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ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL

CONNECTION

Shopping winner

Mary Rodrigue was the win-ner of the ShopCanton \$200 shopping spree after being one of 441 people who entered the contest by taking an online survey at the new www.shop-canton.org website this fall. The survey, sponsored by the Canton Township



Downtown Development
Authority and the ShopCanton
Marketing Partners, asked for
feedback about events, enter-tainment, shopping and dining
in Canton.

in Canton.

"We want to be in touch with our patrons," said Kathleen Saila, DDA director for Canton Township." We want to make sure that the work we are doing to continue to make Ford Road - and beyond - the premiere shopping and dining destination in the area is on target with what folks want. We decided that the best way to gind out is to ask them directly."

The survey results will be used in planning future marketing efforts for the ShopCanton Marketing Partners, a collaborative group that includes the Canton Downtown Development Authority, Canton chamber of Commerce and Canton Township's Leisure Services Department.

Lots Closed We want to be in touch with

Lots closed

As a cost-saving measure, several Canton Township parking lots will be closed or restricted during the winter months. Posted signs and barricades, when necessary, were installed this week indication no which across a

Holiday photos

Send us your favorite holi-day photos for a chance to

day 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 Emagine 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.

Study: Ford Road safer than a year ago

The number of crashes along Canton's most accident-prone stretch of road — Ford Road between 1-275 and Lilley — plummeted 28 percent this year compared to 2009, a new report shows.

Crash totals for the first 11 months in a two-year comparison may indicate that efforts to improve safety by beefing up police presence and issuing more tickets have caught the attention of drivers, Canton Special Services Lt. Scott Hilden said.

Canton police this year launched several special-enforcement efforts to catch Ford Road motorists who ignore red lights, trail other drivers too closely, make illegal turns and ignore other traffic rules.

"We are proud to report the overall num-

ber of accidents along Ford Road between Lilley and I-275 have decreased 28 percent in the last year, 'Hilden said. The number of crashes at one of Michigan's worst intersections, Ford and Haggerty, fell from 77 to 57 during the two-year period, marking a 26-percent reduc-tion.

tion.

The Ford-Lilley intersection had 33 percent fewer accidents in 2010 than in 2009, and the Ford/1-275 area had a 25-percent decline in crashes.

"The thing we did different this year is we focused on special enforcement," Hilden said. "I asked our guys to focus on this high accident area and do the enforcement of behaviors such as following too closely and running red lights. It's probably as much to

Please see STUDY, A5



While a recent study says Ford Road was safer this year than last, Canton Public Safety officials still caution it's a hazardous road.

Transplant finds her niche here

BY DARRELL CLEM

Seasoned community organizer
Terry Van Loon Craig came to the
Plymouth-Canton area from Seattle
in June 2008 after she was assigned
by then-candidate Barack Obama's
campaign to rustle up votes here for
his winning presidential bid.
She never left.
"There's an openness and warmth
people have here in the Midwest,"
she said. "I've gotten to know so
many people with such diverse
points of view."
Sitting inside the Plymouth Coffee

many people with such diverse points of view."
Sitting inside the Plymouth Coffee Bean, one of her favorite spots in a town she loves and now calls home, Craig said even the iconic coffee house on Penniman Avenue attracts customers ranging from Tea Party activists to left-leaning liberals. She has found their candor — even when they are challenging her — refreshing compared to the more subdued nature of Seattleites.

Craig coaxed her husband of 16 years, Steve, into moving here after he found a job as a renewable energy consultant for municipal governments. And she has found her niche after she was hired by the Plymouth

Please see TRANSPLANT, A7



Terry Van Loon Craig of Plymouth came to this area from Seattle to help President Obama get elected, and never left

Parents want voices heard in Lansing

BY BRAD KADRICH

When members of the new state Legislature takes their seats next month, two-thirds of the representation for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will be new. To a group of parents concerned with where the state is headed in terms of funding public education, that's an important factor as district administrators struggle to balance a budget filled with one-time money that's about to go away. Democrat Dian Slavens returns to her seat in the state House's 21st

District (Canton), but Republicans Kurt Heise (20th House) and Pat Colbeck (7th Senate) are political newcomers. These parents want their state legislators to take their issues into account when they're dealing with the financial struggles that continue to plague the state.

"We're in a unique position right now... two-thirds of the legislators representing our district are new," said Denise Zander, who co-chairs the parents' legislative committee. "We wanted to make sure they hit the ground running knowing what the concerns are of the parents of students in their district."

MONEY MATTERS
Those concerns revolve largely around funding. Some of these same parents formed a group called Class Size Counts last year, when it became evident how tight the district's budget was going to be. Organizers said they formed to make sure administrators didn't use increased class size—and fewer teachers—to solve their budget issues.
Some of their members have also attended sessions of the district's finance committee and gained some understanding of the situation. MONEY MATTERS

Please see PARENTS, A5

Feds charge **Canton woman** in bank fraud

A Garden City man and a woman from Canton Township have been arrested and charged with bank fraud as the result of a sweep by the federal government's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force.

Arrested and charged Dec. 2 were Jessie A. Wozniak of Garden City and Candice D. Campbell of Canton.

Their arrests were part of Operation Broken Trust, the largest collective enforcement effort ever brought to bear in confronting investment and corporate fraud in the Eastern District of Michigan and throughout the country. The sweep was organized by the task force, which was established to investigate and prosecute financial crimes.

With this operation, the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force is sending a strong message, "US. Attorney General Eric Holder said. "To the public—be alert for these frauds, take appropriate measures to protect yourself and report such schemes to proper authorities when they occur. And to anyone operating or attempting to operate an investment scam—cheating investors out of their earnings and savings is no longer a safe business plan. We will use every tool at our disposal to find you, to stop you and to bring you to justice."

The two are accused of luring approximately 80 individuals in Michigan, New York, Arizona, Connecticut and Colorado to invest almost \$1,150,000 by falsely representing that they were investing the money in the stock market through CJ's Financial, an investment firm they started in 2009.

Campbell, the chief financial officer, and Wozniak, who called himself the founder and chief executive officer, operated CJ's out of Campbell's Canton Township home.

According to the task force, Campbell and Wozniak made false and fraudulent promises and representations to potential investors via the CJF website, direct communications and investor financial services agreements.

communications and investor financial services agreements.

They are accused of representing that CJF 'would make daily stock trades on each investor's behalf through a TD Ameritrade account; that investments would never lose value; that monthly returns would be 10-20 percent; that capital gains taxes on investment profits would be paid by CJF, that money





INDEX

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FRAUD

could be withdrawn at anytime; and that Campbell was a licensed financial planner." In a complaint filed in August in federal district court, attorneys for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission said CJ'S Financial was an unincorporated business and was not registered with the SEC. Campbell also wasn't registered with the SEC or associated with a registered as an investment adviser with the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation. The complaint alleges that Campbell and Wozniak, who had worked in the automobile industry prior to setting up CJ's Financial, had used only a small amount of the investors money to purchase securities and that Campbell diverted the money for personal uses, including paying for vacations, cars, jewelry. Sporting goods and furniture. "Out of approximately \$1,057,400 received from investors and deposited by Campbell into her personal bank account during this time period, only \$58,000 was transferred into Campbell diverted at least \$540,000 of the funds for personal use, and withdrew an additional \$138,000 in cash," the attorneys told the court.

Classified Advertising....

Display Advertising

According to the complaint, Campbell purchased \$33,046 in jewelry, \$28,350 in sporting goods, \$29,124 in furniture and spent \$20,650 at laser surgery centers. She also spent some \$100,000 at automobile dealerships.

The attorneys added that Campbell and Wozniak 'also used some investor money (\$350,000) to pay other investors as purported returns on their investments, in an apparent effort to keep the Ponzi scheme from collapsing.' They fabricated monthly statements, and when investors began requesting withdrawals, the attorneys said Campbell and Wozniak created a 'bogus story' that their money could not be refunded because the SEC had forzen CJF's bank accounts and other assets, as part of an ongoing investigation.

In the past four months, Operation Broken Trust has resulted in nine individuals being charged federally by way of complaint, information or indictment in the Eastern District of Michigan. These defendants obtained more than \$40 million from more than 300 victims.

"Investment fraud is a serious problem that often targets the elderly and other vulnerable victims whose lives are ruined and whose savings are wiped out," U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade said.

"The economic impact of these frauds on our community is dramatic and far reaching."

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Dress request

The Plymouth/Canton branch of American Association of University Women is requesting dona-tions of gently used prom and

party dresses.

AAUW officials note, "The party dresses.

AAUW officials note, "The prom is a very important event in high school and many girls are finding it difficult to afford that special dress in our current economic climate."

AAUW will be having a special sale in April where suitable dresses can be purchased for minimal or no cost. Any profit will go to the group's scholarship fund.

AAUW volunteers will pick up contributions, or donors can bring it to any meeting. To arrange for pickup, contact S. Zaetta at (734) 455-6366 or szaetta@woway.com; K. Bellows at (734) 941-8907 or KiggityKate83@aol.com; or E. Nelson at (734) 981-4938 or enelson1c@att.net.

Living nativity

Living nativity

Living nativity
Officials at Priendship
Church in Canton invite
visitors to "take a walk back
in time and experience the
wonder of the first Christmas
night" with their Living
Nativity display Dec. 19.
It features a costumed cast
of 50+ with live animals, an
outdoor, 10-minute guided
walking tour and warm
refreshments, all at no admission cost.

ion cost. Friendship Church is located tt 1240 N. Beck (at Saltz) in Zanton. For more information, call (734) 710-9370 or visit www.friendshipchurchinfo.

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,

AROUND CANTON



Lighting candles

Neely-Turowski and L.A. Turowski and Son Funeral Homes in Livonia and Canton host their annual Christmas Memorial Candle Lightling Service 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile (between Middlebelt and Merriman) in Livonia. The Turowski family invites all families they've serviced at their Canton and Livonia locations to this event. The program lasts about 45 minutes and consists of ways to help families cope with the loss of a loved one. RSVP to (734) 525-9020 by 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

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

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 answers.

can provide more complete 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.

Events for kids

El Fuego Fresh Mexican Grill in Canton hosts a week-end of events aimed at young-sters in the community.

• On Friday, Dec. 17, at 9:30

• On Friday, Dec. 17, at 9:30 p.m., the restaurant hosts "Navidad De Baile" teen dance party, featuring a live disc jockey, dancing, snack bar and refreshments. Advanced tickets are \$6, tickets the night of the event are \$7.50.
• From 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 18, the restaurant hosts "Breakfast with Santa." Kids who bring an unwrapped gift for a needy family get a free 4x6 photo with Santa.

El Fuego is located at 45380

El Fuego is located at 45380 Hanford in Canton (off Canton Center, one block north of Ford Road).

Holiday concerts

The Plymouth Symphony presents "Home for the Holidays" concerts at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

Concerts are scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6 and 8 p.m.

p.m. For more information, visit www.plymouthsymphony.com or call (734) 451-2112.

Band auditions

Has it been a while since you dusted-off that musical instrument of yours? Anyone getting that urge to perhaps start playing that clarinet, sax:

ophone, trumpet, trombone or any other musical instrument has their chance. The New Horizons Band of Canton is looking for new members. Musicians 18 years of age or older who would like to become a part of this unique music ensemble are invited to attend a "free" one-time rehearsal on Tuesday evenings. For more information, call Evola Music at (743) 455-4677.

Nuns in charge

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 rowseats. All tickets include a dessert afterglow. 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. Lilley Road in Canton, south of Cherry Hill Road. Contact the church at (734) 981-1333 for further information.

Check out Canton

Check out Canton

The Canton Economic Development office and the Canton Public Library have teamed up to help the com-munity "check out" Canton

munity "check out" Canton businesses.
"Check Out Canton" works like the library's very popular Museum Adventure Pass program. Local businesses supply special offers that patrons can check out from the library with a library card. Use the passes to save on goods and services throughout Canton.
Want to know what's being offered? Simply search the library catalog for "Check Out Canton" and you'll find a list of the businesses and their offers. Businesses interested in participating in this program can Call Canton's Economic Development office at (734) 394-5182.





Good at the SuperCe

thru Dec. 31, 2010.

400 Ann Arbor Road > Plymouth > 734-459-3500 Hours: Mon-Sat. 5am-12 Midnight; Sun. 5am-11pm

Dec. 17, 2010 only.

Dec. 15, 2010 only.

French cuisine

Immersion program gives students a taste of France

OBSERVERSTAFFWRITER

Napoleon, Joan of Arc, novelist Victor Hugo, painters Henri Matisse and Edgar Degas and Gustave Eiffel, who designed a famous tower, walked the streets of Paris — in Plymouth Township — Wednesday.

It was French immersion at New Morning School, an event that had students and visitors traveling over time and space to learn about the culture of France. Elementary students learned French words, served ratatouille and quiche, acted in skits and offered soliloquies as historical figures, studied maps of France, learned about the painting styles pointillism and impressionism and toured a "Paris" of cardboard and papier mache.

"We make it as hands-on as possible because the kids really learn much more," elementary teacher Cynthia Wilkinson said. The students even made chefs hats, she said. "I don't know if there was an aspect we

really didn't touch on."

Students from other than the elementary grades, plus parents, invited home-schooled children and other visitors, got to tour the immersion sets Wednesday.

"It was kind of cool to see people we didn't know from the outside have fun and participate," Wilkinson said. The first French immersion day was last month.

The private school regularly has immersion programs to give students a glimpse into the historical periods and cultures they're studying, Wilkinson said. They've toured Japan, explored the Oregon Trail, witnessed the Underground Railroad and, last spring, spent time in colonial-era America, washing laundry by hand, making their own candles and dyeing clothing in boiled onion skin.

They hadn't been to France before, however.

"It's kind of fun to learn it together," Wilkinson said.



'Chef' Joshua Mangion takes an order for one crepe during New Morning School's French immersion event on Wednesday. Students also helped prepare quiche and ratatouille.



Student E.J. Vasquez as King Louis XVI of France during a French immersion event Wednesday at New Morning School.



Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Three seats are open to students entering 7th grade in winter 2011 Three seats are open to students entering 8th grade in winter 2011 Limited Registration window: Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011

Limited Registration Window: Dec. 6, 2010 — Jan. 6, 2011

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT)

program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2010-11 school year, second semester.

This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will open from Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011 at Churchill High School,

8900 Newburgh Rd, Livonia 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process,

Contact Doug Coates at Churchill High School at 734-744-2650 ext. 46132

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BCN Advantage HMO-POS™





Source: NCQA's Health Insurance Plan Rankings 2010-11 – Medicare BCN Advantage HMO-POS™ is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

EDUCATION

Sunday, December 12, 2010

hometownlife mcom

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

Grant helps symphony with pilot program

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras has received an education grant from the National Endowm

from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA grant will help the orchestra develop a pilot pro-gram on Musical Composition for fifth-grade students in the Plymouth Canton School

for fifth-grade students in the Plymouth Canton School District.
Called "The Composer in Me!" the program is being piloted at several of the district's elementary schools.
Students will have the opportunity to study with Dr. Andrea Reinkemeyer of Ann Arbor, a graduate of the University of Michigan. Reinkemeyer will work with students to learn about musical composition and how composers are inspired to create music. Students will work on creating musical compositions abased on poems they have written in their language arts classes on subjects from the tested curriculum.

