a member of St. Anne's Guild, she helped initiate and lead the Birmingham-Town Hall lecture series. Funds raised made possible the establishment of St. Anne's Mead assisted living in Southfield, where she was a member of the Board of Trustees. She was a founding member and past president of Chapter CF of the PEO sisterhood, and cherished to end the relationship she developed there. She was also a member of the Village Club of Birmingham. Players' funeral services will be for immediate family only graveside at Acacia Park cemetery in Beverly Hills, arranged by Desmond and Sons. Memorials in lieu of flowers may be sent to the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund, 3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312

**IRIS JUNE CONNOLLY**

Iris died at her home on Saturday, November 27th, 2010. She was born in Ray, Indiana to Effie Bell and Charlie French in 1924. She was always proud that her birthday was on Halloween. She graduated from Montpelier, Ohio High School in 1943. During WWII she trained to be a nurse. She attended Bowling Green State University and graduated with her bachelor's degree in education from Wayne State University and her masters in education from Eastern Michigan University. She was a natural teacher and taught in Zangaza, Spain and in the Livonia, MI School System for over 30 years. Iris was instrumental in developing the program for gifted students in Livonia. She married her high school sweetheart, Val Connolly in 1946. They shared more than sixty years together pursuing their passion for education and love of travel. Iris was predeceased by her husband, Val in 2009. She is survived by three children: Corinne Connolly, Kris Connolly (Sharon), and Kyle Connolly (Betsy). She adored her five grandchildren, Chris Meagher, Jennie (Meagher) Cotton, Lauren Connolly, Sean Connolly, and Sarah Connolly. Donations may be made in Iris' memory to the American Alzheimer's Assoc. Arrangements were held by the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia, Michigan 48152. [www.harrywillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harrywillfuneralhome.com)

**SHARON COTTON**  
1942 - 2010

Passed away suddenly of a massive coronary. She was a long time resident in the Redford/Farmington Hills area and for the past 10 years has resided in Sun Lakes, AZ. She was a teacher of Business Education and Vocational Director at Redford Union High School from 1965 through 1981. In the fall of '81 she started as an Associate Professor at Schoolcraft College where she taught in the Business Department. She retired in 2000 as a full Professor and was awarded Professor Emerita status. Over the years she taught many students and made numerous friends, both on the high school level and at Schoolcraft College. She leaves a brother, Gordon, and a great number of friends who will miss her every day. Her body was willing to medical science for research on Diabetes. There will be a Memorial Service set at a later date in Sun Lakes, AZ.

**HELEN GAMMONS**

Age 79, of Bloomfield Hills, MI and Naples, FL. Devoted wife of 45 years to Dwight Gammons. Beloved mother of Dr. Tim Gammons. Cherished grandmother of Dylan and McKenzie Gammons. Dear sister of Mary Gerhardt, Anne Vidunas and John Sorokanych. Helen was a graduate of Temple University, Philadelphia, PA from the School of Dental Hygiene and also held an advanced degree from the University of Detroit. She was a Dental Hygienist for over 12 years and after retiring, Helen was VP/Administrative Supervisor for the American Koyo Machinery Corp for over 10 years. Helen was also involved in many civic associations including being President of the American Artists Society and a member of PEO. Also, she was a member of the Kirk-in-the-Hills & the Naples Presbyterian Churches. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, December 10th at 11am at the Kirk-in-the-Hills Presbyterian Church on Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, donations in Helen's memory may be made to your charity of choice. Arrangements entrusted to The Beachwood Society, Naples, FL.

**KAY ANN GERMAN**

Kay's life was defined by her passions. She passed away on November 23, 2010. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Robert, their children, Jerilyn German Petermark (Frank), Dr. Beth German (Dr. Martin Garber), Amy German (Matthew Draving), Mary Ansbro (Peter), and Jonathan German (Janice Carolina Floegel). Gramma of Caitlin, Christopher, Joseph, Samuel, Benjamin, Sarah, Kay, Nathan, Evan and Ella. Also survived by brothers Charles Koller (Deborah) and Larry Baudin (Margery) and many nieces and nephews whose lives were enriched by Kay's kindness. Kay's wish was to have no funeral service. A luncheon will be held in her honor on December 6, 2010 from 1-3 pm at St. Aidan's Hall, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Mich.



**ELAINE ROSEMARY (HEITKAMP) GOLDEN**

Age 59 (formerly of Coldwater) died November 22, 2010 at her home in New Mount, TX. She was born July 12, 1951 in Chickasaw, OH to Ernest Heitkamp who survives in Minster, Ohio and Rose (Prenger) Heitkamp who is deceased. Elaine worked as a Project Specialist for Xerox Corporation. Survivors include: Husband, Dan in Flower Mound, Texas; Sons, Corky (DeAnn) of Flower Mound, TX and Andy of Saipan; Grandsons, Jack and Nate in Flower Mound, TX; Sisters, Gayle (Don) Heitkamp of London, OH, Peg (Jim) Schmiesing of Minster, OH; Brother, Mark (Beth) Heitkamp of Cincinnati, OH along with 10 Nieces and Nephews. Friends may call at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home-Coldwater on Friday, December 3, 2010 from 5 to 8:30 pm. Burial will be in St. Elizabeth Cemetery, Coldwater. In Lieu of flowers donations may be made to the TGEN Cancer Foundation at <http://tgenfoundation.org>. Condolences may be left at [hogenkampfh.com](http://hogenkampfh.com)



**DENNIS KEMPAINE**

November 30, 2010, age 57, of Wayne. Beloved husband of Pamela. Dear father of Tadd (April). Son of William & the late Helen. Brother of James, Karen, Smith, Stephen, Anna, Twila Kuffner & Garvin Gentry. Loving grandfather of Isabella, Landon & Gavin. Memorial service held, 1PM at the Uth Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive friends Wed. 12 noon until time of service. Please visit and sign a tribute at: [www.uthfh.com](http://www.uthfh.com)

**Helen J. Kubon**

Of Westland, Michigan. Age 81, passed away November 29, 2010. Helen was born May 1, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan to Percy and Maleta (Forbes) Harris. Survivors include her children Daniel (Sharon), Mark, Anna (John Stewart), Beverly Bellestini and Linda (Ray) Hess, 12 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. Helen is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Victor and her daughter in law, Kathy. A Traditional Farewell will held Thursday December 2 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Howell, with prayers at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Lamb Chapel. Memorial contributions are suggested to Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Helen's family by calling 877-231-7900, or sign her guest-book at [www.borekjennings.com](http://www.borekjennings.com).

**MARLES C. LOMAS**

November 30, 2010 Age 90 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late George Sr. Dear mother of George Jr. (Jane). Loving grandmother of George (Mina), and Sarah (Jeff) Perry. Gt. Grandmother of Patricia and Theodore Perry. Funeral services from the Uth Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Thursday 1pm. Visitation at the funeral home Wednesday 2-8pm. Burial will take place at Cadillac Memorial Cemetery. Please view memorial and send tributes at [www.uthfh.com](http://www.uthfh.com)

**LOIS M. MAKI**

Age 82, of Livonia, MI, passed away November 29, 2010. Arrangements by: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