Reinkemeyer is a professional composer who has studied under some of the great contemporary composers of our time and has composed for orchestra, chamber and wind ensembles, in addition to vocal and percussion ensembles. She finds this approach to learning



Reinkemeyer

composition to be fun and successful in teaching stu-dents to think

Reinkemeyer musical composition.

"The students are very lucky to have the Plymouth Symphony, which shows a vested interest in the musical education of the students in its community, as well as teachers who are willing to explore a new project like this," Reinkemeyer said. "My hope is that it will encourage students to see the humanities as a vehicle for self-expression. The cross-discipline approach is also exciting because we're incorporating elements from their classroom studies into the projects through haikus written by the students about science and literature; this kind of interplay is an integral part of the artistic process."

For more information on the "Composer in Me!" project or any of the other educational programs of the Plymouth Symphony please call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouthsymphony.com.

Miller robotics team rolls to state competition

The Millerbots, Miller Elementary School's student robotics teams, won the 2010 Downriver Robot Rescue FLL Regional Tournament in November. Both of the school's teams also participated in the State Competition in White Lake.

The Millerbots came in ninth and 11th, respectively, in a field of 48 teams at the state competition. They received second place in programming and in innovative solutions.

At the regional competition, the Millerbots Team 2 won two awards—the best overall championship award and the Creative Research Award.

Millerbots Team I won the Innovative Strategy Award for Programming. In addition, the teams won seven "WOW" awards throughout the competition for their presentations, enthusiasm and support for other teams in the competition.

Teams are judged on their

tion. Teams are judged on their research presentation, a teamwork problem solving event and the depth of understanding demonstrated in the programming of their Lego robot and the degree to which the robot achieves identified goals.

TAG screening

The Plymouth-Canton
Community Schools is screening students for admission to its talented and gifted program for the 20011-12 school year. To apply for admission to the program, a student must reside within the P-CCS District boundaries and be in grades two to seven.

Nomination forms are

SCHOOL BRIFFS



Walmart presented 10 Hulsing Elementary teachers with \$100 gift certificates and gave Hulsing Principal Carolyn Washington another \$1,500 for the school.

and gave Hulsing Principal Carolyn Was available in all P-CCS elementary and middle schools. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to school principals or counselors by Dec. 15. Nomination forms are also available online web.pccs.k12.mi.us/tag Nominations for non-public school students should be returned to the TAG Office at: Miller Elementary School, 43721 Hanford Road, Canton, Michigan 48187, or by fax at (734) 416-4801. Screening for the program involves two phases of standardized testing, including the lowa Test and the Cognitive Abilities Test.

Holiday drive

Holiday drive

Mike Mardeusz, a fourthgrade teacher at Eriksson
Elementary, has a son serving
in the military in Afghanistan,
so he's learned firsthand how
few items from home soldiers
receive while trying to do their
important work.

Ultimately, soldiers rely on
the generosity of people and
businesses to get some of the
basic necessities others often
take for granted. As a result,
Mardeusz has organized a

Mardeusz has organized a collection of items and cards to send to soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. Before holiday break Dec. 17, Mardeusz will box up the

donations and ship them over seas for distribution.

Math finalists

Math finalists

The Plymouth-Canton
Educational Park has been
notified that 21 students qualified as finalists in the 54th
annual Michigan Mathematics
Prize Competition.

They are part of the top
1,000 out of 7,000 Michigan
students who took the exam
in October. The finalists
completed Part II of the competition on Dec. 1 and will be
notified in February if they
will be recognized as one of
the top 100 mathematicians in
the state.

The top 50 will be presented
scholarships ranging from
\$250 to \$2,500.

Walmart helps Hulsing

Hulsing Elementary teachers recently received early holiday gifts due to the efforts of parent Scott Mavracic, the assistant manager of the Walmart store on Ford Road

The teachers receiving gift certificates included Diana Romanowski (kindergarten), Sharon Albert (first grade), Alissa Linton (first grade), Meg Jenkins (second grade), Cheryl Witt (second grade), Sherrill Brown (third grade), Michele Sonk (third grade), Matt Gold (fourth grade), Charles Huhta (fifth grade) and Nancy McNamara (PLUS Preschool).

All donations will be used to support students at the school.

Film award

Film award

Students in the Advanced
Video class at PlymouthCanton Educational Park
entered their short film
"Through Our Eyes" into
Myvrspot.com's National
Bullying Awareness Week
Short Film contest.

These eight students were
inspired to create a video
Public Service Announcement
with a positive anti-bullying
message for the contest. Out
of hundreds of videos submitted, their film was awarded an
honorable mention. The video
will be available soon for public viewing on www.myvrspot.
com/contest

Cafeteria certification

Cafeteria certification

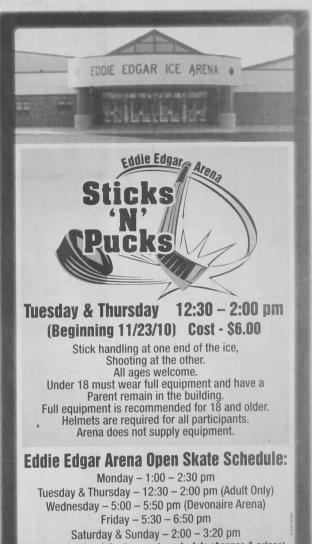
The Michigan Department of Education recently notified P-CCS officials that Dodson Elementary School has earned a Bronze Certification for its school lunch program. The district's Food Service program as a whole also received praise from the state for its efforts to meet the HealthierUS School Challenge, a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating the National School Lunch Program.

The award is given to recognize schools that maintain healthy environments by improving the quality of meals and increasing physical activity and nutrition education.





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CRASH STATISTICS DROP IN 2010

Intersection	Number of crashes 2010*	Number of crashes 2009*	Percent Reduction
Ford and Lilley	43	64	33%
Ford and Haggerty	57	77	26%
Ford and I-275	33	44	25%
		1130	1
			77

interchange. Those efforts are continuing even though federal officials this year twice rejected a \$20-million request to reshape the interchange.

La Joy has turned his attention to the incoming administration of Gov.-elect Rick Snyder amid hopes of getting Ford Road improvements placed on MDOT's list of priorities.

placed on MDO1 s list of priorities.

The traffic-improvement plan sought this year would have added 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 vehicles to avoid Ford and merge onto 1-275.

LaJoy has cited a need for long-term improvements and said, "we're committed to this."

this."
Hilden said at least 50,000 vehicles a day travel through the Ford-Haggerty intersection. Although the number of crashes dropped significantly this year, he agreed that the only way to address the problem long-term centers on making road improvements.

STUDY

do with the higher number of tickets as the higher visibility of officers.

"If you travel an area frequently and you see more police officers writing tickets, it's going to change your driving habits," he added.

Hiden said the latest numbers reflect just one snapshot of Ford Road accidents, and he said road improvements long sought by township officials still are needed for long-term relief.

"The Ford Road area is still the No. 1 crash area in Canton," Hilden said. "Even with the reduction (in crashes), the only way to make permanent changes is to implement some of the road changes. Otherwise you're going to continue to put a Band-Aid on the problem."

The latest report came from traffic crash data from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Local officials including township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Municipal

PARENTS

Believing administrators have been "lean and mean with (district) money," the parents decided the way to attack the problem was from above.

"We realized if we're going to do anything it was to approach this at a state level," said Sheila Paton, the other co-chair of the parents' committee. "We quickly realized Plymouth-Canton didn't know how much funding they had last year until June 30. The things the state puts the district through just aren't right. It isn't stable funding, it's not fair or equitable and it puts the district in a bad position.

"I think the district has done a fabulous job," Paton added. "We felt if there was something we could do as parents, it was to work with legislators and help them understand the pressures the district is under." Those pressures are almost entirely financial. According to district financial figures, some \$341 of the projected \$7,661 state foundation grant will come from onetime money such as the federal stimulus funds that have propped up the budget the last couple of years.

CLIFF APPROACHES

'We realized if we're going to do anything it was to approach this at a state level. We quickly realized Plymouth-Canton didn't know how much funding they had last year until June 30. The things the state puts the district through just aren't right. It isn't stable funding, it's not fair or equitable and it puts the district in a bad

district with nearly 19,000 students, that equates to some \$6.5 million that will go away starting with the 2011-12 budget. That represents the financial "cliff" administrators have been eyeing for the last couple of years.

"There's a lot of one-time money funding schools right now. ... We want to know what the state is going to do to replace that," Paton said. "We're hoping we can get to the right people in Lansing, and make them understand every dollar they cut from the schools, it's going to affect students. Last year they cut textbooks, they cut textbooks, they cut textbooks, they cut texteneless. Eventually it trickles down into the classrooms."

it trickles down that the classrooms."

The two new legislators representing Plymouth-Canton have differing backgrounds in education. Heise, a Plymouth Township resident who has two children in the district, sits on the board of the district's Educational Excellence

Foundation. Colbeck, who lives in Canton but has no children, sits on the board of a charter school.

The group has met with both, and came away satisfied that they're both willing to work with them. And the new legislators appreciate the effort and welcome the input. "I think the more parents involved in the process, the better," Heise said. "It's also good there seems to be a core group of parents interested in what's happening in Lansing and low they can influence the outcomes in the next legislative session and with the new governor."

PARENTAL INPUT

input from concerned citi-

zens."
Heise said it fits well with what he wants to do when he takes office next month. Heise plans to form at least four citizen advisory groups — on education, local government, small business and senior citizens."

education, local government, small business and senior citizens.

"I think it gives me an added perspective on what other parents in the district are thinking and what their priorities are," Heise said.
"I still have two kids in the school district, so I certainly have an interest in public education. The more input I can get from like-minded parents, the better."

The parents understand Lansing is going to do what Lansing does, but they want to make sure they at least have a voice in budgetary decisions that affect their children.
"We need to be advocates for our children," Zander said. "The people who aren't in control of any of the decisions are sometimes affected the most by decisions our legislators make. We just need to make sure there's a voice speaking on their behalf. We're not naive enough to think we're going to get everything we want. We just want to make sure they hear our issues."

Boys like to throw rocks



Depending on the rocks, girls encourage such behavior



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Hearing delayed again in fatal Canton crash

An Ypsilanti man accused of driving drunk and causing an accident that killed Canton mother of two Stephanie Stone is expected to learn Jan. 21 whether he will face trial on multiple felony charges in Washtenaw County Circuit

Washtenaw County Circuit
Court.
Bradley Wayne Howard,
34, had been scheduled for a
preliminary hearing Friday
on multiple charges including
second-degree murder, but a
court clerk for Ann Arbor 15th
District Judge Julie Creal said
the proceedings have been
delayed until Jan. 21.
It marked the second
time the hearing has been
adjourned as attorneys prepare for the case.
Howard, a repeat drunken
driver, could face penalties
ranging up to life in prison if
he stands trial and is convicted

Washtenaw
County authorities have said
it appears Howard was driving
70-80 mph in a Ford Mustang
when he ran a red light at
Ecorse and Harris roads in
Ypsilanti Township, slammed
into Stone's Ford Taurus and
pushed it into three other
vehicles. The crash occurred
Oct. 26.
Stone died at the scene. Her
son, a front-seat passenger,

Stone died at the scene. Her son, a front-seat passenger, was critically injured, and her daughter, sitting in the back seat, sustained minor injuries. The family was wearing seat belts. Stone's mother, Pamela Lawson, has said Stone "was very strict about seat belts." Howard, accused of being a

third-time drunken driver who had a suspended license, has remained jailed without bond as he awaits his preliminary camination. He could face trial on charg-

examination.

He could face trial on charges of second-degree murder; operating while intoxicated causing a death; operating while intoxicated causing serious injury; a third drunken driving offense; failing to stop at an accident causing death; failing to stop at an accident causing serious injury; driving with a suspended license causing serious injury; driving with a suspended license causing death; driving with a suspended license causing death; driving with a suspended license causing death; driving with a suspended license second offense; and having an open alcohol container in his car.

Stone worked for Dairy Queen in Canton and has been described by her mother as "a good mother" who did the best she could for her children.

NEWS BRIEFS

Golf pass gifts

Amateur, recreational and avid golfers alike will find that an annual pass to Pheasant Run Golf Club is the perfect gift to give or receive. Sign up before Dec. 30, and save 10 percent off of the pass price.

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TRANSPLANT

Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion to coordinate its emerging TimeBanking program.

"She will be working to move TimeBanking forward in our community-building efforts," said Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, who chairs PCCDI's strategic planning board.

Craig plans to get TimeBanking started early next year by pooling the resources of people with disabilities, students from the Starkweather Alternative High School and a diverse group of Plymouth-Canton residents of all races, religions and political persuasions.

gions and political persuasions.
"Im really excited about this job," she said.
TimeBanking can work in many ways. A retiree may volunteer to give a student a ride to school in return for getting snow shoveled from a driveway. A banker may take a vision-impaired woman to a doctor's appointment and benefit from an office-cleaning employee. A teacher may tutor a struggling math student and get a car repaired by a mechanic.
"TimeBanking is a tool that

helps to build community,"

helps to build community,"
Craig said.

It's a Web-based program that allows participants to earn points for deeds they perform and cash them in for services they need.

TimeBanking members will be subject to background checks, and they will be invited to occasional meetings amid hopes of strengthening their ties and building friendships.

"It's kind of like a pay it forward program," Craig said. "It's not just volunteering. People who give help also need to receive help. People need to look at it as a way to build a safety net for the middle class and not just to help people who are poor, disadvantaged or marginalized." TimeBanking already has taken root in 42 U.S. states and 32 countries, and Graham-Hudak has said PCCD1 initiated the project to pool the resources of Plymouth-Canton residents, strengthen the community and build a better understanding among different people.

It's a concept Craig has

standing among different people.
It's a concept Craig has embraced for 20 years as a community organizer.
She grew up in the Los Angeles area and received her undergraduate degree in political science from

Whittier College. She moved to Seattle 18 years ago and received her master's degree in theology from Seattle University.

Craig worked on political campaigns for local candidates and presidential nominees, but her experiences reached far beyond the political arena in the Seattle area:
She worked with an African-American community to get a community center built.
She helped organize a successful campaign to keep a nuclear waste site from being built in Washington state.
She developed a high school community service program and worked to get teens involved in projects such as sending packaged goods to service people overseas.
Craig has worked alongside

seas.
Craig has worked alongside
Sikhs, Christians, Muslims,
Presbyterians and other Presbyterians and other religious groups, and she said she is eager to tap into this area's diversity as she organizes TimeBanking. She learned about PCCDI and its goals through the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

"They're just phenomenal," she said.