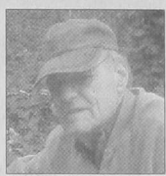
**MARGARET W. MILLER**

July 11th, 1921-November 20th, 2010. Margaret, age 89, died peacefully at home in her Trauser Meadows Assisted Living Residence, Boulder, Colorado of cardiac disease. She was born Margaret Louise White on July 11th, 1921 in Virginia, to Margaret Louise Rawen and Burton James White. Margaret attended Michigan State College, graduating in 1943 with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. She married Austin J. Miller on August 12th 1944 in Buffalo, New York and raised two daughters, Sandi and Barbara, in Detroit, Royal Oak and Birmingham, Michigan. Margaret and Austin moved to Boulder, Colorado in 2003. Margaret is preceded in death by her parents, and husband Austin (December 3rd, 2005). She is survived by her daughters, Sandi of Vail, Colorado, Barbara (Anne E. Nicoll) of Seattle, Washington, and Gitta-Svendsen (Anders) of Svendsborg, Denmark. Margaret's sister, Virginia (Ginger) Stocking (Gordon), of Kalanazoo Michigan, niece Sherri Lonsberry (Ken) of Hudson, Ohio, nephew Bar Stocking (Betty) of Gosh, Michigan, sister-in-law, Janet Parkes of Tucson, Arizona, and niece Linda Albertzart of Chelsea, Michigan. Margaret was lovingly cared for by Cardiac Hospice for two years preceding her death. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Care of Boulder and Bloomfield Counties, 2594 Trailridge Dr. East, Lafayette, CO 80026. Burial services will be held next summer in Clarkston, Michigan. M.P. Murphy & Associates Funeral Directors of Boulder is in charge of arrangements.



**HAZEL M. MINKE**

Age 80, of Grand Rapids (formerly, Rochester Hills, MI) passed away to a place of peace October 29, 2010. Hazel is survived by her daughters: Marcia Minke, Sharon Minke, Linda Minke and Barbara Bloemsa, their partners and five grandchildren. Howard, Hazel's husband passed away October 13, 2010. Sixty-four years ago, it was "love at first sight" and from then on Dad called Mom his "sweetheart". Both graduated from DeVilbiss High, Toledo, OH. Mom was a Master Pre-K teacher for over 3 decades. "She made people feel good about themselves. She was beloved among her friends, peers and especially by 4-year-olds." Cremation has taken place and the family is celebrating and honoring them with a Memorial Service, Saturday, December 18, 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Zaagman Memorial chapel, 2800 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, (616) 940-3022. The classical concert will be given by their professional musician daughter Linda and her son Victor, who is studying to become a classical musician. The family is asking friends and family to honor Howard and Hazel with "random acts of kindness" - to do acts of kindness for someone, a creature or the planet every day. It can be as simple as a smile, opening a door, picking up trash, or admiring a tree.



**CHARLES WAKEFIELD MODRACK**

Age 88, died November 14, 2010, of Farmington Hills formerly of Birmingham Hills. Preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Green and his brother William. Father of Charles Jr., Christine (Lad. Guest), Leslie (Peter Brower), Matthew (Barbara Amo) and grandfather to Lucia Modrack and Zachary Boerger, Jamison and Nicholas Guest, Cobleigh and Josephine Modrack. Principled, curious and compassionate, he possessed a keen intellect and tenacity for independence through his last days. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, graduate of Grosse Pointe High School, attended Albion College and graduated from Northwestern University's School of Commerce. Served in WWII as a Second Lt. In the US Army. Lifelong career as Sales Manager for Perry Printing Company, Flint MI. Summer resident of Skegemog Point, Williamsburg, MI. Member of Birmingham Unitarian Church. A private memorial is planned for Charles' family and friends. Memorials may be directed to The Nature Conservancy, 101 East Grand River Lansing, MI 48906. Expressions of sympathy at: [www.cremationmichigan.com](http://www.cremationmichigan.com)

**AILEEN E. STEADMAN**

Age 96, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away November 30, 2010. Arrangements by: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