Craig hopes to get as many as 150 people initially

involved in TimeBanking and build from there, though she realizes her goal won't happen overnight.

"People have to ask for help to make it work," she said.
Anyone who wants to become involved or who simply wants more information may send an e-mail to PCTimebank@gmail.com, and PCCDI and Craig plan soon to announce a phone number potential TimeBanking members can call.

Craig smiles as she reflects

Craig smiles as she reflects on how she pulled up her West Coast roots after she just happened to land in the Plymouth-Canton area as a field organizer for Obama's campaign. She quickly grew to love this area and its people, and now she won't have to leave.

"It's like a dream come true that I get to stay here," she said.



Terry Van Loon Craig plans to get TimeBanking started early next year

Students get first-hand look at program

Last month, 23 University of Michigan students of social work descended on Plymouth's Kellogg Park, businesses and residential areas to promote the benefits of timebanking. The students were assisting the local Plymouth-Canton timebank as part of an initiative led by the MI Alliance of TimeBanks. The initiative was to encourage community building through use of 'timebank dollars' earned through volunteerism by both businesses and community members. The organization is one of 400 such banks in the United States and 32 other countries. Business can benefit from timebanking by gaining vol-

unteers to help with marketing, cleaning, packing - while offering their services to other volunteers in the timebank group. This helps to build community and helps struggling businesses gain support from local residents, what organizers call "a win-win situation."

The students benefitted

organizers can situation."

The students benefitted from the experience by learning the benefit of community building and organizing. The students also learned how to help communities work with one another through a very sustainable tool, TimeBanking, Patricia Simmons, one of the students said that she had a good time

talking to the business owners and residents and was impressed with the response they received.

Laura Manthey said she's "extremely passionate" about community, but often wondered how to go about creating close community with neighbors. When the timebanking program was explained to her in September, something clicked.

"It triggered at something

clicked.
"It triggered at something in me, and my time thus far in the TimeBanking Plymouth/ Canton project has confirmed these initial feelings," Manthey said. I am excited to see how this project unfolds in this community."

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on endrens Christinas stories in a competition for scholarships from the Schoolcraft College Foundation. "Whoville Holiday," created by Sandra Angelos of Lake Orion, won first place. "If You Take a Mouse to a Movie," created by Kathlean Wielkopolan of Northville, won second place. "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," created by Tracy Oberholzer of Troy, won third place. The students created the village on their own time under the direction of Certified Master Pastry Chef Joseph Decker. At least half of the construction materials must be made of gingerbread and must be completely edible, excluding the base on which it is built and non-edible materials for the windows. The creations must have a front entrance and walkway, must be decorated on all sides and may have electric lights. The scholarship competition winning entries were selected for their craftsmanship, neatness, originality, degree of difficulty and use of the theme.

The public may view the gingerbread village during regular hours.

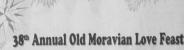
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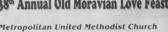
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It's time for school board members to unite

A grave injustice in our local Plymouth Canton Community Schools Board of Education has been transpiring of late.

It seems like a group within the school board has put upon themselves to disrupt working in cooperation with the board as a whole. Instead they would rather promote their own self-serving, egotistical and uncooperative agenda.

This is all being done while discrediting our competent, honorable and judicious superintendent, Dr. Craig Fiegel. Trustee Dianne Gonzalez openly admitted she did not think he was the proper candidate from the beginning.

They have disregarded being open-minded or assisting in his success. Some of them, along with certain key administrators, set the stage that would allow Fiegel to fail from his onset. Was this done in the best interest of the school district and the children being educated within it? I would say not.

At the school board meeting Sept. 28, Gonzalez, John Jackson, Judy Mardigian and Adrienne Davis

voted not to extend Dr. Fiegel's contract past its expiration at the end of this school year. Barry Simescu, Nancy Eggenberger and Steven Sneideman (all school board officers) voted to renew his contract for one year. Some even voiced that it should be extended even longer. It strikes me odd that Simescu and Eggenberger are two of the three members who sit on the superintendent's evaluation committee, are board officers and are of the opinion that Dr. Fiegel has done a job worth extending his contract. Yet this group of four dissenters (Mardigian, Gonzalez, Jackson and Davis) felt Dr. Fiegel did not warrant a contract extension.

To add insult to injury, on Nov.

Their claim was it would be done so Fiegel could focus on the key elements of his position and be able to have the time to search for another job. Oh, how noble of this group of four insurgents. The disingenuousness of their statement bled through as they spoke it. They had no interest in being supportive or caring. This action only helped facilitate their scheme.

When Eggenberger wisely asked that the matter be delayed until the entire Board had an opportunity to discuss it as a collective group, she was emphatically dismissed by Jackson, Gonzalez, Mardigian and Davis. The vote was put forth and was carried 4-3, with the same four uncooperative members not supporting Dr. Fiegel.

This vote was followed by these same four members putting forth a motion to install Ken Jacobs (current deputy superintendent) as a COO (Chief Operating Officer) that would allow him to take over the duties they just relieved from Dr. Fiegel responsibilities. Sneideman Fiegel responsibilities. Sneideman spoke out that this was not necess

sary, could wait for further review and that Jacobs was not the person for this job, which was guised in an effort to bring continuity to the board and to the district. Besides, Mr. Jacobs has submitted his intentions for retirement at the end of the school year. It is my understanding that once one submits for their retirement with the State, it cannot be rescinded.

This action doesn't appear to be an astute choice when combined with the fact of his pending retirement. I personally don't know Mr. Jacobs, I only know of him. It is not my intent to discredit his long tenure with the district.

How can these actions be in the best interest of the PCCS District? How can they bring unity to the board? How can these actions bring teachers, administrators and other district employees togethe? They cannot! It only facilitates further disconnect, animosity and uncooperative actions among the Board Members as well as with the district employees.

Dr. Fiegel should be reconsidered

for a contract extension along with restoring his full duties as superintendent. The entire board should discuss their differences in an open and professional way. Let those that have issue with Dr. Fiegel present their case in a cooperative, transparent and open-minded manner.

present their case in a cooperative, transparent and open-minded manner.

Mardigian, Gonzalez, Jackson and Davis have been extremely less than broadminded in this issue and have not given any effort to assist in the success of Dr. Fiegel. It has been quite the opposite.

I encourage everyone to voice their support of Dr. Fiegel to the school board (suggestions) expects and, net) and the media. Granted, this issue has become larger than Dr. Fiegel, but sound reasoning must be put forth. Hope of unification is still apparent. Open and forthright dialog must transpire so these injustices will be rescinded and hopes of restoring cooperative and collective collaboration will be set forth in our PCCS Board.

Finding your passion is the key to success in life

'm not done singing yet," one of my four-year-old twin grand-daughters said as she finished her role in the preschool's holiday concert.
Her comment struck a chord with me. Leave it to a child to offer a world of truth in so few words. This little girl has a passion for singing. She may be peanut-sized, but she belts out a big vibrato voice that won't be quieted.

Perhaps it's the wear of age that makes most of us hide our voices under the drone of splashing water in the shower. But no one can hear our big



voices in there How else can we tell the world what we are passionate about?

Joan Noricks

The giving season and a New Year are the world takes a moment for reflection. Indeed it is a perfect time for each of us to sing as loud as we can and make our voices heard about what moves us and stirs our passions. Some folks passionately crusade for animals and the envi-

hunger.
This week the Canton This week the Canton
Community Foundation was
informed that the Michigan
Department of Human
Services is reporting more than
3,000 Canton residents are
receiving food stamps. Wayne
is just behind Canton, but the
numbers are even higher in
Westland and Romulus.
Hunger is the most basic
need. And fulfilling basic
needs in the community has

stirred our passions at CCF
this year as Michigan's stagmant economy and continuing
joblessness put many residents
at risk. Without an immediate
economic miracle, we can only
assume that families will continue to struggle.
Plenty of charitable organizations in our local communities are available to help those
in need. Passionate leaders
and volunteers work daily to
raise funds and develop programs that can help improve
our corner of the world.
In November, CCF hosted its
second annual philanthropy

summit that drew local non-profits who work with donors fulfilling their own passions. An example of a Canton resident who followed her pas-

an example of a Canton resident who followed her passion is Mary Beth Levine, who began the Detroit Area Diaper Bank in 2009. She didn't wait for millions of dollars to come along. She started small in her home and continues to work from there. The lack of diapers – government assistance programs do not pay for them – for infants and adults can put family hygiene, health and independence at risk.

Other passionate lead-

ers are Deb Bondie, founder of Livonia-based Seedlings, which provides Braille books for blind children, and Elaine Kennedy, founder of New Morning School in Plymouth. They are fullfilling their passions, while leaving indelible marks on the lives of so many. Just think what we can all accomplish by following our heart-filled passions and singing our own songs.

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interviewed on various radio and
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Bleske's office staff consists of
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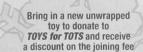
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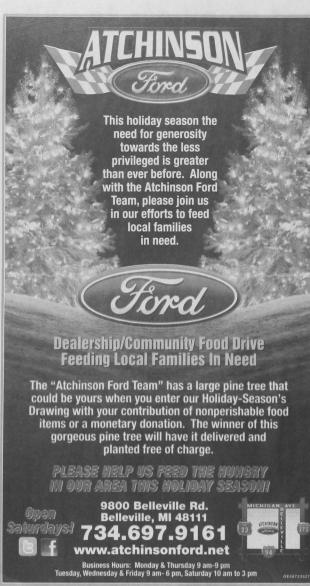
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Figuring cost basis for investments can be tricky

O: Dear Rick: I read your column regarding year-end tax planning and one of the things! discovered is that I have a number of investments that I cannot locate the cost basis. I bought it the investments sometime in the early '90s, but that's all I can remember. I know I bought it through a discount brokerage house, but they are no longer in business. It makes sense to sell the stock this year, however, I am concerned I don't have the cost basis. What do you suggest?

A: Cost basis is what you originally paid for an investment plus any dividends or capital gains you reinvested. In this situation, since you originally paid for an investment plus any dividends or capital gain distributions and most likely did not have any capital gain distributions and most likely did not have dividends reinvested. Therefore, your cost basis is the original purchase price of the stock.

In many cases where people don't know their cost basis, I recommend they contact the brokerage firm where they purchased the individual stock for assistance. However, in this case, that strategy will not work. Therefore, the first thing to do is determine if the stock you hold pays a dividend. If it does, you can pull out your old tax returns and use that as a guide to help determine when you purchased the stock.

If, for example, the first time a dividend from that stock showed up on your tax return was 1992, at least you have a starting point. You can then use an average of the stock price to determine basis. If it



did not pay a dividend, then the best thing is to guesstimate the year you bought the stock and use an average of the stock and use an average of the stock price to determine basis. It's not exact, but it is reasonable. You may be surprised to hear this, but the Internal Revenue Service recognizes the fact that in some situations calculating cost basis is difficult. In the unlikely event that you are audited, they will look at how reasonable you were with regards to your guesstimate. Never forget to document how you calculated your cost basis. This should then be part of your permanent tax file for that year. This should then be part of your permanent tax file for that year. There are many situations

There are many situations where when completing tax returns, taxpayers do not have complete documentation and are in the situation where they have to guesstimate items. The key is to be fair and reasonable. If you're donating a used pair of jeans and claiming a \$100 charitable deduction, that may not be considered fair and reasonable. On the other hand, if you claimed a \$5 deduction, that wouldn't raise any concerns.

deduction, that wouldn't raise any concerns.

I believe when it comes to taxes, we should take every deduction we are entitled to. However, the one caveat is you must have some sort of backup documentation for the

deductions you take. It is when people get audited and they don't have any backup documentation that they run into problems.

One last note on taxes. I'm sure that readers have heard that President Barack Obama and the Republicans have reached a compromise with regards to extending the current tax laws. The issue to me isn't whether you agree or disagree. I'll leave that to others. My issue is that we, as taxpayers, shouldn't assume anything with regards to taxes until the law is actually signed by the president. We all know how the legislative process works and there are always last-second changes. My advice has always been to make tax decisions based upon what the tax laws are now, not what they may be down the road. I would love it if we were in an environment of tax certainty, however, we are not. Even if the current tax law is extended for the two years? The reality is we are in an environment of tax certainty, however, we are not. Even if the current tax law is extended for the two years? The reality is we are in an environment where tax law changes over the next two years? The reality is we are in an environment there tax law sare ever-changing and, therefore, we have to make decisions based upon what the law is today and not speculate too much about the future.

Good luck!

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

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Getting ready to cut the ribbon at the new Steppingstone School, from left, Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis board president Rich Niemisto, Head of School Kiyo Morse and Mary Engelman. Greater Farmington Area Chan

Steppingstone School settles into new digs

With the sun shining to signify its bright future, Steppingstone School marked the official opening of its new campus on Friday, Dec. 3, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mary Engelman, executive director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber, held the ribbon while Head of School, Kiyo Morse, cut the ribbon in the recently named Son Room near the library. Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis spoke a few words acknowledging the value of Steppingstone in the community, and Morse thanked everyone who came to celebrate this fofficial grand opening.

Among the guests were Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock and Economic Development Director Teri Arbenowske, as well as several other city officials and many local business owners and professionals. John and Roda McAuliffe,

owners and professionals.

John and Roda McAuliffe,
parents of Steppingstone's

first enrolled student, Patrick McAuliffe, all of whom reside in Canton, were also in attendance. Members of the board circulated with the many guests along with staff to answer questions about the repurposing project and plans for the future. Steppingstone acknowledged Trustee Yong Son and general contractor, Sonny Son of Mich Construction, an Ypsilantibased company, for their generous donation of time and services. Morse recognized the Sons for the untoll hours of time they devoted toward the selection, purchase, and repurposing of the school within budget and for making the summer move-in deadline possible.

While enjoying a light lunch, guests were able to tour the classrooms and discuss the educational program with students, parents, and faculty. Steppingstone School for Gifted Education believes that every child deserves a satisfying and challenging

learning experience; in order to receive this, gifted children need a different program. Steppingstone is an elementary and middle day school (Young Kindergarten – Grade 8) with a full academic and enrichment curriculum dedicated to addressing the unique and individual needs facing many gifted children. Steppingstone was founded in 1981 by the current head of school, Kiyo A. Morse, to help a group of families who urgently needed an educational program for their gifted children. After more than 25 years of development, the curriculum provides integrated in-depth studies and enrichment as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills. Supplementing the basic curriculum, the complete in the school also offers fine arts, foreign languages, discovery science, computer programming, and a unique physical fitness program that includes fencing and instructional swimming.