**ROBERT A. "BOB" VISSER**

Of Sun City West, Arizona, died on Saturday, November 27 after injuries from a recent car accident. He was 78. A long-time resident of Plymouth, Bob was a teacher and the basketball and golf coach at Livonia Franklin High School until his retirement in 1990. He was active in First Presbyterian Church and volunteered for Meals on Wheels. Survivors include his wife Sue Visser, his children Jane Visser (Vander Velde of Pasadena, California; Michael Visinski, Kevin (Judy) Foster, Michelle (Jeff) Turner, Rachel Wagner, Kelly Wagner, great-grandchildren Ruby & Quinn Foster; brother Gerald Reingans, sister Germaine Wynn, also extended family & dear friends. Mass of the Resurrection was held at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Brighton, Saturday, December 4th. Fr. David Howell officiated. Burial Parkview Cemetery, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorials encouraged to: Hospice of Michigan. For further information, please phone Lynch & Sons, Brighton 810.229.2905 or visit [www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com)

**GRACE M. WAGNER**

Age 90 died November 30, 2010 in the care of her family. Grace was preceded in death by her beloved husband Carl Wagner (d. 1975). She is survived by her children Carlene (Richard) Foster, Lynn (Jerry) Kaminski, & Herb (Sharon) Wagner; grandchildren Michael Kaminski, Kevin (Judy) Foster, Michelle (Jeff) Turner, Rachel Wagner, Kelly Wagner; great-grandchildren Ruby & Quinn Foster; brother Gerald Reingans, sister Germaine Wynn, also extended family & dear friends. Mass of the Resurrection was held at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Brighton, Saturday, December 4th. Fr. David Howell officiated. Burial Parkview Cemetery, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorials encouraged to: Hospice of Michigan. For further information, please phone Lynch & Sons, Brighton 810.229.2905 or visit [www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com)

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OE0058420

## MILESTONES

### DEWITT-HOFFMEISTER

Nicole Joy Hoffmeister and Paul James DeWitt were married Aug. 7, 2010, at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia. The Rev. Kevin Thomas and Deacon Michael O'Keefe, cousin of the groom, officiated.

The bride, daughter of Robert Hoffmeister of Livonia and Gayle Roman of Clarkston, is a graduate of Clarkston High School and Oakland University. She earned a master's degree at Western Michigan University and is a behavior consultant in South Bend, Ind.

The groom, son of Tim and Alice DeWitt of Livonia, is a graduate of Stevenson High School and Western Michigan University. He is pursuing a master's degree at Western Michigan University and currently teaches in Paw Paw Public Schools.

Jamie Hoffmeister, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Angela Bujdos, sister of the bride, and friends Krista



DeWitt-Hoffmeister

Grabiau, Andrea Rau, and Cara Pinkerton. Dean Kruse was the best man. Groomsmen were Dan DeWitt, brother of the groom, and friends Blake Grider, Bill Lapham, and Dan Bumford. A dinner reception at the Italian American Banquet Center in Livonia followed the ceremony. The couple currently resides in Dowagiac.

## FALL 2011 WEDDING

Dan and Denise Polasky of New Hudson announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Lynn to Gregory Brian Conley of Wixom.

The bride-to-be, a graduate of Madonna University in Livonia, is an administrative assistant at General Medicine in Novi.

Her fiancé is the son of Carolyn Conley of Whitmore Lake and Brian and Tina Conley of Wixom. He is employed as a mortgage banker in Southfield.

A fall 2011 wedding is planned.



Polasky-Conley

## SUMMER WEDDING ABROAD

Taryn Christine Lillie and Benjamin Lukas Hügli were married July 24, 2010, in Gruyere, Switzerland.

The bride, daughter of Thomas and Dawn Lillie of Canton, is a 2001 graduate of E.C. Glass High School and Virginia School of the Arts in Lynchburg, Va. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2006 from the University of Utah and is a professional dancer who also choreographs and teaches dance.

The groom, son of Jürg and Beatrice Hügli of Thun, Switzerland, graduated from Fries Gymnasium in Bern, Switzerland and earned a master in law degree from the University of Bern, in Bern, Switzerland. He is a project manager at Credit Suisse in Zurich, Switzerland.

The bride's sister, Kristen Lillie, served as the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Antje Schoch, and Libby Sabas. Jill Rall was the flower girl and the ring bearer was Maxime Rall. The best man was



Hügli-Lillie

Samuel Schoch. Cocktails were served at Domaine Wannaz Vineyard in Chenaux, Switzerland. The reception was at the Grand Hotel Du Lac-Vevy, Switzerland. An additional reception was held at Oct. 2, 2010 at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville.

The couple traveled with the groom's parents through the country and will honeymoon in 2011. They've made their home in Thalwil, Switzerland.

## HORBACK-HERMANN

Erin Elizabeth Hermann and Michael William Horback were married July 30, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church, Northville.

The Rev. W. Kent Clise officiated.

The bride, daughter of James and Marcia Wilson Hermann of Livonia, is a 2003 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Western Michigan University and teaches second grade at Star International Academy in Dearborn Heights.

The groom, son of Michael and Gail Horback of Livonia, is a 2001 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a graduate of Eastern Michigan with a bachelor of science degree in construction management. He is self-employed.

Lauren Pullins was the maid of honor and Luma Mohasi served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Amanda Rosner; Kelly Davis; and the bride's sister, Laura Hermann. Emma Sexton, cousin of the bride, was the junior bridesmaid. Madison Ford served as flower girl and Noah Ford was



Horback-Hermann

the ring bearer. Both are cousins of the bride.

Jason Loucks was the best man and groomsmen were Kyle Hermann, the bride's brother; Tim Bryant; Nick Kubiec; and Joe Jamison. Aaron Byrd was the usher.

Readers were Marco Monea and Anita Caird, the bride's godmother.

A reception was held at Plymouth Manor, in Plymouth, followed by a honeymoon in Sarasota, Fla.

The couple lives in Milan.



# FOOD

Sunday, December 5, 2010

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

# It's Peppermint Season!

**H**eadline your holiday with the quintessential flavor of the season — peppermint. These extra special sweets offer a bountiful buffet of peppermint possibilities. Choose one or more for cookie exchanges, après caroling nibbles, gifts for teachers and Santa.

Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for additional holiday ideas, and to order baking and decorating supplies.

### PEPPERMINT RIBBON COOKIES

Makes about 6 dozen cookies

3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened  
1½ cups granulated sugar  
2 eggs  
2 teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract  
2 to 4 drops Peppermint Candy Flavoring  
Christmas Red Icing Color, as desired  
1 package (14 ounces) Candy Cane Colorburst Candy Melts, melted

In medium bowl, combine flour, salt and baking powder. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and creamy. Add eggs, vanilla and peppermint candy flavoring; mix well. Add flour mixture, one cup at a time, mixing well after each addition.

Remove ½ of dough; reserve. To remaining ½ dough in mixer bowl, beat in red icing color. Roll and shape dough between parchment paper into two 6 x 8-inch disks. Roll and shape untinted dough between parchment paper to a 6 x 8-inch disk. Chill all dough rectangles at least 1 hour.

Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Peel parchment from dough pieces. Stack dough rectangles with untinted dough rectangle between the two red pieces, lining them up as evenly as possible; gently press pieces together. Gently roll with rolling pin to seal layers; trim uneven edges with sharp knife. Cut dough lengthwise into three 2-inch-wide slices; cut each column crosswise into ½-inch-thick pieces. Arrange 2 inches apart on parchment-lined cookie pans. Chill ½ hour.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until bottoms are light golden brown. Remove cookies to cooling grids; cool completely.

Dip cooled cookies into melted Candy Melts; set on parchment-lined cookie pans. Chill until candy is set. Store in airtight container.

### CANDY CANE COOKIES

Makes about 2 dozen cookies

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 egg  
1½ teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract  
½ teaspoon Peppermint Candy Flavoring or ½ teaspoon Imitation Almond Extract  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
No-Taste Red Icing Color  
White Sparkling Sugar

Preheat oven to 375°F. In large bowl, cream butter with sugar with mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg, vanilla and peppermint candy flavoring. Add flour 1 cup at a time to butter mixture, mixing well after each addition. If dough becomes too stiff, add water, a teaspoon at a time. Do not chill dough.