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Cox budget plan passes first reading

The Wayne County
Commission is one step
closer to budgeting on a
multi-year cycle.
Wayne County
Commissions craura Cox
(R-Livonia), Chairperson
of the Commission's
Committee on Ways and
Means, has proposed an
ordinance that would place
Wayne County on a multiyear budget cycle, a move
that she says will provide
cost savings and realize
greater financial efficiency.
"The time is now for fiscal responsibility," Cox said,
pointing out the county is
in the throes of a budget
deficit that is approaching
\$300 million. "A multi-year
budget will improve longterm financial planning and
priority setting."
Cox's proposal moved
through a first reading at

the Commission's Dec. 2 full board session. It will now return to the Ways and Means Committee for fine tuning before being voted on for final approval and adoption by the 15-member commission.

Cox's vision for a multi-year budget — budgeting for no less than two years at a time — would proactively anticipate deficits, allowing for an equitable allocation over a longer period of time. This, she said, would lessen harsh negative financial impacts in any single year. If approved, the ordinance would go into effect on Jan. 1. Cox represents the 10th District in Wayne County, which includes portions of Livonia, Northville, Northville Township.

Farmington Community Band free concert Sunday

Farmington Community Band Presents "The Big FCB Variety Showcase!" at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Harrison High School Auditorium in Farmington

Auditorium in Farmington
Hills.

The concert is free an
open to the public. Harrison
High School is on 12 Mile,
between Orchard Lake and
Middlebelt.

The central theme for this
45th milestone season is
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group's 45 year legacy.

Enjoy an afternoon of great
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Damien Crutcher, performing a dynamic collection of
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holiday favorites. The musical
variety continues with special appearances by the FCB
Clarinet Choir and the fabulous 20-piece FCB Big Band,
under the leadership of Randy



Farmington Community Band Presents 'The Big FCB Variety Showcase!' at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Harrison High School Auditorium.

Barber, performing a vibrant collection of jazz standards. The afternnoon concludes with a big finale showcasing the combined concert band with their special guests, The Community Church of Christ Mass Choir, also under the direction of Damien Crutcher. Enjoy this afternoon of fine music with free admission

courtesy of the Farmington Community Band Music

Community Band Music Organization. Based at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills, The FCB was established in 1966 by Farmington music educators Paul and Fern Barber. Today, it includes over 100 people participating in a variety of wind ensembles.

Band members are comprised of all ages and backgrounds who simply enjoy performing good music. In that spirit there is no admission fee for any concert sponsored by the FCB.

Check out the 2010-2011 concert schedule and sign up for the special FCB "e-mail news" at www.fcbmusic.org.

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A dedicated group of volunteers will help to produce the annual free Christmas dinner at St. Dunstan this year. They

Church serves Christmas dinner to those who have no place to go

Judy Larry's grandchildren know where to find her mid-day Christmas. Nicknamed Judy "O," the Westland resident will again be helping to serve a full dinner in the St. Dunstan Church Hall to those who have nowhere else to go Christmas day.

nowhere else to go Christmas day.

After serving her own family a Christmas breakfast at home, her kids and grandkids agree that if they want to see more of Grandma Judy, they can follow her over to the church complex on Inkster Road, south of Ford in Garden City, roll up their sleeves and pitch in to serve the guests.

Larry's eyes well up and she becomes emotional when talking about what keeps her going every year to give up her time for the greater community good. It is, she said, the vision of the recipients' grateful faces which causes her to tear up and the voices of those who

What: Dinner for anyone would otherwise be alone Christmas day.

Where: St. Dunstan Catholic

Church on Belton in Garden City. Belton is the second street west of Inkster Road. Take Belton south from Ford and it will dead end at the church

when: The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m. How: The dinner is free, but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049.

call and leave their names as they RSVP.

It's also looking at the list of names, many of which includes the number 1 after them.

They are coming alone from Livonia, Plymouth, Wayne, Detroit and Dearborn. They have no one else to be with.

"This whole church hall is filled on Christmas day," Larry said. "People have no family, nowhere to go and just need to

be with someone."

People often have holiday traditions and Christmas day dinner at St. Dunstan Church is an annual event. St. Dunstan is the only church in the area that hosts a dinner Christmas day. The dinner is free to people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The only other requirement is a reservation. More than 100 people came to dinner last year, many were senior citizens.

Larry's volunteers haven't wavered through the years. She sends a special thank you to volunteers John and Mary Surge, who helped to initiate the program and who now, because of health problems, can no longer participate.

Larry took over the task more than 10 years ago.

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

Center needs winter gear to give to homeless

The current blast of frigid winter weather is forcing the Lighthouse Home Missions to put out an urgent call for donations of hats, mittens, gloves, socks and winter clothing to provide to the homeless. Based at Full Gospel Temple on Palmer Road in Westland, LHM has been able to give out some blankets to the homeless who come to the center for assistance and to eat at the soup kitchen. However, it's come up short on warm weathergear to pass out.

"We need blankets and gloves to give out, at least until the warming center opens," said Pastor Ruby Beneteau, who started LHM in her Westland home more than 25 years ago.

"We have no gloves yet, no

westand.
years ago.
"We have no gloves yet, no
heavy winter coats, especially for
the bigger guys," added Ginger

DuPrie of Romulus, who runs the soup kitchen. "The homeless like larger clothing because they layer to stay warm."

Housed in the original church, LHM runs a food depot, clothing bank, soup kitchen and warming center. It works with homeless to help get them the resources they need to get them back on their feet.

The soup kitchen offers warm lunches from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, while the warming center provides dinner, shower and a place to sleep indoors from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. Jan. 1 through March 31, although it has opened its doors early when temperatures have dipped below freezing.

The warming center is supported by churches from Westland and Canton that provide volunteers to prepare the meal and serve it. The soup kitchen relies on leftover food from local restaurants.

It will be serving a holiday lunch on Christmas Eve. The meal is being provided by the Westland Fire Department.

"It's the only time we don't have to cook," DuPrie said.

DuPrie expects about 35 people to stop by. A Thanksgiving dinner of turkey and the trimmings attracted 35 people — several families and many of the homeless "who are living in the woods," she said.

Donations can be dropped off at the center at 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, at anytime. According to Beneteau, watchman are at the building 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Appointments are needed to access the food pantry and clothing bank. They can be made by calling (734) 326-3885 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday.



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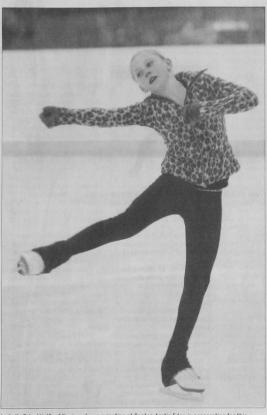
SUNDAY, December 12, 2010

hometownlife

OH THRIFTY TREE, OH THRIFTY TREE COMMUNITY LIFE, B5



Cutting edge



Isabella Falsetti, 12, of Novi works on a routine at Canton Arctic Edge in preparation for this week's U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships in Utah.



It doesn't matter to Canton's Delaney Hoberecht, 13, where she skates — even the junior

Young figure skaters excelling at something they love to do

Off the ice, words tumble softly and measured out of the mouths of Isabella Falsetti and Delaney

of Isabella Falsetti and Delaney Hoberecht. But when 12-year-old "Izzy" and Delaney, 13, hit the ice at Canton Arctic Edge for another round of pre-cision-packed spins and jumps, their eyes become the size of gold medals. Forget interviews. Both Arctic Figure Skating Club members love to skate and compete — which they will do later this week at the 2011 U.S.

JUNIOR NATIONALS

Junior Figure Skating Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah. Isabella and Delaney qualified for junior nationals in individual freestyle (singles), while Isabella also earned a spot in the pairs competition with 16-year-old Justin Highgate-Brutman of Detroit.

year-old Justin Highgate-Brutman of Detroit.

"She speaks more on the ice with her skating," said Isabella's dad, Rodney Falsetti of Novi. "Tve noticed that Izzy really comes alive more out on the ice."

And why not? It's that exhilarating frozen stage that beckons her and Delaney both.
Delaney's mom certainly understands the attraction.
"If you're not a skater, I don't think you know what that feeling is like," said Canton's Becky Hoberecht, watching her daughter's latest practice. "Because for those kids who have moved on, to college or whatever, that ice always calls them back. There's just something about that."

Becky's daughter took to the sport as soon as she was introduced to it, skating on a pond in Oxford about

seven years ago.

"It was so much fun that I wanted to start with the basic skills," Delaney said. "It was just like this pure joy and I wanted to continue."
Fast forward to December 2010. That joy is still written all over her face. It's not just because she still skates, but because she can "show people what I can do," Delaney said with a grin.
The same goes for Izzy, who like

with a grin.

The same goes for Izzy, who like
Delaney is making her second appear
ance at the junior nationals. Both

Please see SKATERS, B2

'Cats earn first win for coach

Bob DeBear notched his first victory as head coach of the Plymouth varsity girls basketball team Friday night, as the Wildcats trounced Ann Arbor Skyline, 54-26.

The Wildcats (1-3) featured a lineup where just about everybody made a nice contribution to the victory.

"It was a pretty easy game," DeBear said. "The story was balanced scoring and a lot better (scoring) at the free-throw line." After sinking just three free throws in Tuesday's loss to Walled Lake Central, Plymouth far exceeded that just from the efforts of junior forward Isis Haywood — who canned 10-of-17 attempts from the charity stripe. Haywood tallied 16 points to pace the attack, with Kylie Robb and Kate Watson each registering eight.

Other Plymouth contributors included Taylor Birman (six points), alex Roberts and Jada Woody (five each).

Huron nips Rocks

Huron nips Rocks

A late run by host Ann Arbor
Huron cost Salem in a non-conference contest Friday night, as
the Hurons won 53-49.

The Rocks (1-2) stayed in the
mix until the third, when the
Hurons outscored them 17-10.

"We played a pretty good
game," Salem head coach Fred
Thomann said. "We just came
up a little short at the end."
Scoring 21 points for the
Rocks was Bri Berberet, with
Heidi Schmidt tallying eight
points and five rebounds.
Also playing well were
Breanne Beaver (seven points,
five rebounds) and Kate
Heitmeyer (10 boards).

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN 40, ANDOVER
34: In this Tuesday night girls basketball game at Bloomfield Hills.

34: In this Tuesday night girls ba ketball game at Bloomfield Hills Andover, Brianna Harris scored Andover, Briama rain's scored 12 points — despite missing the third quarter due to illness — to lead the Eagles. Plymouth Christian also ben-efited from strong, all-around games from Karen Windle and

Icers pick up Canton-Plymouth rivalry

There was another hard-hit-ting battle between Canton and Plymouth before jammed-pack stands.

This time, it wasn't football. The host Chiefs and Wildcats played to a 2-2 tie in a KLAA South Division varsity boys hockey game at Canton Arctic Edge.

"This rivalry we've had for the last couple years," said Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak, whose team is 5-1-1 and 3-0-1 in the division. "It was nitty gritty last year (and) it's kind of a spoiler relationship.

"Tonight was a great game, both

teams battled hard and it showed on the scoreboard." According to Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender, whose team is 2-0-3 so far, Canton's physical style of play took a lot out of his

squad.

"They're big, they're strong and I really think they tired us out," Fassbender said. "We had guys that almost couldn't go any more they were so tired.

"Third period, we came out and battled and we started getting momentum. I don't know where they found it in them, they're gassed."

PRIME TIME

ers knew the prime-time

matchup between campus rivals would be a good one, and Plymouth senior defenseman and co-captain Justin Bauer said it definitely was. Bauer, who scored the game's first goal in the opening period, said his team wanted to once again show it can take care of Canton — as the football team did during the recent playoffs.

"Everybody was here to cheer us on," Bauer said. "We wanted to show them that, since Plymouth won in the (football) playoffs against Canton, we've got to show them we can do it again." anton, we've go... an do it again." Bauer put his team on the board

Please see RIVALRY, B4



With Plymouth goalie Michael Justus (No. 20) down and out, Canton's Shawn May (No. 3) just can't reach the puck.







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PLYMOUTH

Figure skaters rely on each other SKATERS

It's no different than becom-ing a standout in any other

ing a standout in any other sport.

If you ask either Isabella Falsetti or Justin Highgate-Brutman, becoming a top-notch figure skating partner-ship requires a grueling work-out schedule in order to master the graceful.

They practically live at Canton Arctic Edge through-out the year, tweaking and honing their routine so that they are able to reach lofty goals such as qualifying for the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships (this week in Salt Lake City).

Last Monday, Novi resident Falsetti and Detroit's Highgate-Brutman worked on their "death spiral" move and looked to have it down.

The 16-year-old Highgate-Brutman — a longtime hockey player whose unique agility redirected him into figure skating four years ago — and Isabella, 12, repeated the sequence before the eyes of pairs coaches Johnny Johns and Adrienne Lenda.

With hands locked into each other's, Justin whirled the close-to-the-ice Isabella like a propeller just an inch or so above the ice.

Then, he lifted his 75-pound partner up over his head and launched into a rapid spin.

The two skaters circled the ice with every choreographed move completely in sync.

"We're progressing fast and really good," said Highgate-Brutman, who only started skating with Falsetti over the summer. "Its (improving) mostly in lifts and throws."

He added that they now are at the point where muscle memory takes over, where they just go out and do it.

And watching them practice throws out any notion that figure skaters just twirl around and try to look nice.

"They're both fast skaters, which is good in pairs," said Isabella's dad, Rodney



Set to skate in the pairs competition at junior nationals are Isabella Falsetti and Justin Highgate-Brutman, shown from a previous eyent.

junior nationals is their jumps coach, Steven Pottenger of Canton. He discussed the dif-ference between singles and Junior Nationals schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 15
Official Pearly

Falsetti. "They (judges) like to see speed. Both of them are strong." Also working with the duo to help them get ready for

pairs, two areas of competition that Isabella Falsetti will experience at junior nationals. "You get to spin, you get to entertain (in singles)," Pottenger said. "You're out there by yourself, so it's a kind of different feel. Even if you make a mistake, you're normally the only one that knows it, even your coach. "Whereas in pairs, if there's a mistake you can see it, because the other person's not matching you." Having strong verbal and visual communication cues is essential for on-ice success. It is apparent that the Isabella-Justin duo is on target in that department.

Isabella meanwhile anice.

Justin duo is on target in that department.
Isabella, meanwhile, enjoys competing as part of a duo more than going solo.
"Cuz I'm not alone out there I'm not as afraid," she said. "I have someone supporting me. Sometimes, when I make a mistake, I don't want him to feel like it's his fault."

WORKING IT OUT

That's pretty fast for someone who at age 7 gave up gymnastics for figure skating to follow the lead of her older sister, Mikaela.

"The jumps I really like, and the speed," Izzy said. "I'm proud of myself and I can do better there and get better and better as I keep skating."

Her early morning and late afternoon ice sessions bookend school days, and one gets the impression she'd never leave the rink if she didn't have to.

And why not, as long as she has parents and grandparents able to chauffeur her to and from Arctic Edge?
"It's kind of a family affair," Rodney Falsetti said. "I take her, her grandfather takes her and her mom (Sally) takes her. She's here sometimes twice a day, four times a week."

According to Arctic Figure Skating Club primary coach. Theresa McKendry, going to junior nationals is a byproduct of that willingness to put in so many hours — and become supremely confident young athletes in the process. "All of the kids have started out with the goal of making junior nationals," said McKendry, who teams up with secondary coach Lisa Kirby. "And they all worked really hard, practiced extra, came in extra, did off-ice strength training and did what it took and they all succeeded in doing it."

and they all succeeded in doing it."

Both girls train with jumps coach Steven Pottenger of Canton, who is wowed by their work ethic.

"I'm hired to help them with their jumps," Pottenger said. "That's fun for me, and they're also really good jumpers, so it's easy on my part. They really enjoy coming to the rink and attacking it every day. These are probably some of the hardest workers you'll find here."

In addition to Izzy and Delaney, the skating club will be represented by Daniel Li and the pairs tandem of II-year-old Sophia Dai of Canton



Sophia Dai of Canton and her partner, Wixom's Jeffrey Fishman, polish up their routine before making the trip to Salt Lake City.

Daniel Li of Ann Arbor is one of seven skaters going to junior nationals who either are members of Arctic Figure Skating Club or train regularly there.

and Jeffrey Fishman. Also going are Justin and Daniel Takayama, who train out of Arctic Edge.

McKendry, a Canton resident, said "the more they skate and the better they get, their confidence comes up automatically."

That certainly applies mong those in the Utah con

tingent.
"I don't worry about any-thing, just skating," Isabella

said. Whether smoothing out any kinks in her singles or pairs programs — the latter including her spin-your-partner "death spiral" move with Justin — the big thing for Izzy is practice makes perfect. —"It makes us feel good that we can get it down," Isabella

said. "That we know it's clean."

NO STOPPING THEM

No STOPPING THEM

Meanwhile, Delaney's mom said for as much as her daughter loves to skate, she also has a very serious, competitive side. When it's showtime, it's the place she wants to be.

"She loves to compete. That's her very favorite thing to do," Becky said. "One thing that's nice is she doesn't ever seem to get nervous. The stiffer the competition, the more she sort of rises to the challenge."

One gets the feeling Izzy and Delaney don't plan on stopping their competitive ascent, either.

When asked about long-term goals, Delaney said she just moves up the ladder one rung at a time.

"I just take the short-term goals because I know the long-term goals will come," Delaney said, still speaking quietly.

Izzy merely wants to keep working, perfecting her routines and reaching for the stars.

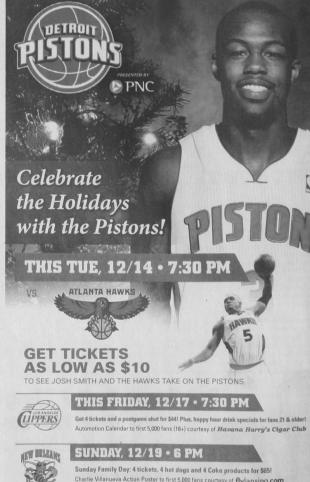
"First it's doing my double

stars.

"First it's doing my double axle, and then getting all my other jumps, triples, then going to Olympics when I get all those done," she said.

These girls might be soft-spoken, but don't mistake that for not having the right stuff. It comes through loud and clear that they do.





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Mercy trio, North's Krause earn all-area honors

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM
MADDY DOYLE, Jr. ON, F.H.
Mercy: The petite, 5-foot-8
junior doesn't look like she'd
be an imposing hitter with
a powerful swing, but that
quickly becomes apparent
once the match starts. She
led the Marlins to a second
straight Final Four appearance in the Class A tournament with her hitting, but
she's also a quality, all-round
player. Doyle had \$16 kills,
498 digs and 42 aces. She is a
repeat member of the all-area
first team.
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KAIY ROONEY, Sr. MH, Liv. Ladywood: The 6-1 senior mid-dle hitter earned all-Catholic, all-Region 18 and second-team all-state honors in Class B as the Blazers reached the state semifinals.

semifinals. Rooney, headed to NCAA
Division I Lafayette College
(Pa.), finished with 337 kills
on the year (3.4 per set) to go
along with 102 total blocks.
"Katy was just a phenomenal leader for us this year, on
and off the court," Ladywood
coach Erin Craggs said. "She
was our top offensive threat
and was very difficult to
defend when we were in system.

tem.
"Katy was a tremendous
hlocker, averaging over a block

HALIE BAKER, Sr. OH, Westland

per set."

HALIE BAKER, Sr. OH, Westland
Glenn: The 5-9 senior outside hitter, headed to Siena
Heights, led the Class A
regional finalists with 4:37
total kills (3:6 per set) togo
along with 69 solo blocks and
33 block-assists.
The all-KLAA and allRegion 18 selection also collected 62 aces in 120 sets.
Baker was also chosen by
her teammates for the Best
Offense award.
"Halie really took charge
at the net this season," Glenn
coach Sharon Hubbard said.
"She was committed to her
team, and unanimously voted
as one of the three team
captains. She will be greatly
missed by the John Glenn volleyball program."

KATIE POTON Soaph MH

ball program." KATIE HORTON, Soph. MH,

KATIE HORTON, Soph. MH,
Wayne: The 6-1 sophomore is
one of the best kept secrets in
the state as she led the Zebras
in kills averaging six per set.
Horton was also an allKLAA and scholar-athletic
selection.
"Blocking is also a strong
point for Katie," Wayne coach
Deb Mills said. "She played
both middle hitter and back
row this year because we
needed her to. She has a great
attitude on and off the court.
Currently there are several Big

Ten teams looking at Katie including Michigan, Penn State and Ohio State."

JENNY RHODES, Sr. OH-Libero, LIV. Ladywood: The 5-8 junior libero and outside hitter earned both all-Catholic, all-Region 18 and third-team Class B all-state recognition for state semifinalists.

Rhodes finished the season with 4+5 digs (4-7 per set) and served at a 92 percent rate with 56 aces. She only had 42 errors in 630 serve receptions.

"Jenny did everything for us this year," Craggs said. "She is a tremendous athlete and played wherever she was needed at the time.

"Her best position is libero, but was an outside for us during the state tourney run. She was no entry server exceiver and led the team in digs all season. Jenny also has a great serve that kept team from effectively running their sideout offense."

EMILY NORSCIA, Soph. MH,

out offense."

EMILY NORSCIA, Soph. MH,
LIV. Churchill: The 6-1 sophomore earned all-KLAA and all-Region 18 accolades after racking up 622 kills, sixth all-time in a single season at Churchill.

Churchill.

Norscia's kill percentage was .405 and she also finished with 49 aces.

"Emily made the transition from a middle blocker to an outside hitter," Grenier said.

"And she had an outstanding season leading us to a quarterfinal finish.

"I look forward to see what Emily can do for her junior season. And with the improvement she has made, she'll definitely be one of the most dominate hitters in the state."

BROOKE ZYMICK, Sr. Libero, Westland Glenn: The 5-4 libero, headed to NCAA Division I Marist College (N.Y.), racked up 807 total digs (7.2 per set) en route to all-KLAA and all-Region 18 honors.

Zywick also had a passing rating of 2-46 and added 80 aces in 112 sets.

"Brooke had an amazing season," Hubbard said. "Not only was she unanimously voted by her teammates to be one of the three team captains, but she also received the 'Best Defense' award, also chosen by her teammates."

Zywick also excels in the classroom with a 3.7 cumulative grade-point average. She is a three-time scholar-athlete and member of the National Honor Society.

LINDSEY LERG, Jr. OH, F.H.

Mercy: The 5-foot-7 outside is a quality hitter in her own right and a perfect complement to Doyle on the other side of the frontcourt. Lerg was a major factor in Mercy (52-8-2) being the Catholic League champion and Class A runner-up to two-time winner Marian. She also never leaves the floor during a match and excels in the backcourt, too. Lerg, a repeat selection for the all-area first team, had 736 kills, 517 digs and 53 aces.

and 53 aces.

KAITLYN KRAUSE, Sr. Setter, N. Farmington: The 5-11 senior setter and all-round player excels in all phases of the game. She averaged 7.3 assists per game and had 569 total. Krause had 113 kills and a. 378 kill percentage, and she also had 84 blocks (30/54), 184 digs and 11 aces. A two-time, all-area pick, Krause has a scholarship to play at nationally-ranked Dayton.

"For me, at North, I don't think I'll ever be able to replace a kid like that," coach Joe Lamagno said. "She's a great athlete and leader. It's going to be a rough time, trying to find somebody to do what she can do. When we were down and needed a spark, we looked to Kaitlyn to help us.
"Dayton is an extremely athletic team, and Kaitlyn is a perfect fit because she's athletic as well. She's smart, fast and doesn't lack confidence. This is what she has worked for since she was 12 or 13, and she's done everything right to get there."

NICOLE MERGET, Sr. MH, Salem: nd 53 aces. KAITLYN KRAUSE, Sr. Setter, N.

get there."
NICOLE MERGET, Sr. MH, Salem:
One of the best volleyball
players to ever play for Salem,
the Division 1-bound Merget
finished strong for the 30-9-3

finished strong for the 30-9-Rocks.
The fourth-year varsity player totaled 541 kills and 95 blocks (19 solo) to lead the team in both categories. She added 48 aces and 212 digs.

























Kelly Blackney



Plymouth Christian coach

COACH OF THE YEAR

COACH OF THE YEAR RAIL BLACK P. PINNOUNT CHARLES AND THE YEAR SHE MENDER TO THE YEAR SHE MENDER THE MENDER THE MENDER SHE MENDER SHE

Merget was named to the All-KLAA, all-region and all-state teams while also being on the all-tourney team for the prestigious "Beast of the East" tourney.

"Nicole had the most kills on our team and blocks," Salem head coach Amanda Nies said. "It goes to show not only can she play offense well she also is a great defensive player.

"She is so explosive at the net and has really been a big leader for us this year." Merget will play volleyball at D1 Jacksonville State in Alabama.

KRISTIN MALCOLM, Jr. MB,

labama. KRISTIN MALCOLM, Jr. MB, Ply. Christian: The junior's all-around excellence keyed Plymouth Christian's march all the way to the Class D

all the way ... finals. Malcolm led the Eagles with



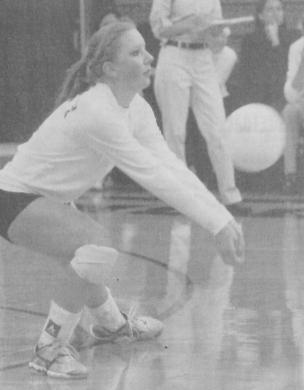












Senior libero Brooke Ruffolo is one of three Mercy players on the all-area volleyball first team.

436 kills and 75 blocks and helped the cause with 217 digs and 39 service aces. Her coach, Kelly Blackney, said the third-year player real-ly has emerged as a confident, dominant team leader who sets the tone for the rest of the smad.

sets the tone for the rest of the squad.

"Our team's talent ran pretty deep this year," Blackney said.
"But Kristin played a vital role in leading the team to the state finals.

"She was a major threat on offense as well as defense, and because of her leadership as captain, her teammates followed in her work ethic and passion for the sport."

KRISTEN MUIR, Jr. OH, Canton: The consistently clutch, hardhitting junior was a catalyst for many Canton rallies, connecting to the tune of 390 kills for the 29-11-3 Chiefs.

Muir also was solid on defense (639 kills) and at the service stripe, where she tallied 62 aces. In serve-receive, she was successful on 440 of 459 attempts (96 percent). For her efforts, she was named to the All-KLAA and all-region teams.

"Kristen was someone that everyone looked to and was always a spark of energy on the court," said Chiefs' head coach Mary Kryska. "Kristen is an amazing player both offensively and defensively. She was one of our strongest players and had great leadership."

BROOKE RUFFOLO, Sr. Libero, FH. Mercy: During a regional tournament match in November, the mother of an opposing player said of the Mercy defense: 'They get to everything; they're all over the floor!' The Marlins often frustrated the other team's offense, and Ruffolo was a major reason why. A two-year starter at libero, she was the leader of "the most tenacious defense in the state," according to the Mercy program. Ruffolo led the undersized but highly

effective Mercy defense with 764 digs. She also had 29 aces. BRITTANY BEJMA, Sr. Setter, Garden City. A three-year starter in head coach John Pace's lineup, Bejma was the heart and soul of a Cougars squad that swept through league play with a perfect 10-0 ledger and registered 18 victories overall. A setter, Bejma, who battled through injuries all year, averaged nine assists per set, was good on 96 percent of her serve attempts and compiled a 4.38 ace-to-error ratio. She finished with 57 aces on the season, 799 assists, 186 kills and 224 digs in 88 games. "She's a fabulous volleyball player and a great leader and great captain," Pace said. "Her best skill is her volleyball theory. She always knew what to do with the ball. If the middle blocker went one way, she knew she could go the other way. She always knew her way out. "She was the epitome of a "She was the epi

way. She always knew her way out.

"She was the epitome of a great teammate. She wanted to win more than ahything else and did an outstanding job of that all three years."

KAYLA BRIDGE, 5r. OH,
Plymouth: The senior was a strong, reliable performer throughout her high school career and 2010 was no exception.

career and 2010 was no exception.

Bridge amassed 265 kills, 436 digs, 25 blocks and led the 21-13-4 Wildcats in serving (97-percent success rate). For her efforts, the third-year varsity player was named to the All-KLAA and all-region teams.

"I have been most impressed by the way in which her all-around game has improved," said Plymouth head coach Kelly McCausland. "She could always hit, but I am proud of her improvements in the back-court."

court."

McCausland added that
Bridge's high level of play and
leadership qualities did not go
unnoticed by teammates, who

yball first team.

voted her the team's MVP.

COACH OF THE YEAR

KELLY BLACKNEY, Plymouth

Christian: The little team that
could. That's what Plymouth

Christian Academy's Eagles

have become under the guidance of third-year head coach

Kelly Blackney.

Only 19 players tried out for

the school's varsity and junior

varsity teams combined, but

Blackney assembled a solid

roster featuring junior Kristin

Malcolm that took care of

business.

roster featuring junior Kristin Malcolm that took care of business.

"We saw that although we are from a small school, ... we can compete with bigger schools," Blackney emphasized. "Unlike years past, we didn't view ourselves as the underdog, we walked in the gym with confidence and brought it out on the court. "We took big risks, and that led to rewards that we could have only imagined before."

Anchored by their faith and team camaraderie, PCA (30–10–2) rolled through the MIAC and then defeated Lutheran Westland in the district finals. The team kept going through regionals and state quarterfinals, reaching the Final Four at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

After a riveting five-set

nals, reaching the Final Four at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

After a riveting five-set victory in the semis against Central Lake, the Eagles were custed in the finals by Battle Creek St. Phillip to make the Tigers champs for the third straight year.