Divide dough into 2 balls. Color one ball of dough red with icing color. Pinch off a 1-inch ball of each color dough. On flat surface, roll ball into 3-inch-long strips. Place red and white strips side-by-side; roll them together until the two colors have wrapped around one another and are twisted together. Curve the strip at the top to the shape of a candy cane and place on ungreased cookie sheet; gently press Sparkling Sugar into dough.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on pan 2 minutes; remove to cooling grid and cool completely.

Peppermint Ribbon Cookies and Candy Cane Cookies



Candy Canes, Peppermint Ribbons and Evergreen Treats offer a minty mix of holiday cookies while Santa Claus and Frosty Friends Candy Cane Molds dress up everyone's favorite yuletide treats. Candy Cane Candy Molds instructions are available on package or at [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com).

### ROLL-OUT COOKIE RECIPE

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
1½ cups granulated sugar  
1 egg  
1½ teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract  
½ teaspoon Imitation Almond Extract  
2½ cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 400°F. In mixing bowl, cream butter with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and extracts. In a separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder and salt; add to butter mixture 1 cup at a time, mixing after each addition. Do not chill dough.

### EVERGREEN TREATS

Makes about 3 dozen cookies

Roll-Out Cookie Recipe  
2 to 3 drops Peppermint Candy Flavoring or ½ teaspoon peppermint extract  
3 piece Trees Cutter Set  
Cookie Sheet  
Cooling Grid  
Royal Icing\*  
Buttercream Icing\*  
Leaf Green Icing Color  
Round Decorating Tip 3  
Candy Cane Sprinkles  
Yellow Colored Sugars  
Jumbo Nonpareils

Prepare Roll-Out Cookie Recipe following instructions, adding peppermint candy flavoring. \*\*Roll out dough ¼ inch thick; cut tree shapes and arrange on cookie sheet. Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet 1 minute; remove to cooling grid and cool completely.

Prepare icings. Tint portions of each icing green, reserving some white. With royal icing, with tip 3, outline tree with green; fill in with thinned icing. Let dry. For trees with stars, fill in star with white icing; add yellow colored sugars and let dry. Add white icing garland using tip 3 outline, swirl or zigzag; arrange candy cane sprinkles.

With green buttercream icing, spatula ice cookies smooth or cover cookies with tip 3 zigzag "tree boughs." For trees with stars, ice star with white icing; add yellow sugars, pressing lightly into the icing. If desired, add white icing garlands to trees. Arrange candy cane sprinkles and jumbo nonpareils.

\*Note: Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for icing recipes.

\*\*Variation: tint cookie dough green with Leaf Green Icing Color. Cut cookies as above. Decorate as desired with white icing, sprinkles and sugars.

### CANDY CANE CHAIN

Makes about 2 dozen cookies

Roll-Out Cookie Recipe  
2 to 3 drops Peppermint Candy Flavoring or ½ teaspoon peppermint extract  
Candy Cane Comfort-Pro Cutter  
Cookie Sheet  
Cooling Grid  
Red and White Cookiecings  
Red and White CandyMelts, melted  
Ruby and White Pearlized Sugar  
Red and White Nonpareils  
Buttercream Icing\*

Prepare Roll-Out Cookie Recipe following instructions, adding peppermint candy flavoring. Roll out dough ¼ inch thick; cut candy cane shapes and arrange on cookie sheet. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet 1 minute; remove to cooling grid and cool completely.

To decorate with Cookie Icing or melted Candy Melts, drizzle in zigzag pattern or completely fill in stripes.

To decorate with Sugars and Nonpareils, spatula ice cookies smooth. Arrange sugars or nonpareils in stripe pattern. \*\*lightly press into icing.

\*Note: Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for icing recipes.

\*\*To make it easier to place sugars and nonpareils, pour into Disposable Decorating Bag. Cut small hole in tip of bag and move the bag over the area to be covered.

— Family Features

Evergreen Treats

## HEALTH

Sunday, December 5, 2010

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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## Happy marriages reduce impact of work-related stress

With its many pressures, the workplace can be a stress hub. Studies have shown that work stress can creep into everyday family life and negatively impact the mood at home. High unemployment also causes increased feelings of stress and worry among the employed. But what exactly happens when workplace stress diffuses at home?

Richard B. Slatcher, assistant professor of psychology in WSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and resident of Birmingham, a specialist in social and health psychology, has found novel answers to this question and others in his study of the

relationship between stress and human physiology, published in the November/December 2010 issue of *Psychosomatic Medicine*.

Slatcher assessed the effects that work stress had on the stress hormone cortisol for working parents of young children and their spouses. The 37 married couples in the study completed six questionnaires per day from a Saturday morning to a Monday night and provided saliva samples to measure their cortisol levels. The questionnaires were used to measure individual feelings of worry and tenseness about work, and to examine their links with daily cortisol levels.

"This is the first study to demon-

strate that one person's momentary feelings of stress are related to another person's stress hormones in daily life," said Slatcher, who investigates the effects that close relationships have on human health in his Close Relationships Laboratory at WSU.

His study showed that for both husbands and wives, work worries are linked to higher levels of one's own cortisol levels. But Slatcher found that the husband's work stress spreads to the wife, increasing her cortisol levels, too.

"Wives seem to be picking up on their husbands' worries about work and, as a result, react biologically," said Slatcher. "We found that the

more worried husbands were about work when they were at home with their families, the more their wives' cortisol levels increased."

But the opposite was not observed - husbands' cortisol levels were unchanged when their wives' work worries increased. This could be due either to husbands not picking up on their wives' stress, or their not being physiologically reactive to it, Slatcher said.

## STRESS BUFFER

The study suggested that the links between work worries and wives' cortisol levels are buffered by higher-quality marriages.

"Wives reporting both low marital

satisfaction and low self-disclosure (less open) to their husbands showed a stronger association between work worries and cortisol compared to wives reporting high marital satisfaction and/or high self-disclosure," said Slatcher.

But, again, husbands did not exhibit the same reactions. "For husbands, neither marital disclosure nor marital satisfaction buffered the association between work worries and cortisol," Slatcher said.

"The results of this study represent an important step toward understanding how everyday feelings of stress influence one's own physiology and the physiology of others close to us."

## Diabetes resource fair planned at St. Mary Mercy Wednesday

Physicians and certified diabetes educators will be on hand to offer information about diabetes at a resource fair, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Representatives from St. Mary Mercy Wound Care Center, Heart & Vascular Center, Behavioral Medicine, as well as the Livonia YMCA, Mercy Home Care, Running Fit, Lifeline, University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, and Great Lakes Medical Supply also will attend the fair.

According to the American Diabetes

Association, 23.6 million children and adults in the United States — 7.8 percent of the population — have diabetes. It affects men, women, and children, putting them at risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, and lower-limb amputation.

Call Community Outreach at (734) 655-8950 for more information. Or visit [stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org) and click on "classes and events."

The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

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Above information available as of 11/24/10 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.mcreport.com](http://www.mcreport.com). Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

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# Hyundai Santa Fe Limited: An SUV With Lots Of Standard Features

Advertising Feature

## CAReport



By Dave Menard  
For Avanti  
NewsFeatures



Hyundai is one of those manufacturers that may not be top-of-mind when you're deciding what kind of vehicle to purchase next, but the Korean-based company is actually quite competitive in just about every segment. Known first for its 10-year/100,000 mile warranty (which is still the standard warranty), Hyundai can make a case that it should be known by its vehicles, and that includes its crossover SUV, the 2010 Santa Fe Limited.