"Our team this year was so successful because they began the season with passion enthusiasm and dedication and carried it out throughout the entire season," Blackney said. "Our athletic director (Rick Swilley) did a great job at scheduling us to play against tough competitors and that really helped develop our level of play.

"But more importantly, it helped develop our confidence in each other and in our team."

Salem starts with victories

The Salem bowling teams had a solid start to the season on Tuesday in a KLAA crossover against Brighton.

In the varsity girls match, the Rocks prevailed 15.5-to-14.5. Sophomore Kristin Larkins tallied strong games of 206 and 184 with other top performers including senior Ashley Kretschmer (149-166-315) and sophomore Bridget Maul (169-169-338).

Salem's varsity boys tied 15-15 despite 200-plus scores from three bowlers. Senior Ryan Clark posted scores of 249 and 247 for an outstanding 496 series.

Junior David Nikkila (207-193-400) and freshman Steven Cadwell (26f) also had excellent showings.

Cadwell (261) also had excel-lent showings.

Meanwhile, the JV boys won
19-11, behind scores of 246 by sophomore Jimmy Bowling, 176 by senior Eli Engle and 160 by freshman Brandon Allison.

Wildcats roll wins

Eric Thompson's high game of 288 sparked visiting Plymouth's varsity boys team to a 24-6 season-opening win over Waterford on Tuesday night. The Wildcats' girls also won, 22-8, while the Plymouth JV earned a 29-1 victory.

BASKETBALL

Jenny Malcolm, who each tallic nine points and nine rebounds. "I was very pleased that we stepped up defensively as a team," PCA head coach Carol Gerulis said. "I was also glad the kids played through the third quarter while Brianna was out of the game. Brianna is a senior and a leader but the other players iust played as if other players just played as if she was still on the court."



Silver Flyers

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 12, 2010

The Canton Victory Honda Squirt house hockey team, the Canton Flyers, recently garnered a silver medal at the Motown Cup Hockey Tournament in Brownstown. Members of the team include: (back row, from left) assistant coach Pat Dowh, head coach Dean Garber, assistant coach James Organ; (middle row, from left) Michael St. Jean, Maxwell Cragos, Brandon Garber, Kurt Faerber, Ethan Sena; (front row, from left), William Skaggs, Josh Organ, Devin Dowd, Kaleb Brabbs, Jacob Dowd, Andy Skomra, Matt McLeod; (sitting) Rami Itni and Josh Montroy.



Mighty Mites!

The Canton Victory Honda Mite A '03 team swept their 4-game division and went on to beat the Livingston Lighthing team in the finals to win the championship with a score of 3-7. The tournament was the 2010 Eddie Edgar LHA Thanksgiving Challenge in Livonia. The team ranges in age from 6-7

RIVALRY

with 9:05 left in the first on a power-play goal, a slapper from the middle of the blue line that beat Canton junior netminder Spencer Craig (17

But the Chiefs found an answer before the end of the opening period when senior forward Phil Baciak roofed a rebound past Plymouth senior netminder Michael Justus (19 saves).

netminder Michael Justus (19 saves).

At 2:49 of the middle period, Canton took a 2-1 lead thanks to an excellent individual play by senior forward and co-captain Jordan Smith.

He rushed down the left boards and cut in toward the Plymouth net, sending a crisp feed to the on-rushing Taylor Baker. The junior forward made no mistake with it.

Back-to-back Canton penalties helped set up a two-man advantage for the Wildcats and they tied it up at 2-2 as a result.

result.
Junior forward Sean
Smiatacz dished the puck
over to senior blueliner Tyler
Lazorka, who took a couple
of strides inside the blue line
and whipped a wrist shot that
eluded the apparently screened
Craiv

eluded the apparently screened Craig. Both teams had chances for the game-winning goal in the third, to no avail. A hard shot by Bauer glanced off Craig's trapper and fluttered over the crossbar,



Fighting for a loose puck Friday night are Plymouth's Mitch Claggett (No. 10) and Canton's Josh Dickson (No. 23).

with about 11 minutes to go.
Then Canton senior forward
AJ Rosales' one-timer from
the slot was blocked by Justus.
Plymouth enjoyed a late
power play, but were unable to
get any clear-cut chances.
"It was trickling by the net
the whole time," Bauer said.
"We just couldn't put it in."

We just couldn't put it in." HARRISON 3, CANTON 2: On HARNISUM 3, cannot be Wednesday at Arctic Edge, goals by seniors AJ Rosales and Jimmy LaFontaine were not enough to get past Farmington Hills Harrison in this non-conference game.

this non-conference game LaFontaine also had an assist, as did juniors Zack

McArdle and Taylor Baker PLYMOUTH 3, CHURCHILL 2 Plymouth 3, Churchitt 2: Brilliant goalkeeping from Plymouth senior Michael Justus enabled the visit-ing Wildcats to nip Livonia Churchill at Eddie Edgar

Churchill at Eddie Edgar Arena.
Justus stopped 38 of 40 shots, and his teammates came through with enough offense for the KLAA South victory.
Scoring twice for the Wildcats was Tyler Sanders, with Nick Schultz also finding the mark.

Nadratowski sparks 'Cats with 21 points

Plymouth senior Mike
Nadratowski scored 21 points
to pace a 62-46 win over Ann
Arbor Skyline on Friday night
The Wildcats (2-1) went on
an 18-7 tear in the third quarter, which went a long way
toward clinching the win.
Other Plymouth standouts

included seniors Brennen Beyer (15 points, 11 rebounds) and Pat Salo (10 points, five boards). Plymouth varsity boys basketball head coach Mike Soukup also credited the hustle from Zach Yokom and Jake Morris, "who contributed multiple second-chance

opportunities and hustle plays which don't show up on the

Chiefs fall

Host Canton fell to 0-2 on the young season, losing by a 66-55 score to Detroit King in a non-conference matchup.

-



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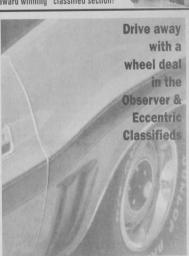
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Oh thrifty tree, oh thrifty tree

Decorated Christmas trees and wreaths are among the holiday items for sale at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thirft store in Westland.

Decorate the Christmas evergreen with second-hand treasures

Christmas tree decorating on the cheap? It's possible and fun — you just have to think outside the (orna-

It's possible and fun — you just have to think outside the (ornament) box.

"Piece of cake," said Michael Saine, manager of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift shop in Westland. "Our prices are very reasonable. You really can make sure you stretch your dollars.

"Here's ribbon, anywhere from 99 cents to 49 cents. You can coordinate those with your bulbs. They're a buck to \$1.99 a box. The older vintage bulbs go a little higher — three bucks."

In addition to bolts of unopened and unused ribbon, the store carries Christmas stockings, lights, ceramic figurines, wreaths, soft ornaments and stuffed animals, candles, window decals, and more in its seasonal aisles. But as Saine points out, just about anything that fits on a branch can become a holiday trim with a little ingenuity.

"We've had good luck with

holiday trim with a little ingenu-ity.

"We've had good luck with these," he said, showing off a Santa-shaped pepper shaker. Thread an ornament hook or paper clip through two of the holes at the top of any empty salt or pepper shaker and you're ready to create a theme tree.

"Salt and pepper shakers. Now you've got a plethora of orna-ments. This can actually remind you of a special time or event."



Michael Saine of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul says small stuffed animals and toys, like the kind he's holding, can be used as tree decorations.

GREAT STORES!

BIG SAVINGS!



Ceramic salt shakers can double as Christmas tree ornaments.

Use light, small soft toys that can be threaded and hung or nes-tled in branches, as an homage to childhood or pets. Keep them on higher branches away from small hands or paws.

how many things evoke memoric in other people." Saine started selling fully-trimmed trees at the thrift store

to talk with him and pose for a free photo.

About a dozen trees were trimmed and ready for new homes last Monday. Store employee Barbara Flood of Redford will continue to trim until every bough is decorated.

She creates a theme or color scheme for every tree at the store as she does for her own tree at home.

"My tree this year is purple and silver. It's never the same tree twice," said Flood, who previously worked at a store that sold Christmas trims." It made a red, white and blue tree about seven years ago at home. That was the most unusual."

LOTS OF LIGHTS

LOTS OF LIGHTS
At the store, Flood has decorated trees with natural trimmings, Disney-inspired items, and in college colors, to name a few. One tree, outfitted all in gold ornaments sold the same day she trimmed it. She spends from one to three hours on each tree and

Please see DECORATE, B7

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public may drop off donations at these sites. Currently, cat and kitten food and litter are running low.
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of food.
Here's a list of local and nearby collection sites:
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Wags To Wiskers, 44707
Five Mile, Plymouth
Drakeshire Lanes, 35000
Grand River Ave., Farmington
Woodland Lanes, 33775
Plymouth Road, Livonia
Norton's Flowers, 2900



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Washtenaw, Ypsilanti Wags To Wiskers, 2425 W. Stadium, Ann Arbor Norton's Flowers, 2577 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor

DON'T LET THEM FREEZE

DON'T LET THEM FREEZE
The weather calls for a
plunge in temperatures this
week and that means dogs and
cats left outdoors are in danger
of dying from the cold.
The Michigan Humane
Society (MHS) urges pet owners to let their dogs stay inside
during extreme weather. It
also says that according to
Michigan law, pets that do stay
outside during harsh weather
must have adequate food,
water and shelter.

"Every winter, our cruelty investigators respond to hundreds of complaints about pets that are left outdoors without adequate shelter," stated Mark Ramos, MHS senior cruelty investigator. "We urge everyone to bring pets indoors, at minimum during the frigid winter months, to protect their pets and prevent needless suffering,"

Clean, dry straw should be provided for bedding rather than towels, rugs or blankets, which absorb moisture and are freeze in frigid temperatures.

Inadequate shelter includes an unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or dogs simply tied out to a port, fence or deck with no shelter at all.

What should you do if you see an animal left outdoors in an inadequate dog house or tethered in the cold? Don't hesitate to report it to your city's animal control department.

Failing to give pets proper food, water and shelter is a misdemeanor. Animal cruelty violations carry a penalty of up to 93 days and jail and up to 93 days and joil ne community service and loss of pet ownership.



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ADOPTABLE GREYHOUNDS

Rusty and Chica are the two featured Greyhounds this week at Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adooption of Michigan.
Rusty is a fawn-colored dog with a mild-mannered personality. He is about 2 years old and gets along well with other dogs.
Chica is about 3's years old. She has a black shiny coat and a joyful spirit. She's a happy, playful girl.
To find out more about Rusty and Chica, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit its Web site at www.greyheart.org.



... at the Holidays

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a spectral floriday refilefilibrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspap will be publishing a special 'In Remembrance' page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at \$15.00

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WINTER & ARTHRITIS

Learn ways to cope with loss

A Christmas Memorial candle lighting service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13 at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman,

in Livonia.

The funeral home has invited families it has served this year at the Livonia location and at the L.A. Turowski and Son Funeral Home in Canton. The service also is open to anyone in the public who lost a loved one last year.

Participants will learn ways to cope during Christmas with the loss of a loved one. The service will last about 45 minutes. RSVP to (734) 525-9020 by 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13.



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ectic mix of Christmas items, all at bargain prices, await shoppers at ciety of St. Vinecent de Paul thrift store in Westland.

DECORATE

scours each batch of donated items for unique trims. She knows exactly what she has on hand and formulates a plan before decorating. Lots of lights are a must. She even adds lights to pre-lit trees to make them appear fuller.

"I have about 2,000 lights on my tree at home and it's a small tree. But it looks so full."

The decorated trees sell for \$29.99 to \$39.99 on average. A few exceptionally large trees can cost \$30 or \$40 more.

But Saine said even those are a bargain compared to

buying a new tree and trimmings from a retail outlet.

"Your artificial trees are going to be anywhere from \$29-\$79 and that's just for the tree. By the time you put the ornaments on you can easily tie \$250 into that tree.

Customers can take home a decorated tree either full-sized and wrapped or disassembled and placed in a box along with the trims.

Proceeds from sales at the shop benefit a soup kitchen, food depots, summer camps and other works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The store is located at 6613 Wayne Road, Westland. (734)729-3088

Making trim, finding trim

rimmings:

* Tiny toy food boxes and cans that kids use for playing supermarket or pretend dinner. Puncture each piece with an ornament hook or hot glue on a loop of ribbon for hanging. Add a dash of sparkle at the top of each toy with a bit of thin garland.

* Bells and bows. Find bells in thrift shops and trim stores in all sizes and several colors. Tie tops with ribbon for hanging or string — spacing the bells out with known and the same the space of the same that the sa

for branches that tend to bend with heavier pieces. So do old trading cards. Add glitter selectively if you really want to get crafty. Punch a hole at the top and hang with ribbon. Use Christmas cards saved from previous years for a more traditional statement.

• Chess, checker and player pieces from board games can evoke childhood memories or give your tree a black, white and red color scheme. Hot glue loops of yarn or ribbon on each piece to hang.

• Nativity figurines in assorted sizes that don't quite fit into one scene anymore can come together nicely on the tree. Hot glue gun on a ribbon for hanging. In addition to St. Vincent de Paul, look for used treasures and trims at these stores:

• Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store, 8050 N. Middlebelt, Westland; (734)718-4610

• The Salvation Army Thrift Store, 27170 Grand River Ave., Redford; (313)255-0777

• The Salvation Army Thrift Store, 33600 Plymouth Road, Livonia; (734)425-7573

Report gives pediatricians tips on spotting eating disorders

A new report released by the American Academy of Pediatrics aims to help primary care physicians recognize and treat eating disorders sooner in young children.

"We want health care providers and family members to be tuned in to the possibility that eating disorders can occur much earlier than they might think," stated report lead author Dr. David S. Rosen, a professor of pediatrics and communicable diseases, internal medicine and psychiatry at the University of Michigan.

In the past decade, research has shown a growing number of young children diagnosed with eating disorders, but not all primary care physicians have been aware of these latest findings.

The report by Rosen and his team recommends that health care providers screen annually for disorders.

"There is new research regarding treatment and prognosis that we wanted primary care providers to have. We want to give them the tools they need to do the very best job," stated Rosen, who previously served on the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Adolescence.

Eating disorders are on the rise among children younger than 12 years, males and minorities, according to previous studies. It is estimated that 0.5 percent of adolescent girls in the United States have anorexia nervosa, and 1 percent to 2 percent meet criteria for bulimia nervosa.

Medical complications of eating disorders can affect any organ system, so it's important for pediatricians to identify eating disorders as soon as possible.

The report, titled
"Identification and Management of Eating Disorders in Children and Adolescents," appears in the December 2010 issue of the journal Pediatrics.



One-of-a-kind gifts

Ceramic vases in a variety of sizes and shapes by Audrey DiMarco-Terry of Hartland, and pillows in seasonal colors by Beverly Johnston of Livonia and Nancy Giannotta of Westland are among the unique art gift items at Visual Arts Association of Livonia's (VAAL) Holiday Shoppe. It runs 10 a.m.-6 p.m. through Dec. 17 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 18. Thirty artists are selling their works at the shop, located at 37653 Five Mile, in the New Five Village Shopping Center at the southeast corner of Five Mile and Newburgh, in Livonia. (734) 838-1204

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Dated: December 8, 2010

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

JOE BRIDGMAN, MMC

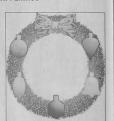
Publish: July 18, August 15, September 12, Sep November 14, and December 12, 2010

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

DINE WITH SANTA

wiffle breakfast will include costumed characters, arts and crafts, holiday movies and one-on-one visits with Santa Claus, 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the Detroit Zoo, located at 10 Mile and Woodward in Royal Oak. The cost, which includes Zoo admission and parking, is \$30 for achildren, ages 15 and older, and \$25 for children, ages 14 and younger. The cost for Detroit Zoological Society members is \$25 for achildren great Part of the Cost of

HOLIDAY CONCERTS



"Freddy Cole Christmas" 8 p.m.,
Dec. 17-18 at Music Hall, 350
Madison. Tickets are \$27, available at www.ticketmaster.com;
(313) 887-8500.

"The Manhattan Transfer
Christmas is at 8 p.m., Tuesday,
Dec. 14, at Orchestra Hall, 3711
Woodward Avenue. Tickets are
\$15-\$68 available by calling (313)
\$76-\$111 or by visiting www.
detroitsymphony.com.

"The Detroit Symphony
Orchestras" "Home for the
Holidays" concerts are 10:45
a.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 16, 8:30
p.m. Dec. 17 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 and 3 p.m., Dec. 19, at
Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward
Avenue. Tickets range from \$19\$52. Call (313) 576-\$111 or visit
www.detroitsymphony.com.
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,

Please see HAPPENINGS, B9

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE 88

29300 West 11 Mile, Farmington 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, the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills or by calling (248) 682-6562. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15.

Llvonia – 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 Rodmission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. (734) 425-5950

Plymouth – Plymouth Symphony presents 'Home for the Holidays' Christmas

Plymouth - Plymouth
Symphony presents "Home
for the Holidays" Christmas
concert, 6 p.m. family concert
and 8 p.m. traditional concert, at the Penn Theatre, 760
Penniman Ave., Plymouth;
(734) 451-2112, www.penntheatre.com. At the family concert, members of the
Celebration Youth Orchestra
will join the symphony for
a musical number and the
orchestra's trumpet section
will be featured at the 8 p.m.
performance for "Bugler's
Holiday" and a Vivaldi
Concerto

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



outh Symphony Christmas Concert will feature the trumpet section during a performance of "Bugler's Holiday." The concert is Dec. 16 at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

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.

MOVIES
Penn Theatre – The Polar
Express runs at 7 p.m. Dec.
17-19 and 5 p.m. Dec. 17-18.
Round out holiday viewing
with The Muppet Christmas,
1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 23 and
5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 26. All
seats are \$3. The theatre is

located at 760 Penniman, in downtown Plymouth; (734)

downtown Plymouth; (734) 453–0870 Redford Theatre – Watch the Bing Crosby classic, White Christmas at 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18. All tickets are \$4. The theater is located at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; (313) 537-2560.

THEATER
Spotlight on Youth - The youth
theater at Spotlight Players
will present In the Nick of
Time: A Red Misitetoe Mystery,
through Dec. 12 at the Village
Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400
Cherry Hill, in Canton. The
play is designed for children
and families. Tickets are \$10
and available by phone at (734)
394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or
online at www.canton-mi.org/
villagetheater.

Send holiday event items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com



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Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features celebrations.

Share with us how you celebrate the holidays!

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* HOMETOWN

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlightel

Send us a picture or a story of how you celebrate the holidays.



Hey kids!

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a photo or story of how you celebrate the holidays. Scoop will pick two winners in each age category:

Ages: 7 - 8

Ages: 9 - 10

Ages: 11 - 13

Winners will receive a voucher for a Free Buddy's 4 Square Cheese Pizza

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Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

Send your entries for the Holiday Celebration Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound c/o: Michele Austin 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, MI 48170 Share your Holiday Celebrations with Scoop!

Youth Name:

Youth Age:

Youth Community:

Parent's information to contact winning entry: (Phone, email, home address)

Entries sent in will be published in the newspaper including your name, age and hometown.

Scoop, the newshound, will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!

RELIGION CALENDAR

DEC. 12-15

Blue Christmas service

Time/Date 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15
Location. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia
Details: This service is designed for people who struggle with the holidays, including those who may be grieving, dealing with the loss of a loved one, loss of a job or struggle with the holidays in general. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the rocated.

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

Itme/pate: 3 pm. Sunday, Dec. 12
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175
Farmington Road, north of I-96, in Livonia
Details: The annual Christmas concert will feature the Festival
Choir, Jubellation Handbell Choir, children's choir, the Cantate
Choir, the Brass Ensemble and solo and ensemble groups. The
concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken
Center's 174, 175, 175, 175, 175.

Contact: (734) 522-6830

Concert

CONCETT Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12
Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: "A Christmas Tapestry" concert will feature an eelectic blend of musicians and vocalists from the church with a variety of Christmas favorites, from standards to modern pieces. Tickets are a suggested \$10 at the door
Contact: (734) 425-2800

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 12

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.

DEC. 16-22

Blue Christmas Service

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road in

Details: An alternative Christmas service for people who are for any reason uncomfortable attending traditional Christmas Eve and Day celebrations. St. John's offers this service as a way to help people find peace and solace, and at a way to bring healing to those who are hurting because of loss or crisis. The service includes readings from poetry and scripture, prayer, and a special candielighting litany, during which attendees are given the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of their own special prayers. Holy Communion is offered, and music will include not only quiet Christmas carols, but also songs from the Taizé tradition
Contact: (734) 453-0190

Breakfast and Santa

Time/Date: 8:30 am-noon, Sunday, Dec. 19 Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road,

westund Details: All you can eat pancakes, French toast, applesauce, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, tea, coffee, milk and juice. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 children, ages 2-10. Includes a visit

from Santa Claus Contact: (734) 425-4421

Concert

Details: A Christmas cantata "Silent Holy Night" Contact: (313) 537-7480

Concert

Concert
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18
Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary,
18200 Merriman, between Six and Seven Mile Roads, Livonia
Details: Holy Land Christmas Concert features Diana Al
Barchini with Arablic carois, Rassem El Massih with seminaran chanter, St. Mary's Choir with hymns of the Nativity, a vio
lin trio and quest wocalists singing classical and traditional
songs. A free-will offering will be accepted and will benefit
the International Orthodox Christian Charities
Contact: (7:34) 422-0010; www.saintmarylivonia.com
Concert

Concert

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main in

Details: Men of Grace from the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac will sing original compositions as well as contemp rary, spiritual and gospel and blues music. Dessert will be ed after the concert. A \$5 donation is requested.

Longest night

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 21 Location: First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple,

Decais. This worst piece is a make to unity are given, anxiety, and pain that often surfaces during the holidays. Worship is held on the longest night of the year in recognition that sometimes the holidays bring sadness in the midst

of celebration because of missed loved ones, struggles with financial stress, and the thought of happier days. Child care will be available for children up to age 4 Contact: Call (248) 646-6407 Ext. 3141 by Dec. 18 to reserve

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Area hospitals earn top ranks for safety, quality

The Leapfrog Group, a national organization that rates hospitals, has given top honors for patient quality and safety to Detroit Receiving Hospital, Harper University/Hutzel Women's Hospital, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and the University of Michigan Health System.

System.
The Leapfrog Group's national rankings are based on a survey conducted at nearly 1,200 hospitals across the country.
The survey, which launched in 2001, focuses on four critical

areas of patient safety: the use of computer physician order entry (CPOE) to prevent medication errors; standards for doing high-risk procedures such as heart surgery; protocols and policies to reduce medical errors and other safe practices recommended by the National Quality Forum; and adequate nurse and physician staffing. In addition, hospitals are measured on their progress in preventing infections and other hospital-acquired conditions and adopting policies on the handling of serious medical

errors, among other things.
This is the fourth consecutive year that DMC Harper
University Hospital and the
third consecutive year that DMC
Detroit Receiving Hospital
were selected as Leapfrog Top
Hospitals based on their quality and safety scores. Last year,
they were the only hospitals in
Michigan to receive the recognition.

tion.
For more on the 2010
Leapfrog Hospital Quality and
Safety ratings and methodology
visit www.leapfroggroup.org.







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BETSY GOLDSMITH

BETSY GOLDSMITH

(nee. Moors)

November 23, 2010. Age 91 of Bloomfield Hills. Beloved wife of the late Maj. James E. Goldsmith, US Army. Dear mother of James E. Goldsmith, Tand William K. M. Goldsmith (Shelley). Loving grand-mother of Marisa Kate Goldsmith, Jake D. Gale and Genevieve M. Gale. Sister of the late Maj. William Key Moors, US Army. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to Crabrook House and Garders Auxiliary, 380 Lone Pine Rd., P.O. 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303 or the Village Woman's Club Foundation, P.O. Box 186, 190 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303. AJ. Desmond & Sons 248-549-500. View obituary and share memories at:

A) DESMOND SONS

MICHAEL "MIKE"

MATTSON

48, of Calumet, Mich., a former resident of Garden City, died Hursden, December 2, 200, at his home. Mike loved to the control of t

CHARLENE H. OWINGS

CHARLENE H. OWINGS
Age 71. December 9, 2010. Cherished
wife of Dale for 44 years. Loving
mother of Kevim of Canton, MI,
Harrisonburg, Wa and Keith E.
Joanne) of Wassenaar Netherlands
Beleved gradmother of Ian Sandum.
Visitation Monday 4:30pm-8:30pm at
Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000
Six Mile, Livonia, MI. Instate
Tuesday 11am until time of service
noon at Rosedale Gardens
Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard
St., Livonia, MI. Private interment.
Please share a message with the family
y at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

EILEEN WARD

Peacefully on 124/10, age 86.
Beloved wife of the late Frederic for 37 years. Dearest mother of Connie (Jim) Kennedy and Fred (Jenee) Ward, Jr. Grandmother of Katie and Jamie Kennedy, great-grandmother of Dan and Chaz. A graduate of Wayne State, Eileen was an elementary school-teacher for 35 years in Detroit and South Redford, Eileen will be deeply missed by many long-time friends, especially Betty, Nina, Dotte, Ruth and Bernita. Eileen's family thanks the wonderful staff members at Oakmont-Livonia and Angela Hospotth of Contributions to Salvation Army or Michigan Humane Society will be greatly appreciated by her family.



Shop class is missing in Michigan

recently found a story on the Internet that reminds me of days gone by. It comes from the eastern part of the country where they eat a lot fish, making them very intelligent. In simple terms, they've got it and we don't.

Fourteen students at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School have earned national certification as service technicians in major appliance repair. The students, one senior and 3 juniors, are majoring in HVAC-Ryappliance technology at GNB Voc-Tech. To earn national certification, the students needed to passeight different comprehensive examinations, which measure their skills in consumer relations, diagnostic techniques and repair ability for all types of domestic major appliances. The students took the exams late last spring and got the results over the summer.

The students took the exams late last spring and got the results over the summer.

The students are among a select group of major appliance service technicians in the United States to be certified as certified appliance professionals with a graduate technician rating; is the highest available level of recognition for technical expertise given by the major home appliance industry to high school students. Certification is strictly voluntary and only those who possess extraordinary skills in the field of appliance repair will attempt the rigorous testing procedure. Teachers Stephen Ellis and Robert Enos are certified as master technicians. The Professional Service

Association, (PSA) the group that offers the certification, is a not-for-profit trade association representing independent appliance and electronic service centers. The certification programs developed by PSA are designed to encourage excellence and pride in the industry. Diagnosing and repairing sophisticated appliances requires special skills and constant training to keep abreast of changing technologies. Technicians that make the effort to maintain the high level excellence necessary to become a certified appliance professional are proud of their skills and deserve to be recognized by their profession. The students 'two-year graduate certificate may be upgraded to a master technician rating after two years, providing the individual has obtained at least two years of field experience.

When I wrote something like this just a few years ago there was a need in the United States for some 10,000 qualified appliance repair technicians. That number has not diminished because the industry has so little educational opportunities offered anywhere. From what I read and hear, the school system in Michigan falls far short of what is required in many respects. It would be a tremendous boost for the city of Detroit to implement such a program for students. They could be guaranteed a job anywhere in this country, taken off the streets, and have goals that are within their fingertips. There has to be someone out there that can make this happen. Stay tuned.

Joe Gaqnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdoon WAMM

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

MILESTONES



Aria Giovanna Masters

TWINS BORN

Twins Emory Agosto Masters and Aria Giovanna were born Nov. 1, 2010 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in Livonia. Emory and Aria join their parents, Che and April Masters, and older sister, Alyson, 20 months, at home in Westland.



Emory Agosto Masters

DECEMBER WEDDING



Lambert-O'Neill

Stacie Lynn Lambert and Jonathan Cory O'Neill announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Kenneth and Debbie Lambert of Livonia, graduated from Stevenson High School in 2003 and from Eastern Michigan University in 2008. She teaches special education in Monroe. Her fiancé, son of Craig and Lynne O'Neill of Livonia, is a 2002 graduate of Stevenson High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2009 from Oakland University and attends Schoolcraft College where he is studying to become a Registered Nurse.

A December 2010 wedding is planned in Plymouth.



Twins, Lily Mae and Sawyer Christopher Boran

BORAN TWINS

Lily Mae and Sawyer Christopher Boran were born Aug. 31, 2010 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital - Prentice Women's Hospital, in Chicago, Ill.
Proud parents are Heather and Christopher Boran of Chicag Grandparents are Steve and Carol Bruce of Farmington Hills and Jerry and Colleen Boran of Forest City, Iowa.
Great-grandparents are Paul and Genevieve Kramarz of Hartland, Doris Davis of Orange, Calif. and Ronald Bruce of Fullerton, Calif.

CONNER LIAM BATTLE

Conner Liam Battle was born Sept. 23, 2010 Clarian North Hospital, Carmel, Ind. He joins his parents, Bob and Ginger Battle, and siblings Delaney, 9 and Collin, 4, at home in Westfield, Ind. Proud grandparents are Bob and Peg Battle of Livonia, and Pat and John Krawczynski of Lansing.



Conner Liam Battle



AUGUST 2011 WEDDING

Grace Shin and Andrew Varilone announce their

Grace Shin and Andrew Varilone announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Hyoung Bok and Robert Kalmanir of Livonia. She is a graduate of Albion College and is a graduate student in the physician's assistant program at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her fiance, son of Kathy and Jeff Varilone, graduated from the University of Michigan - Dearborn and is an electrical engineer at an architectural engineering firm in Detroit.