For the 2010 model year, Hyundai has made some changes to the Santa Fe. This year, there are two new powertrain choices and some tweaks to both exterior and interior features. On the outside, this year's Santa Fe has new bumper fascias, fog lamps, bodyside moldings, and grille. The Limited is actually the top-of-the-line version of the Santa Fe (in addition to the base GLS and the SE) and it's a nice package. It comes with 18-inch alloy wheels, heated outside mirrors, roof rack side rails, and a body-color rear spoiler.

Inside, the Santa Fe Limited is easy to get comfortable with. The standard leather power seats are comfortable, provide good support and can be heated. A power seat for the passenger's side is optional. There's plenty of leg and head room in the front cabin and there's plenty of storage, too. There are map pockets in each of the front doors and there are four 12-volt power outlets.

The rear seats, as you would expect in

any SUV, fold down for more cargo space – 78.2 cubic feet total.

The interior is well done. The woodgrain touches in the center stalk and around the interior are nice, and the instrument panel is well laid out. The cluster includes a tachometer and a coolant temperature gauge. The blue backlighting adds a nice touch, and the controls for the audio system and climate control system are logically laid out on the center stalk. There's a trip computer, and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror that includes a compass and a HomeLink garage door opener.

Dual-zone air-conditioning is standard on the Limited, as are a leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls, power windows, doors and locks, power, heated outside mirrors, keyless entry with alarm, power sunroof, and cruise control. The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD/mp3 system by that includes six speakers, and an iPod jack that allows you to control it through the head unit. An XM satellite radio is included and it comes with three months of service.

Available as an option (\$2250) is a navigation system package that includes an external amplifier and subwoofer for the audio system and a rearview camera. It looks nice and is easy to use; it's integrated into the audio system.

As mentioned above, the Santa Fe Limited is powered by one of two new powertrains; a 2.4-liter Theta II in-line



Crossover SUV, The Hyundai Santa Fe Limited

four-cylinder engine is the standard powerplant, and it's not bad. It's rated at 175 horsepower and 169 lb.-ft. of torque. That's the engine the test vehicle came with. While it provides decent, if not exactly spectacular, acceleration, if you're serious about the Santa Fe, test one with the larger 3.5-liter Lambda V6. That one is rated at 276 hp and 248 lb.-ft. of torque. Gas mileage isn't bad for an SUV, either – 20/28 mpg for the four-cylinder and 20/26 for the six-cylinder – and it takes regular fuel.

The Santa Fe Limited provides a good ride, not too harsh while still allowing you road feel. The front suspension is a MacPherson strut system with coil springs gas shocks and anti-roll bar. In the rear, it's a multi-link system, with coil springs gas shocks and an anti-roll bar. The power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering system makes the Santa Fe easy to handle and maneuver. The ride is pretty quiet, too.

Traction control and electronic stability control – which reduces engine power in certain situations to correct under- or oversteer – are standard. The Limited is full of other safety features, as well, including active head restraints, side curtain airbags with rollover sensors, anti-lock brakes with brake assist and electronic brake distribution, which

determines which axle needs the most stopping power and applies the correct amount of force to the brakes. The Santa Fe also features a tire pressure monitoring system.

The 2010 Santa Fe Limited starts at just under \$27,000, and includes just about everything you might need. Add the carpeted floor mats and the navigation system and you're at a shade under \$30,000.

Hyundai first became famous for its excellent warranties, and the warranty on the 2010 Santa Fe Limited is no exception – a five-year/60,000 mile bumper-to-bumper warranty, and a 10-year/100,000 powertrain warranty. Five years of roadside assistance is also included.

If Hyundai wasn't on your SUV radar before, the Santa Fe Limited shows that it probably should be now. The Santa Fe Limited is a darn nice mid-size SUV.

Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com

**2010 Hyundai Santa Fe Limited**  
Vehicle class: Special purpose.

Power: 2.4 liter four-cylinder engine

Mileage: 20 city/28 highway

Where built: Montgomery, AL

Base price: \$26,645

Price as tested: \$29,815

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