The couple will wed in August 2011 in Ann Arbor.

FOOD

Sunday, December 12, 2010 hometownlife (ii) com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com



Easy family meals

rom packing lunches, to afterschool snacks to dinnertime,
many parents face obstacles
in getting their families to eat
food made with real simple ingredients that everyone can enjoy.

According to a recent survey commissioned by Hellmann's*, nearly half
of all moms surveyed say they make a
family meal every day and more than
a third of moms surveyed say cooking
dinner takes too much time.

Chef Bobby Flay has teamed up
with Hellmann's and Best Foods
Mayonnaise to provide tasty, convenient recipes and tips to serving great
family meals even during the active
school season.

"Many parents I know agree that
at the end of a busy day, the thought
of spending an hour cooking is not
so appealing," said Flay. "I've created some recipes that please even
the picky palates in your family. The
recipes are easy to prepare and incorporate bold flavors with real, simple
ingredients, like Hellmann's or Best
Foods Mayonnaise — made with eggs,
oil and vinegar."

For videos, tips and recipes go
to www.Hellmanns.com or www.
Best Foods.com.



Mayonnaise

1/2 cup prepared salsa
1 tablespoon lime juice
1 can (6 ounces) tuna, drained and flaked

EGG AND SHRIMP SALAD WITH POPPY

3/4 cup Hellmann's or Best Foods Light

Mayonnaise
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon fresh grated lemon peel
4 whole wheat pita breads, splitfresh
splinach leaves, rinsed and patted dry
8 cherry tomatoes, halved
1 pound slight grisserie og grillad

Sunday, December 12, 2010 hometownlife (in com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

Make healthy food choices during the holiday season

For many people, the holiday season brings more than joy — it also can bring unwanted pounds. Whether it's your mom's eggnog or Aunt Judy's signature holiday cookies, it can be tough to pass up those favorite holiday foods you only taste once a year. But before you reach for that next gingerbread cookie, think about this: Extra pounds can affect more than your ability to fit into your holiday party apparel. Being overweight also can increase your risk for cancer and other diseases.

The American Cancer Society recommends you make your health a holiday priority. That includes maintaining a healthy weight and staying active with at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity on five or more days of the week, eating a healthy diet emphasizing fruits and vegetables, and limiting the amount of alcohol you drink.

Making healthy choices doesn't have to make you the Grinch of holiday parties. Keep in mind these tips from the American Cancer Society:

• Get off to a good start. Don't go to a party hungry. Snack on healthy, filling foods before you leave the house. You'll be less tempted by high-calorie options if your stomach isn't growling. Good pre-party bets include a handful of nuts, an apple, or a half a turkey sandwich.

• Once you arrive, ask for a glass of water to help you feel full and avoid overindulging. And don't head straight for the

food - make a point of greeting friends or introducing yourself to new people.

• Think small. When it does come time to indulge, use a small, appetizer- or dessert-sized plate and fill it first with healthy choices such as fresh fruit and veggies (go easy on the dip). Leave just a little space for a small sample of whatever decadent treat you're craving, but eat that last, after you've filled up on the more nutritious offerings.

but eat that last, after you've filled up on the more nutritious offerings.

• Position yourself for suc-ess. If you're standing by the buffet table or facing the food while seated, you'll be tempted to 'graze.' Turn your back to the table, and focus on having fun, not having food.

• Avoid alcohol. Not only are alcoholic beverages loaded with calories, but drinking them tends to weaken your resolve to eat better. However, if you decide to indulge, avoid heavy holiday drinks and stick with light beer or a glass of wine instead.

In addition to making healthy eating choices this season, don't forget to make time to exercise regularly. The flip side of eating more or indulging at parties is that, to avoid weight gain, you need to move more to burn those extra calories.

For more tips on making healthy god choices, staying active year-round, and reducing your risk for cancer, visit Choose You. com or call (800) 227-2345.

Alzheimer's Association

The Greater Michigan Chapter provides a welcoming and secure environment for families and individuals experiencing the early stages of Younger Onset Memory Loss. Participants can take part in ongoing discussions that focus on issues that affect those with memory loss under age 65. Meetings are 530-7 mm, the third Tuesday of the month, at Bloomfield Township Senior Services, 4315 Andover, Bloomfield Hills. To register call The Harry L. Nelson Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

Aquatic classes

QUATIC ClaSSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch: 11-15 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch: and 23 p.m. Wednesday at the Firday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and non-members of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mille, Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions influse Pilates, function strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-97f5 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jean ieweaver@charter.net.

Food Addicts

Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter; provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 pm. the second Wednesday of the monthat Garden City Hospital, 6245 linkster, Garden City Contact aferck@comcast.net or (734) 664-3297.

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Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at
Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between
Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m.
Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St.
Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia,
in Classroom I. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who
wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome.
For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous
information, call (248) 559-7722 or visit www.
oa. or o.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance of Levan Road), Livonia. Cc (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

S. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other form of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 am, at \$1, John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-4826 for information Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Metro Fibromyalgia

Wayne metro caregiver support

may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For information, call (248) 433-1011.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, I William Caris Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar.or.call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce, Enter the building via the South Garden entrance, Registration not required.

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

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Provided with

Charles Dunn is always looking for ways to improve the quality of care at Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing. As owner, he recently brought in Dr. Cassius Drake to speak with staff about compassion as the core of

Drake is medical director of the emergency department, Henry Ford Center for Health Services, Brownstown. He believes compassion plays a major role in physical healing. Drake is currently writing a book about his spiritual journey. During 10 years in the ER, the MD discovered how stress can trigger headaches, back and abdominal pain, depression, and alcohol and drug abuse.

"I was terrible at holding hands when I began treating patients," admitted Drake. That changed when he began thinking about the spiritual side of healing and vowed to start each day by saying, "Today I am here to serve, to listen and care. There's a magic that can happen when you decide to serve. Sometimes all it takes is a compassionate ear."

... compassion is the core of service ... our staff helps people heal every day. Just taking one extra step can make the difference ... that's what people remember ... "

Compassion is at the heart of caring for patients at Four Seasons. Delores Stinson, an activity aide, told the story of a patient who was actively dying.

"We filled the room with everything important in her life, played her favorite music, " said Stinson, "It makes a difference in how you pass. She looked at peace."

Dunn applauded his staff for listening and acting with a compassionate

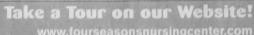
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Sunday, December 12, 2010

I'm Experiencing Job-search Burnout

How to handle the frustration of a long-term job hunt

hony Balderrama, CareerBuilder Writer

If life were a movie and you had just been laid off, you would buy a one-way ticket to some serene location and spend weeks or even months relaxing. You would unwind and examine your personal goals and return when you want. You might spend your days eating, praying and

loving.

For most of us, getting laid off or quitting a job is immediately followed by a fast-paced job hunt. Even workers who are fortunate enough to have savings accounts to live off of for a while don't have enough money to pretend like unemployment is a vacation. Instead, most jobs seekers attack their job searches aggressively and don't

their job searches aggressively and don't relent until they hear the words, "We'd like to offer you the position."

The problem with such a steadfast approach is that you can grow frustrated quickly. After a few weeks of constantly browsing job postings, writing cover letters, sending them off and repeating. letters, sending them off, and repeating, your don't have the energy to keep going You can't stop, however, because you do need a job. So how do you avoid getting burnt out? And if you realize you're in the burnt out? And it you realize you re in the midst of a job-search burnout, how should you get over it? We asked people who have been there themselves or who have helped others get

through it. Here's how they suggest job seekers handle burnout:

"Rejection is humbling and much of our self-worth has been defined by our

income. To avoid burnout:

Date your next job application and interview. See it as distinct and different from all the rest, a new opportunity. You only need one job success

Keep up energy levels with exercise.

You will shed stress and release endorphins. Your focus will improve

Socialize with friends and talk about other things. Have fun and laugh!

Learn from failed interviews to tweak your resume, presentation and skills Hone up on what you are lacking.

Mandel, author of Addicted to

"Burnout is subtle, and can strike at lots of stages of the job hunt. Here are a few ways I advise my clients to avoid that low down burnout

1. Regard your job hunt as a job and organize your job hunt day like any other business. Set a goal of the number of calls you'll make, and resume you'll send out each day, and be sure to

2. Create a job hunt team or group with whom you keep in contact on a regular basis. This can help in many ways to give encouragement, and even job leads 3. Make sure to network through

alumni, colleagues, professional associations, online groups, and even relative and friends.

4. Be sure to maintain a routine of physical fitness and exercise. At least a brisk walk every day can supply exercise and sunshine necessary to keep your mood

5. Get up, get dressed and go to your office every day, just like you would if you were employed. - Sandra Lamb, career, lifestyle and etiquette expert

"I always say you get more than you give with volunteering and job seekers definitely do. This is a great way to keep your skills sharp (think teamwork, client relations, fundraising, etc) and your mind energized. I have to remind all job seekers

that volunteering is to network which win. You're networking helping out an organization and avoiding burn-out.

Llames, author of "Career Sudoku: 9 Ways to Win the Job Search Game "I've been

looking for a job since about February or March.

I just landed a part-time, telecommuting job, and as busy as I've been I know I'm not as fast or productive as I once was because of how long it took me to find a job. I was sending our résumés, interviewing, networking, applying online to the high heavens. Sitting at home while everyone else was finding a job I started feeling unproductive, and, frankly, like a loser. But things are looking up, and to anyone who starts to feel the same way I did, I'd tell them to just pull through it. Sometimes just taking a walk or a day at the park can help your mood a lot."

- Akua Harris
"There are several things we suggest

when a person has stayed active in a job search, and nothing seems to be happening: 1. Take a few days off: Think of something you enjoy doing that doesn't

Sometimes just a few days off is enough to refresh a person.

2. Get physical: When a person 2. Get physical: When a person exercises for at least 20 minutes, endorphins are released that make the person feel good. Exercise several times in a day if possible. If [you are] a runner, then run for 30 minutes longer than usual. Do something physical -- paint a room, wash the car, clean the garage. Then energy can return.

 3. Our experience is people get burned out when all they are doing is answering want ads or Internet listings. We project a 2-4 percent response on mailing out 2-4 percent response on maning our résumés or following up on Internet postings -- that's not a very good response Instead, we ask our job-seeking clients to take a more pro-active approach: Contact the decision-maker (usually the person who supervises the position, not HR) and age what the job involves and he ready to ask what the job involves and be ready to talk about one's experiences and accomplishment, [and] research the organization to see if it's one a person would like to work in. Continue researching the position; if you want the job contact the decision-maker again and say, "I've thought a lot about what we've talked about, and what you need doing taiked about, and what you need doing involves some of the things I do best -- and I want to be your top candidate." (You don't want to be anything other than their top candidate, do you?) Ask the decision-maker what you can bring to her or him to help the person make a decision. And then do it."

Richard S. Deems, co-author of "Make Job Loss Work For You," with Terri A. Deems Anthony Balderrama is a writer and blogge for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. He researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues



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appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The
more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



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If you can find a Vue, it's luxury on wheels

CAReport





By Kevin Koloian For Avanti NewsFeatures and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

There are no more Saturn dealerships around to buy the Saturn Vue, but you can still find them on GM lots here and

Last redesigned in 2008, the Vue is an awesome set of wheels based on a European-designed model from Opel called the Antara.

As for the exterior, the Vue's front end is sleek and the roofline arcs downward slightly toward the rear. It has the aggressive look of an SUV and less resembles a minivan.

It is the aggressive look of all SOV and less resembles a minivan.

Saturn dropped the Vue's dent-proof and rustproof plastic body panels in favor of steel. The change makes for easier operation on the assembly line and allows the vehicle to be built along with other metal hodied GM ears.

and allows the vehicle to be built along with other, metal-bodied GM cars.

This process also ensures smaller gaps between body panels because steel doesn't expand and contract with temperature changes as much as the plastic did.

plastic did.

The last Vue comes in three trim levels: base XE, XR and sporty Red Line. All can be had in either front- or all-wheel-drive.

The XE comes with 16-inch alloy

wheels, air-conditioning, keyless entry, full power accessories, OnStar telematics, steering-wheel audio

controls, cruise control, a tilt steering

controls, cruise control, a tilt steering wheel, a height-adjustable driver seat and a CD/MP3 stereo with satellite radio and an auxiliary jack.

The XR adds 17-inch alloy wheels, luggage rack rails, automatic climate control, a power driver seat, a leather-wrapped steering wheel, heated mirrors and lighted vanity mirrors.

The Red Line features a lowered, sport-tuned suspension, rear spoiler, chrome exhaust outlets, 18-inch alloy wheels, heated front sport seats, leather and suede upholstery and unique instrumentation.

Standalone options include a premium audio system and CD changer, a navigation system, rain-sensing wipers and a remote vehicle starter.

The Vue XE is has a 2.4-liter inline-4 that puts out 164 horsepower and is mated to a four-speed automatic transmission. The XE is also available with a 3.5-liter V6 good for 215 hp and is tied to a six-speed automatic transmission. Both the XR and Red Line trims feature a powerful 257 horsepower 3.6-liter V6 matched to a six-speed automatic. A manual-shift feature, called "TAPshift" is standard on norsepower 3.6-incr vo mached to a six-speed automatic. A manual-shift feature, called "TAPshift" is standard on the Red Line and optional on the XR. The Vue XE gets 19 miles per



years ago to make it wider, providing extra

gallon in the city and 26 mpg on the

highway.
Fuel economy ratings for the 3.6-liter engine are 16 mpg city / 22 mpg highway, and are 15 city and 22 highway for the 3.5-liter engine.
On the road, the Vue's ride is firm and controlled. The steering is responsive and quick without much feedback.
The ride is quiet, too. Interior sound levels are at a minimum, with just a

levels are at a minimum, with just a little wind and tire noise, both are maintained well.

mintained well.

With real metal trim on the inside door handles and steering wheel and fully-lined storage bins in the center console, the Vue's interior is classy.

The back seat provides plenty of leg room for tall passengers. Although Saturn is listing the Vue as a five-seater, fitting three people in the back would be too tight, unless they are small kids.

The reclining seatbacks allow for the front passenger seat to fold down to carry long cargo and the second row split-folds quickly and easily to accommodate long objects as well.

There's also plenty of space behind the

second row of seats to store stuff.

A pair of adjustable cargo nets keep items in place. The Vue's maximum cargo capacity is just 56 cubic feet, which is small compared to some rivals that offer nearly 20 more

cubes.

Standard safety features on all Vue models include anti-lock brakes, stability control, traction control, front seat side airbags, side curtain airbags and active head restraints.

Although there are a few weaknesses like less cargo space than its competitors, the Vue still has many positives, including sleek European styling, good cabin quality and refined handling. If you can find one, it's a good value.

Kevin Koloian writes about new cars for the Fracassa News Group.

Vehicle class: Crossofer SUV

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